

# CALENDAR

The deadline for Calendar Items is Wednesday at noon for the following issue.

## 3 sat

**Boston** — Hike up Mt. Bald Face, North Chatham, NH. Sponsored by Boston Unitarian Gays. All welcome, but advance reservation necessary. Leave Boston Common at Charles & Beacon Sts. at 7am. Bring appropriate shoes and warm clothing. Info: 227-6167.

**Boston** — Free V.D. tests by the Gay Health Collective in cooperation with the Mass. Dept. of Public Health. 10pm-1am at the Club Baths, 4 LaGrange St.

**Allston** — Kenny Arkin and Willie Sordill in concert at the Boston Food Coop Pub. 8:30pm. Donations accepted. 449 Cambridge St.

**Boston** — WE ARE, Women's Educational and Resource Enterprise is sponsoring a two-day Assertiveness Training Program for Men at the Lenox Hotel in Boston on June 3rd and 4th. Info: call WE ARE At 277-5944.

**Boston** — The women of CLEARSPACE are presenting a Picnic and Hayride. Open to all lesbian women. Deadline for sign-up is Thurs. June 1. For details, call Marty at 646-8598.

**Boston** — Sixth Annual Bay Village Street Fair, 11-5pm, Church St.

**Cambridge, MA** — Gay Folk Dancing. 3-6pm, 3rd floor, Phillips Brooks House, Harvard Univ. Meeting to discuss summer dancing, 2pm.

## 4 sun

**Boston** — Unitarian Universalist Lesbians and Gay Men; Business — monkey and otherwise: an assessment. 7pm. 355 Boylston St.

**Cambridge** — Non-competitive women's softball game. No practice, no skills, no experience; bring bats, balls, mitts, and cold drinks to Magazine Beach (on Charles River near Stop & Shop, 10 blocks south of Central Sq.) 5pm.

**Framingham** — Lambda of Middlesex spaghetti dinner. 3pm. 50¢ p/person. For info, call 877-8550.

## 5 mon

**Providence** — MCC contingent in the state Holocaust remembrance service. Meet at Motor Vehicle Registry parking lot, 6pm.

**Providence** — Press Conference to announce the filing of a suit in Federal District Court alleging violations of First Amendment rights by Providence City Council. Noon, 55 Eddy St.

**Washington, DC** — The American Film Institute continues its program *The Celluloid Closet: Homosexuality in the Cinema* with a showing of *A Very Natural Thing*. 8:30pm, Kennedy Center.

## 6 tues

**NYC** — West Side Discussion Group. "Exciting Gay Summer Travel" will be a discussion led by travel expert Richard Hamilton. 8:30pm. Triangle Gay Community Center, 3rd floor, 26 Ninth Ave. at 14th St.

**Washington, DC** — *The Celluloid Closet: Fireworks and The Hunters are the Hunted*. 6:30pm. The American Film Institute, Kennedy Center.

**Cambridge** — Feminist songwriter Joanna Cazden in concert at Passim. 8:30pm. \$3. admission.

## 7 wed

**Washington, DC** — *The Celluloid Closet: Portrait of Jason*. 6:30pm. The American Film Institute, Kennedy Center.

**Boston** — Boston/Boise Committee meeting. 7:30pm. Old West Church.

## 8 thurs

**Bangor, PA** — Gay and Christian Conference, at the Kirkridge Conference Center. Leaders in residence will be Malcolm Boyd, John McNeill, and Ron Wesner. Call (215) 588-1793 for info.

**Washington, DC** — *The Celluloid Closet: Some Like It Hot*. 6:30pm. The American Film Institute, Kennedy Center.

**Boston** — Clearspace Men's Concerns meeting. 7:30 pm. Call 262-5121 for details.

## 9 fri

**Boston** — Free V.D. tests by the Gay Health Collective in cooperation with the Mass. Dept. of Public Health. 10pm -1am at the Club Baths, 4 LaGrange St.

**Brookline, MA** — Clearspace Women's Concerns meeting. 7:30pm. Call for details, 646-8595.

## 10 sat

**Boston** — Gay Folk Dancing. 99 Bedford St., rm. 501 (off Summer St.). 3-6pm.

**Providence, RI** — Gay Community Services of Rhode Island will host Bill McCarthy of the Homophile Community Health Service of Boston. He will speak on "Meeting Community Health Needs" and "How to Select a Therapist." 8-11pm. \$2 donation. Mediators Fellowship, 236 Wickenden St.

**Boston** — Bicycle outing along Boston's famous 'Emerald Necklace' park system. Esplanade, Fenway, Jamaica Way to Arboretum. Return to Gay Pride Fair in Fenway. Meet at 10am on the esplanade side of the Arthur Fiedler Bridge. Bring lunch. Info: 227-6167. Sponsored by Boston Unitarian Gays. All welcome.

**Dallas, TX** — Fifth Annual Texas Gay Conference: Setting Sites on Human Rights. Workshops, guest speakers and social activities. Contact P.O. Box 20254, Dallas, TX 75220 or call (214) 528-4233.

**Boston** — The Unitarian Universalist Gay Men & Lesbians will sponsor a bike hike to Arnold Arboretum. Meet at 10am on the esplanade side of the Arthur Fiedler Bridge. Bring lunch. Info: 227-6167.

## 11 sun

**Washington, DC** — Gay Pride Day '78 Street Festival. Noon until dusk. 20th and S St., N.W.

**NYC** — Benefit Brunch & Disco for the Gay Activists Alliance. 12-9pm at the Colt Bar, 1007 Lexington Ave. (between 72nd & 73rd Sts.). \$5 donation. For info, call (212) 677-0237.

**NYC** — Dykes & Tykes, Candle Making on the Beach. Noon. We will supply materials but bring whatever you have. Take D train to Brighton Beach, walk east along Brighton Beach Ave. to Brighton 13th.

**Boston** — Unitarian Gays will meet with MCC. 7pm. Old West Church.

**Washington, DC** — *The Celluloid Closet: Lot in Sodom and Tea and Sympathy*. 6pm. The American Film Institute, Kennedy Center.

## 12 mon

**Washington, DC** — *The Celluloid Closet: Montreal Main*. 8:30pm. The American Film Institute, Kennedy Center.

**Boston** — Planning meeting for all those interested in forming a gay/lesbian task force of the National Assn. of Social Workers. 7:30pm. Call Gary Drake, (617) 566-6505 for location.

## 13 tues

**Cambridge** — Women's Folk Dancing. 7-9 pm, Phillips Brooks House, Harvard Univ. Info: 623-1462.

**Providence, RI** — Gala Dinner to benefit RI branch office of NGTF. Bruce Voeller and Jean O'Leary, speakers. For details, call (401) 751-3322 evenings.

## 14 wed

**Framingham** — Lambda of Middlesex organizational meeting. 8pm. Call 877-8550 for details.

**Washington, DC** — *The Celluloid Closet: The Queen*. 6:30pm. The American Film Institute, Kennedy Center.

## 16 fri

**Boston** — Fenway Community Health Center (home of the Gay Health Collective) annual meeting to report on the state of the health center and elect a new board of directors. 5:30pm, Fenway Center for Campus Ministry, 68 St. Stephen St. Open.

## 17 sat

**Providence, RI** — Providence contingent will leave municipal parking lot for the Boston Gay Pride Parade at 9:30am. Drivers and riders needed. Call 751-3322.

**Boston** — Lesbian and Gay Pride Parade and Rally. Meet at 11:30am at Copley Sq.

**Philadelphia** — The Gay Pride Picnic '78. Belmont Plateau, Fairmount Park. Noon to 5pm. Games, sports, entertainment, etc.

## 18 sun

**Boston** — Spring For GCN Benefit at the Club Max. Auction, dance contest, fashion show, buffet, tea dance. Noon-2am. \$5.00 donation. All Day Disco! 54 Park Sq.

## 19 mon

**Providence, RI** — Open meeting of NGTF/RI to discuss the new organization with members of the community. 8pm. 55 Eddy St.

**Medford, MA** — Registration opens for the summer session of the Women's Community School. Tufts Univ. Call 628-5000 ext. 702 for info.

## 20 tues

**NYC** — West Side Discussion Group: "Why Gay Men Have Gone Superbutch — It's the New Macho Craze." Jeremy Weiss, treasurer of the Gay Athletic Association, will lead a discussion on the topic. 8:30pm. Triangle Gay Community Center, 3rd floor, 26 Ninth Ave. at 14th St.

## 21 wed

**Boston** — A concert by local performers to benefit *The Music in Women Series*. \$2.50 donation. The proceeds will go to the Community Services fund at the Mass. Correctional Institution at Framingham to enhance recreational programs at the prison. 7:30pm. Arlington St. Church.

## 23 fri

**Providence, RI** — GCSRI Night at the Gallery. Special fundraiser for GCSRI and the Helpline. 10pm. \$2 cover. 35 Richmond St.

# gay community news

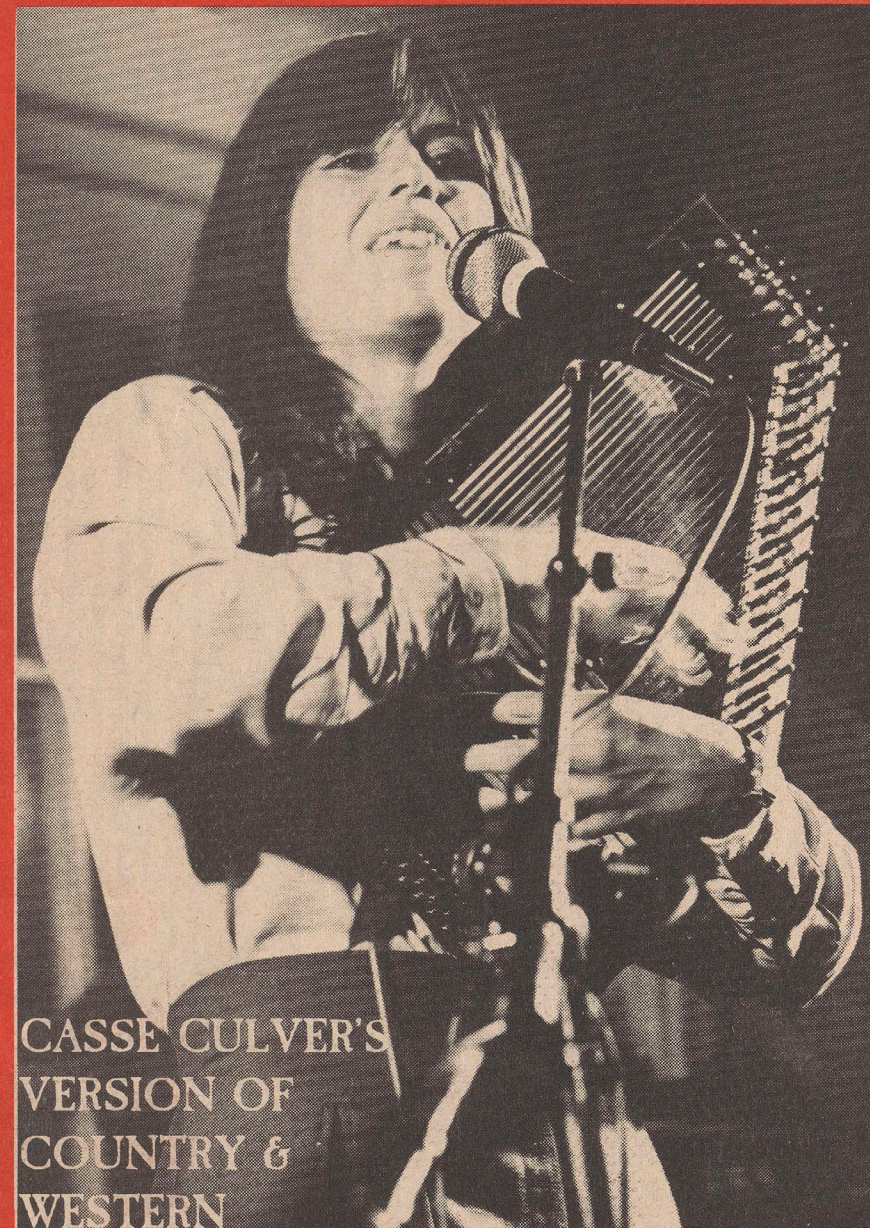
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JUNE 10, 1978

THE GAY WEEKLY 50¢

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## Re-codification Act Threatens Human Rights

By Pat Freedman  
and Nancy Shilepsky

BOSTON — The U.S. Senate recently passed a criminal recodification act, Senate Bill 1437. Behind all the numbers is part of the Nixon legacy which is now supported by such "liberals" as Sen. Edward F. Kennedy. The criminal recodification act was originally Senate Bill S-1, introduced during the Nixon years. S-1 was halted in Congress due in large part to the organizing efforts of groups such as the National Committee Against Repressive Legislation (NCARL) and the Boston Coalition to Stop S-1.

After Carter took office, a few changes were made in S-1, Attorney General Bell gave his endorsement of and support to the bill, and it was quickly passed by the Senate in January by a 72-15 vote. On May 20, the House Subcommittee on Criminal Justice decided to review the new bill. They plan to make their final report to the House Judiciary Committee sometime in late June.

This new act is vehemently opposed by various civil libertarian groups and by various political activists. Elizabeth Holtzman (D-NY) has stated that the bill enshrines "government lawlessness." Her criticism is supported by many people who view the bill as giving police and other enforcement officials broad powers which will reduce the freedom of speech and assembly, and the right to privacy. The bill will also curb the rights of labor unions and

political groups to picket and demonstrate. This bill will prohibit the advertising of abortion information through the mail, will make anyone who gives what is deemed to be a "false" statement to an F.B.I. agent or any other Federal employee subject to Federal prosecution, and will make everyone associated with a political group responsible for any illegal actions of any individual member (or agent provocateur) of that political group. Such broad and vague provisions will have a detrimental effect on both the women's movement and the gay movement.

One may wonder why such a law is being pushed through Congress. Leslie Cagan, an activist in the women's and lesbian/gay movements, offered one explanation: "As was true in Nazi Germany, the growth of the right wing is often accompanied by more and more vicious attacks on lesbians and gay men. The passage of S.1437/H.R.6869 would be just one more indication of the swing to the right in this country."

Cagan also observed that "some of the specific provisions in the act would directly affect the political work we now do. The lesbian/gay movement has used and will continue to use demonstrations and other public activities as one way to reach people. But with this new criminal code greater authority would be granted to federal

law enforcers to curtail our right to assemble and demonstrate."

Local gay activist Eric Rogers expressed concern about how these bills might actually be used to attack the lesbian/gay movement in the Boston area. Rogers pointed out that "one's fantasies can go wild as to how they'll use this. Considering how the district attorney in Boston treats the gay and women's communities now, there is a strong risk that this law would be abused."

Rogers focused on two specific types of abuse that might occur. Like Cagan, Rogers foresaw specific sections of the code being used to limit the right to assemble. He was concerned with how Section 1328 (prohibiting demonstrations to influence judicial proceedings) and Section 1861 (compelling the obeying of public safety orders) might be used to quell public protests. "This could include actions like the Boston Public Library picket, the Lesbian and Gay Pride March, or any spontaneous demonstration," Rogers said.

The potential increase in harassment under the guise of law enforcement was Rogers' second focus. He noted that Section 1861 (on public safety) could be used to empty out the bars. "Of course they can do it now," he observed, "but this new law would increase the risk of police abuse. Anytime vague laws are put on the books you hand over more power to an in-

creasingly powerful state."

Rogers also discussed the possible misuse of Section 1842 (on obscenity). He compared Section 1842 to the so-called "decency" laws that have been used to censor and shut down gay publications in Canada and Great Britain. Rogers noted that while "the act doesn't say it, they could come into the GCN offices and take the files and the subscription lists. That's the problem with this act. It is so vague. It doesn't provide for followup so the cops can do anything they see fit."

Clearly, the passage of S.1437/H.R.6869 could have serious consequences for the lesbian/gay movement. Cagan stressed that "as a community struggling for our own liberation we must join with others seeking to stop the passage of this act." In California, at least two gay organizations are part of the Bay Area Coalition to Stop S.1437/H.R.6869. There are no such organizational ties in Boston but individual lesbians and gay men are working in the Boston Coalition. Anyone who would like to offer their support or who would like more information can contact the Boston Coalition to Stop S.1437/H.R.6869 by calling Mitch Rubin at (617) 661-6130 or by writing to the Coalition, c/o A.F.S.C., 2161 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, Mass.

## Pro-E.R.A. Forces Fight to Extend Deadline

By Nancy Wechsler

CHICAGO — Illinois has become the focus of intensive campaigning around passage of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). Three more states must ratify the amendment by March of 1979 if it is to become law. Many pro-ERA supporters believe that the March deadline is too soon and have begun working in the Congress for a seven year extension.

Illinois is the only northern industrial state that has not yet approved the ERA. The last state that ratified the amendment was Indiana in January of 1977. Proponents of the ERA in Illinois believe that the Democrats of Cook County (which includes Chicago), as well as conservative downstate Republicans, have been major obstacles to passage of the amendment. Phyllis Schlafly of Alton, Illinois, known nationally for her anti-gay and anti-ERA positions is cited as another obstacle.

Naomi Ross, President of the state chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW) said, "Illinois is really a microcosm of the nation; we are a pilot project for the right wing. They're drawing a bead on Illinois and having some effect in moving the whole state to the right."

### Lesbian Involvement

Many lesbians have been working

for passage of the ERA in Illinois. Hannah Frisch, a member of Chicago's Blazing Star NAM (a mostly lesbian chapter of the socialist-feminist New American Movement) has worked with a coalition called 'Women United for the ERA'. GCN asked Frisch why she thought lesbians were working in the coalition. "For one thing," Frisch said, "it's for all women as women. Secondly, our working on this issue has to do with the climate of the country and the mobilization of the New Right. The defeat of the ERA would be a defeat of less sexist values, which of course would effect lesbians and gay men especially. The same people who are anti-ERA are part of the forces that are anti-gay. They are both based in trying to restore sexist values in the culture."

According to Frisch, Women United for the ERA have been canvassing door-to-door, holding get-togethers, petitioning at shopping centers, working for pro-ERA Democrats, getting people to write letters, and setting up visits between legislators and people who live in their districts. The coalition has helped to organize two demonstrations, one on April 29, where 3000 marched through downtown Chicago, and the most

recent when President Carter attended a joint session of the Illinois state legislature.

### Democrats and Carter

Proponents of the ERA believe that if the Democratic Party machine of Chicago really wanted the ERA passed, they could deliver the votes necessary. Nancy Shier, executive director of the Chicago NOW chapter, was quoted in the *New York Times* as saying, "We're (pro-ERA groups) getting lip service. The mayor (Michael Bilandic) and Cook County Democratic Party chairman Dunne have tremendous power. When the Chicago Democrats want something they can get it."

President Carter appeared before the joint session of the Legislature, and mentioned the ERA briefly. Carter said that the "eyes of the nation are now focused on the men and women of this chamber . . . What you do here in the next few weeks might very well determine whether women do have those equal rights guaranteed in the United States Constitution or whether they do not." Carter stopped short of urging ratification and only asked the legislators to listen to the voters and keep "an open mind, open thought and an open door".

### NOW Boycott and Rally

ERA America now lists more than 170 organizations that have joined a NOW-sponsored boycott which has already cost Chicago an estimated 20 million dollars. Chicago is one of many cities affected by this boycott, which is against cities in states that have not approved the ERA. Dignity, the national organization of gay and concerned Catholics is one of the organizations that have backed the boycott.

Meanwhile in Washington, DC, 500 supporters of the ERA turned up for a congressional hearing on May 18 to urge passage of House Bill 638 which would extend the deadline for ratification. Eleanor Smeal, President of National NOW, testified at that hearing. She said that if the ERA is defeated, "the gains women have obtained in the past two decades would be threatened". She said it would open the door to court rulings further limiting women's rights. Phyllis Schlafly also testified at the hearing. She complained that extension would be "unfair", that the Constitution is "sacred" and cannot be "tampered" with. NOW has called for a national rally in Washington, DC, on July 9 to show support for the ERA Extension Bill.



# News Notes

## D.C. VICTORY

WASHINGTON, DC — Washington's pro-gay human rights law has cleared the required 30-legislative-day period in the U.S. Congress and is now officially on the books.

DC Gay leaders recently petitioned the newly elected city council members to strengthen the bill by repassing it, which resulted in DC Councilperson Douglas Moore taking his much publicized stand against passage of the bill. Moore, who claimed the law endangered children and was endorsed by "fascist faggots" was vocal but not successful in his opposition. The law passed in city council by a vote of 12 to 1.

## SUPREME COURT RULES

WASHINGTON, DC — By majority vote, the Supreme Court ruled that juries testing obscene magazines and films against "community standards" may not consider the possible reactions of children, but should weigh the views of "sensitive" adults and the special interests of "deviant sexual groups," such as sado-masochists and homosexuals, in reaching a decision.

## ARRESTS IN CINCINNATI

CINCINNATI — According to reports, seventy men have been arrested in Cincinnati's public parks on vague and unclear charges. As a result, a local gay liberation front has been formed.

Resolutions by the committee include a possible boycott against the Cincinnati *Inquirer* for its "anti-gay, anti-human rights" ordinance editorials. Cincinnati Gay Community (CGC) leaders claim the city's conservative element, best represented by the police and the *Inquirer*, are considering no limits in their attempts to discredit the proposed human rights ordinance, or the city's gay community.

Attorney for the defendants, Allen Brown, told CGC that police are using their position to create "psycho-drama" tactics to convince the public that "homosexuals want to convert children." Brown called for a coordinated defense to expose police tactics, and urged witnesses to come forward.

The harassment hasn't ended. Police are also arresting patrons of X-rated movies, and continue to harass people outside of one local gay bar, The Bradlands.

An investigation was called for by Rev. Howard Gaass of the Cincinnati MCC.

## DI GRAZIA VS. POLICE

SILVER SPRING, MD — Former Boston Police Commissioner Robert DiGrazia, who made waves in Boston when he challenged the local patrolmen's union, is doing the same thing now as chief of police in Montgomery County, Maryland. The *Washington Post* reported that DiGrazia, who authored a "Speaking Out" article in GCN last year, has decided to make public all reports of police misconduct and disciplinary actions against officers for every infraction.

DiGrazia said it is an effort to show that "police officers are not Baretta or Columbo... but human beings with a very visible, difficult job to do who sometimes make mistakes." The *Post* reported that the most serious violations were committed by off-duty officers who got into trouble while drunk.

## HOUSING FOR S.F. PARADE

SAN FRANCISCO — The Pride Foundation has expanded its housing program to anticipate the influx of visitors coming to San Francisco for the Gay Freedom Day Parade as part of the services of the San Francisco Gay Tourist & Visitors Service Bureau.

Temporary housing is being sought for gay tourists coming here for Gay Pride Week. Those wishing to offer housing may contact Brian Harrison at the Pride Housing Office in the Gay Community Center at 330 Grove St., San Francisco, CA. 94102, or by telephoning (415) 863-9890.

Listings for tenants or roommates are being handled on a regular basis. Landlords may register their rentals with the Housing Office.

## CIRCUMCISION RE-VISITED

ATLANTA — Dr. David Grimes of the Center of Disease Control's Family Planning Evaluation Division here says the practice of cutting the foreskin off newborn boys is a throw-back to a more primitive era of medicine and "appears to lack sufficient medical justification."

The primary argument to support circumcision is that the operation promotes genital cleanliness. Grimes says, however, that the same objective could be accomplished with simple soap and water without the infant suffering the trauma of an operation.

Grimes says that to recommend surgery as a method of personal hygiene is like arguing that an infant's fingernails or ears should be removed because they are places where dirt collects. The doctor says that a half a billion dollars is spent each decade to trim foreskins — money which, he says, could be used in other medical areas more wisely. An estimated four out of every five newborn American males are circumcised.

## JEAN O'LEARY NAMED

NEW YORK — Jean O'Leary, Co-Executive Director of the National Gay Task Force, has been named by Mayor Ed Koch as one of 14 new members of the New York City Commission on the Status of Women. Ms. O'Leary, who was appointed to serve a 3-year term is the only publicly-identified gay person on the Commission. The new appointments were announced on May 3.

## DISNEYLAND GOES GAY

DISNEYLAND, CA — Thursday night is 'family night' at Disneyland, but if any children showed up May 25 they were probably children of gay people. Although the Disneys are maintaining a pained silence on the subject, their premises were turned over that night to a group of homosexuals called the Tavern Guild. The Guild represents only homosexual bars — a fact that the Disneys discovered after they had already agreed to rent the place out. Any non-profit group may rent Disneyland for an evening at a reduced rate, and the Tavern Guild is considered a non-profit group.

## D.C. PRIDE

WASHINGTON, DC — Gay Pride week for this city begins June 11 with a street festival that is expected to attract several thousand people. The celebration will continue through June 18, with more than 30 area gay, lesbian, and heterosexual organizations participating.

Festival co-ordinator Jeff Carillon expects a big turnout because, "people are eager to show gay strength in response to the referendum votes against gay rights in St. Paul, Wichita, and Eugene."

The events scheduled for the opening day of D.C. Gay Pride Week include appearances by the anti-war activist and lesbian Holly Near, and the local improvisational comedy group, Red Shoes Walkin'. Other entertainers include local lesbian singer Casse Culver and the Belle Star Band, Hysteria (a women's rock group), and cabaret singer Carolyn Gaines.

## L.A. MAYOR MEETS GAYS

LOS ANGELES — Mayor Tom Bradley of Los Angeles met with the heads of thirty different gay groups at city hall recently. Don Amador, the mayor's liaison with the gay community, arranged the meeting with groups representing gay seniors, Black and Latino gay people, teens and political groups.

The meeting was an outgrowth of the First Tuesday meetings, a monthly council of gay organizations that have been assembling for the last two years.

One of the items addressed to Mayor Bradley concerned his visibility in the gay community; he promised to visit the Gay Community Service Center later this month, the first of other visits to gay places. In response to a concern for the police misquotations on child molestation and gay people, the mayor asked Don Amador to write a report on the subject. Asked about the Briggs Initiative, Bradley said he hadn't said much on the subject before because he didn't want to call attention to it, but now that it was an issue, he would be speaking out against it.

## STATE MUST PAY FOR CHANGE

SAN FRANCISCO, CA — Ruling in separate but similar cases, the California Court of Appeals stated that the state must bear the expense of a welfare recipient's sex change operation when such surgery is "medically necessary."

The court reversed the state health director's refusal to authorize MediCal to pay for the proposed operations on grounds it would be cosmetic surgery.

One of the cases involved a man, identified by officials as G.B., and the other involved a woman, identified as Jane Doe. In the G.B. case, the court said that the proposed surgery "cannot be arbitrarily classified as cosmetic inasmuch as this was the sole basis of the director's decision, his decision must be and is hereby set aside."

Jane Doe was born physically a male, but developed some "female characteristics" at an early age which, the court said, "became more obvious as she grew older."

The court ruled that Doe had been living as a woman since 1968 but had suffered job problems because of her failure to undergo physical examinations, had severe depression and finally sought medical help in 1969.

## MAYOR SUPPORTS BACABI

SAN FRANCISCO — San Francisco Mayor George Moscone has joined the Bay Area Committee Against the Briggs Initiative (BACABI), an organization formed to oppose an anti-gay initiative which is expected to qualify for the November ballot and, if passed, would outlaw employment of homosexuals and lesbians in the public schools.

Mayor Moscone said in a statement, "This dangerous measure would strike at the heart of our democracy and sanction wholly unjustified discrimination against gay citizens."

BACABI is also supported by SF supervisor Harvey Milk (who ran for office as an openly gay person) and James Ballard, who is head of the local American Federation of Teachers.

## UCLA PAPER FOR GAYS

LOS ANGELES — The student-dominated Communications Board at UCLA has voted conditional approval to publish a student newspaper for the University's gay community. Steve Spence, an advisor to student publications at UCLA, said permission was granted by a 7-1 vote. Final approval is contingent on approval by the Registration Fee Committee and the chancellor for the use of \$6,700 in student fees. The UCLA Gay Students Union has requested permission to publish the paper.

## LESBIANS JAILED

AIKEN COUNTY JAIL, SC — On May 1, more than 300 people occupied land on Allied General Nuclear Services (AGNS) property in order to demonstrate concern over the danger "which this plant poses to the AGNS workers, residents of the Barnwell area, the people of this country and future generations." The plant is the proposed dumping ground for nuclear waste from all over the world.

Three hundred people were charged with criminal trespassing, and if convicted could face a maximum penalty of \$100 or 30 days in jail. Most are out on bail, but 23 refused to post bond "as a matter of conscience and as an objection to the collusion of state and corporate power which creates such monstrosities as AGNS."

Thirteen women are being held in jail. They hold a variety of beliefs and describe themselves in this way: "We are feminists, Christians, anarchists, and lesbians. We are united in our sisterhood and in our commitment to a non-violent future."

## HEALTH COLLECTIVE NEEDS HELP

BOSTON — The Boston Gay Health Collective needs volunteers to work at the reception desk for its regular Monday and Wednesday clinic sessions. The job requires enjoying working directly with people, a reasonably cheery disposition, and a tolerance of paperwork and basic arithmetic. If you can help out, call (617) 267-7573.



# Liquor License Controversy Alive in P'town

PROVINCETOWN — The question of who has the right to determine the moral standards for a town is still under debate in the courts after a decision by a Massachusetts agency to overrule Provincetown's decision to revoke the liquor license of the Atlantic House, a popular gay bar here. Seven men were arrested there last fall and charged with committing unnatural sex acts on the premises.

Last week, court action began when Provincetown Selectmen voted to appeal a ruling by the Massachusetts Alcohol Control Commission (A.B.C.C.) to restore the liquor license of the Atlantic House, as operator Robin Nicholson denies that anything lewd or lascivious took place on the premises.

## Issue Viewed As Economic

The majority of Provincetown's homosexual community condemns the revocation of the bar's liquor license, claiming it to be too severe a penalty. The local businessmen and workers join

with the town Selectmen in support of the repeal.

Some residents see the issue as economic. They argue that the license revocation costs the town money and jobs. One local innkeeper said that the Atlantic House was "part of Provincetown's entertainment package that attracts gays here." A few residents have charged the Selectmen with carrying on a vendetta against homosexuals — a charge that is vigorously denied. Many contend that a suspension for a month or two would have been sufficient.

In December, the state commission suggested that the Selectmen reduce the penalty against the bar, calling it much too harsh. The agency recommended a 30-day suspension instead. To that, the Selectmen replied by voting 3 to 2 to keep the revocation in effect.

The Atlantic House then began a second appeal to the A.B.C.C., citing hardship on the owners and employees. The Commission ordered that the

license be restored after a one-month suspension to begin as of April 1. However, Provincetown's town counsel challenged the state agency's right to overturn the Selectmen's decision. Town counsel Robert Bianchi said, "the A.B.C.C. alleged that sex acts took place in a public area with the knowledge and approval of the management."

At a meeting on May 10, the Selectmen voted 4 to 1 to appeal the commission ruling. "I feel very strongly that they can't set standards for Provincetown from Boston," said Selectman Munro Moore.

Fred Ambrose, a newly elected Selectman, argued that the ruling negated the primary responsibility of local elected officials. "The issue is not so much the Atlantic House license, but the right of the board to grand licenses," he said. "We are elected by the town to grant licenses and if people don't like the way we license bars, let them dispose of us in

the next election."

Mary-Jo Avellar, chairman of the Board of Selectmen, said that she was ready to carry the appeal as far as possible in the courts. "People are sick and tired of being told what to do," she said. "Every time you turn around there is another state mandate and people are tired of it."

The only dissenting vote came from Selectman John R. Henrique, often at odds with the other board members. He said he thought the penalty was too severe and that the appeal was a waste of public money. He also insisted that the townspeople were not upset over the issue.

The seven men arrested in the raid did not contest the charge. They were fined \$200 each and their cases were continued for two years. If they are involved in no other criminal behavior during that period, their cases would be dropped.

## news commentary

By David Brill

Dramatic changes in the race for the seat now held by Republican U.S. Sen. Edward W. Brooke have changed the contest considerably. Only a year ago, Brooke was considered a shoo-in, somewhat unusual in a state where only 17% of the voters are Republicans. Now the contest looks much more like the classic Massachusetts election: the scramble.

Three weeks ago, a *Boston Globe* poll showed Brooke handily beating three announced Democratic candidates. Brooke outdistanced Rep. Elaine Noble by a solid 63-25; his most substantial opposition was in the person of Lt. Gov. Thomas O'Neill (50-40), but O'Neill has ruled out a Senate bid.

Only four days later, the same newspaper revealed that Brooke had misrepresented a \$49,000 loan during his grueling and much-publicized divorce proceedings. At a press conference on May 26, the Senator conceded making a "misstatement" in listing a \$2000 loan from a personal friend but not a \$48,000 insurance settlement. The revelation brought the Senator into conflict with the state perjury

statute (lying under oath in court) and the Senate Ethics Code (which requires reporting of large loans).

The local black community responded with an outpouring of support for Brooke, the nation's only black Senator. At a press conference, every prominent black leader in the state — including strong gay rights backers like Reps. Doris Bunte and Mel King and Boston School Committee member John O'Bryant — expressed forgiveness for the Senator's mistake and reiterated their faith in him as a spokesperson for minority needs.

Rep. Elaine Noble and Rep. Michael Connolly (D-Roslindale), Brooke's first announced challenger, were the only two prominent Democrats to try to use the revelations to their advantage. Noble said, "I don't think he'll ever recover from this. This has damaged the Senator beyond repair. I'm sure there is more to come."

The other candidates refused to comment. Media personality Avi Nelson, who will challenge Brooks from the right in the Republican primary, would not jump on the issue as Noble did — understandably, since Nelson has long argued on behalf of a politician's "right to privacy" in personal matters. Lt. Gov. O'Neill was

quoted as saying, "I wouldn't dance to another man's misfortune."

Noble's gloating may return to haunt her, however, because most of the other candidates — including Brooke — have begun to comb her record for conflicts and inconsistencies and can be expected to release them within a few weeks. The best-known among these is that she is running on a campaign of "full financial disclosure" although she herself voted *against* financial disclosure in the State Ethics Code last year, and, in fact, received a "zero" rating from Citizens for Participation in Political Action (CPPAX), the state's leading liberal organization, on the issue of ethics.

Then on May 30, Boston School Committee member Kathleen Sullivan Alioto announced her own candidacy for the Democratic nomination. In fairness, it should be noted that rumors of her candidacy had been around for weeks, and Alioto herself made the final decision to run a week before the revelations about Brooke's finances.

Rep. Barney Frank described Alioto as "a strong candidate" — probably better known than Noble, Connolly, or U.S. Rep. Paul Tsongas (D-Lowell). Now in her third term on the school committee, Alioto was the top vote-

getter in the city in both 1975 and 1977, and was believed to be an unannounced candidate for mayor next year. (Even should she fail for Senate, the campaign would provide her with good experience for a mayoral run.) Having run city-wide, her "district" is 50% bigger than Tsongas's, and she is better-known in the metropolitan Boston area.

As the new wife of a recent divorcee (former San Francisco Mayor Joseph Alioto), she can be expected not to pounce upon Brooke's marital problems as some of the other candidates have. As the daughter of millionaire Billy Sullivan, owner of the New England Patriots football team, she will have enough of her own money to run a good campaign. (Self-contributions can be unlimited, as Pennsylvania Sen. H. John Heinz learned in 1976.)

She has lived up what would have been a lackluster campaign. Now she must compete with the others: Noble, Connolly, Tsongas, Hampden Register of Deeds John P. Lynch, (probably) Conservative Caucus director Howard Phillips, and two unknowns.

For Brooke, the long, hot summer has only begun.

## Briggs Out of Gubernatorial Race

SACRAMENTO, CA — California State Senator John Briggs has pulled out of the race for governor of this state. Briggs gained national attention recently by turning in petitions calling for a state-wide initiative in November that would prohibit the hiring and require the firing of any gay teacher or public school employee.

Briggs reported earlier this month that his campaign had raised \$858,454, more than the front runner in the GOP race, Attorney General Evelle Younger. Briggs reported spending all but \$19,614.

In an interview preceding his withdrawal from the gubernatorial race, Briggs said that most of the money spent during his campaign actually went into the anti-gay initiative and another initiative that supports the death penalty. Briggs said, "I would imagine maybe \$100,000 might be directly attributed to the gubernatorial

campaign and that's why I'm at two percent in the polls." The senator claims that everyone who was visited and asked for money knew how the money was going to be used. "They had it clearly in their mind, I know they did," claimed Briggs. He said he had legal clearance for his money transfers from the state's Fair Political Practices Commission. No formal charges have been made in connection with the transfer.

Briggs said he will focus his energy between now and November on "trying to make John Briggs a household word" with the two initiatives. "Remember, I'm going to be the fellow with the initiatives determining whether or not homosexuals are going to teach children in California. And I'm also going to be the leader of a drive for a tough new death penalty. I will be on national television. *Readers*

*Digest* just finished an interview with me. *Time* magazine called twice in a week. I will be in everyone's living room thousands of times over," Briggs told the press.

In addition to transferring much of the money raised for his gubernatorial race to the initiative campaigns, Briggs' financing came into question for several other reasons. Briggs' son, 20 year old Ron, and son-in-law Steven Bailey, were put on the campaign payroll. The two and Bailey's Starburst Consulting Inc. received more than \$44,000 in consulting fees during the campaign. Briggs used his own insurance company to take out a \$400 policy for the campaign headquarters. He shrugs off any suggestion of nepotism, saying, "We have always been a small family operation." Other relatives, he claimed, "worked day and night for no money" on the campaign.

The senator's campaign financing has been called into question in the area of loans to the campaign. His hometown newspaper, the *Orange County Register*, reported that Briggs' personal loans totalled \$317,500, more than one-third of his total fund raising. Briggs says this figure is inaccurate and that the amount loaned is "somewhere between \$150,000 and \$170,000."

Whatever the exact figures of the loan, Briggs did not comply with a law requiring he report the original source of the money loaned to the campaign. He said the error was from a misunderstanding of the law and he promised to correct his reporting statements.

Briggs said the source of the money was from a \$80,000 mortgage on his home, from proceeds from the sale of another home, and two bank loans. His son and son-in-law also loaned the campaign a total of \$40,000.



# speaking out

## New Approach Needed for Gay Rights Movement

By Edward T. Hougen

It is time to take a good hard look at the tactics and strategy we have been pursuing in the gay community in our efforts to secure our rights. After Miami, St. Paul, Wichita, and Eugene, it should be obvious even to our most optimistic holdouts that we are not yet ready, historically, in our struggle to put the question of gay rights *directly* before the voter. Even the most liberal constituencies will trounce us by margins of two to one. Furthermore the rhetoric of defeat, that it is really a form of victory because the losing effort has strengthened, mobilized, and energized the gay community, only holds true if we start to use that strength and energy in more effective ways and produce a few victories. In short we must change our approach before a clearly numerically superior opposition totally wipes us out. I use the term wipe out advisedly. For even more sinister than the overturning of gay rights ordinances, has been the increasing pattern of harassment of gay citizens by local police and district attorneys. We must not forget that the vast majority of states still have their books and laws, making gay sexual activity carried on in private between consenting adults illegal. The U.S. Supreme Court has consistently refused to rule against the constitutionality of such laws. This means that a massive imprisonment of gay people is legally possible in this country. I might add that it is even probable if the social and political climate will support such a pogrom. *All* gay men and lesbians are in real danger if the current spate of homophobic attacks by elected officials and their agents goes unchallenged.

If we cannot at the present time win victories by directly making gay rights the issue, how then can we succeed? First we must be willing to realistically assess the current limitations of our strength so that we can apply it to maximum effect. We represent approximately ten per cent of the adult population with our heaviest concentration in certain key cities. We must recognize the temporary necessity to write off having significant impact in any areas save those in which we have maximum strength. In Massachusetts that means we focus on the greater Boston area. To pick as a significant electoral battlefield anything outside of that area is to squander our limited resources and to continue to court disaster. Having zeroed in upon that area for our operations, we must next recognize the kind of battle we can presently win: We will be consistently victorious when we are willing to vote as a block for or against a candidate based upon his or her stance on gay rights, when gay rights does not become the central issue of the campaign for the non-gay voter. That means we are a large enough group *right now* to make the difference in any campaign in greater Boston, where there is a contest, so long as we do not insist that a candidate run his or her campaign as a referendum on gay rights. We are not yet large enough a voting block to elect candidates whose major appeal is their identification as gay. That day is not far off if we are willing to continue to organize. It is political suicide to act as though that day has already arrived.

Let us now turn our attention to the Suffolk County district attorney's race (purely by way of illustration) to see what can be accomplished by applying such a tactic. Garrett Byrne, our present D.A. won the Democratic primary four years ago, receiving less than 48,000 votes — approximately 11,000 more than his closest opponent. It should be pointed out that in Boston, winning the Democratic primary is tantamount to election, since we are for all practical purposes a one-party town. Byrne carried every gay district in Boston. There are somewhere between 50,000 and 80,000 gays eligible to vote in Suffolk County (made up of Boston, Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop). Because of past gay political apathy coupled with the community's high rate of mobility, we are *severely* under registered. The current estimate for registered gay voters is 25,000. Of those 25,000, very likely just under half voted in the Democratic primary, and then probably with little consciousness of a candidate's position on the now critical issue of the rights of gays. Twelve

thousand gay votes out of a possible 80,000 — a very poor showing. Yet if we had chosen in that race to vote as a block against Byrne, it would have denied him the nomination.

This year Byrne will be running against stiffer opposition, so he has attempted to bolster his chances by cashing in on the homophobic atmosphere so clearly prevalent, by assaulting the rights of the gay community. He released false and misleading charges to portray us as a dangerous group of child molesters. He fanned an already existing homophobic backlash by instituting his own version of a gay hotline, soliciting tips from "concerned citizens" about suspected illegal gay activity. He has kept these "tips" on file, in effect building a dossier on the gay community that might be used in future smears and attacks. Byrne is banking upon a divided, disinterested, and disorganized gay community to offer no significant opposition to such tactics of harassment and intimidation. He has publicly boasted that the prospect of organized gay opposition to his candidacy does not concern him. It is easily within our grasp to make Byrne the last Boston politician to discount the gay voter. By supporting, en masse, one of Byrne's primary opponents on September 19, we will not only rid ourselves of a district attorney whose contempt for our community's rights and concerns seems to be his primary election strategy, but we will serve notice to any future homophobic politician that attacking the rights of gay people in Boston will bring swift and immediate retribution at the polls. We may not yet have the strength to elect a truly sympathetic D.A., but we do have the votes to defeat an openly hostile one.

Let us return to our figures: 12,000 votes over and against an upward potential of 80,000. The closer we get to using our maximum electoral strength, the closer we get to shaping the future life of our city; of changing an environment of frequent entrapment, arrest, and abuse, to one in which our rights and concerns are protected, honored, and respected by our elected officials.

There are some very real and important differences that exist within the gay community. We are as diverse and varied a people as any other minority. We need to continue to discuss and debate among ourselves these points of difference. But in light of the ugly wave of homophobic reaction sweeping the country, we cannot afford to dissipate our limited energy and resources by attacking one another. By uniting around the common goal of getting ourselves and our brothers and sisters registered by August 22 (the deadline for eligibility to vote in the September primary), and out to the polls on September 19, we will be asserting our rights — our right to vote — in the most powerful way possible.

The Massachusetts Caucus for Gay Legislation is conducting a massive voter registration, voter education, and voter turn-out drive. There will, for example, be a registration booth for any unregistered Boston resident at the gay pride rally on the Common, Saturday June 17. But each person must make it his or her personal priority to take the few minutes it requires to register and to vote. On September 20, the day after the Democratic primary, the Boston gay community can assert that it too has been strengthened, mobilized, and energized as a result of the election because it has learned how to work together, to fight effectively, and best of all to win real victories.

("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

### enticement

The following is a copy of a letter recently written to Mayor Kevin White.

Dear Mayor White:

On Tuesday, May 16, my 45th birthday, I was stopped by two teen-aged males on Dartmouth Street at noon. I was robbed of the contents of my wallet and of my watch, and mugged, on a fairly busy street two blocks from District Four police station and about four blocks from Police Headquarters.

Having gone through a similar experience almost in front of my own home only a few months ago, I did not both to report the incident, since I learned last time that the police can do nothing after the fact anyway. Instead, I continued my walk to the Back Bay. In the course of my errands I saw several police cars, all of them marked with titles, (supervisor of this, headquarters of that, etc.). I saw no ordinary policemen, in cars or on foot.

The day before the mugging, I had read your and Supt. Jordan's responses to the Arlington Street Church Social Action Committee's call for an investigation of alleged entrapment of gay

men in the basement rest room and third floor Wiggins Gallery of the Boston Public Library. Your reply was both misinformed and misleading, and Supt. Jordan's internal "investigation" either superficial or the product of falsehoods by his subordinates. The numerous continuances and outright dismissal in these cases are themselves ample testimony that the cases brought by police undercover agents are tainted, to say the least.

I myself was nearly a victim of one such attempt at enticement in the Wiggins Gallery. I had stopped there briefly on my way to look up some thing in the Fine Arts Room, simply to see

what was currently on exhibition. Among the exhibits was a young man in tight pants who by looks and "body language" made suggestive moves in my direction. Since I am realistic enough to know that I do not arouse instant passions in handsome young men, I recognized that this was a suspicious circumstance and moved out quickly. A few days later the first arrests were announced in the press. It is clear to me that this young man was a police plant. This incident may not be "entrapment" in the strict legal sense, but it was certainly "enticement" directed at distracting me from legitimate library business for purposes of inducing an arrest for criminal conduct.

While I am very much personally opposed to the use of any part of the library for purposes other than for which it was designed — whether

Continued on Page 5

## GCN CONTRIBUTORS

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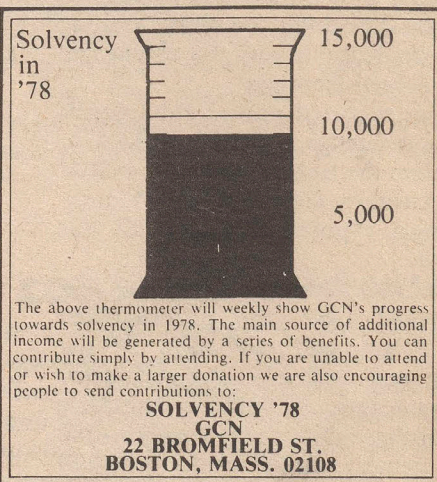
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## T.V. Show in Danger of Cancellation

The National Federation for Decency, an ultra-rightist political church group, recently won a major victory when they forced Sears, Roebuck and Company to cancel their sponsorship of two television programs. Both are popular shows on the ABC network, "Charlie's Angels" being one, and the gay overtones "Three's Company" being the other.

The fact that both shows consistently produce high ratings did not influence Sears' decision to withdraw their advertising. Spokesmen for the company stated that Sears, in fact, could not afford the boycott of their stores, which resulted as a pressure tactic by the Federation.

The National Federation is headed by a longtime foe of gay rights in the Chicago area, and is also known to have affiliation with the P.O.C. (Protect Our Children).

The Federation claims that violence was the issue which concerned them in their request for Sears to cease their network sponsorship; however, most TV reviewers find that "Charlie's Angels" contains far less actual violence than other programs presently on the air. Reasons given for the demand to halt sponsorship of TV's "Three's Company" include the fact that homosexuality is glorified by the male character in the series, who pretends to be gay for the purpose of fooling the landlord so he can live with two

women, and this is done because the landlord doesn't like the idea to begin with. The idea of presenting two women and a man living together gives children the impression that being married is no longer necessary, as well as possible "mind corruption" insofar as it can lead them to believe homosexuality is all right too.

A press release stated that the Federation is "disgusted with the low-level of television and intends to make their voices heard where it counts — in the advertisers pocketbooks."

## Gay Author Claims Novel Buried by Publisher

BOSTON — At a recent press conference, gay novelist Paul Monette claimed that his Boston-based publishers are "burying" his book at a time when it was beginning to receive serious attention.

Monette stated that his novel "Taking Care of Mrs. Carroll" was enthusiastically received by his editor at Little, Brown & Company, and that he also received a considerably large sum in advance of royalties. This was a year ago, before Miami and Anita Bryant. At that time, Monette's editor led him to believe that 15,000 copies would be in print and that a sizable campaign would follow.

As of last November, the novelist detected a change in attitude from the company and reported that the senior staff began quoting a line from *Newsweek* that the nation had turned to the right in regard to human affairs. At that point, conditions became worse, and the jacket copy seemed to be patronizing. The 32-year-old author protested this action, however the jacket remained the same.



photo by Craig R. Rowland

The initial press run revealed 7,500 copies, and only a small ad was placed in the *New York Times*. The novel was forwarded to a select few for review, but no real effort was made to familiarize the gay community about the book, much less the straight community.

## community voices

Continued from page 4

exhibitionistic gay dating in the men's room or exhibitionistic teenaged heterosexual petting openly carried on in the main reading areas (something which does not seem to disturb the Library staff) — I am equally disturbed by your refusal of the Arlington Street Church's legitimate request for an impartial, independent investigation of the situation in all its aspects.

And in the light of my own birthday experience, on Dartmouth Street, I ask you this question: Why, when peaceful citizens cannot walk the principal streets of Boston at noonday without risk of becoming innocent victims of adolescent street crime, is the manpower of the police department under Superintendent Jordan being deployed in the prosecution of essentially victimless crimes? Why so much effort entrapping gay men and chasing streetwalkers out of the Combat Zone and into residential areas and compiling impressive and safe records in numbers of parking tickets and all these chiefs riding around in police cars with no Indians on the streets when you need them?

There are several other ways to deal with the annoyances of restroom sex than planting vice squad officers to entice men into felony convictions, and a number of them have been privately and publicly suggested. We need patrolmen out on the streets, not undercover agents lurking in rest rooms and art galleries. If this is the order of priority in Boston's public safety policies, then either we need a new police superintendent or a new Mayor or both.

I am sending copies of this letter to *Esplanade*, for which I write, and to the *Gay Community News*, for which I formerly wrote. I would urge you, and urge readers of these pages to urge you, to set in motion an independent citizens' inquiry, along the lines proposed to you by the Arlington Street Church group, into the enticement and entrapment allegations currently being made and, so far as I can see, substantiated. And I would also encourage you to order Supt. Jordan to develop a program of education and sensitivity training within the police department training

program on the characteristics and constitutional rights of gay people. I am sure that several gay organizations and respected gay citizens of Boston could marshal the talents needed to assist in both tasks.

The constitution rights to which I refer, to make things crystal clear, are not a free right to public sex in the Library men's room. They are, rather, at least the right to be free of ignoble actions and victimization procedures by agents of government, and the right to be safe on the public streets, neither of which basic human rights your administration seems capable of guaranteeing.

Should you wish to respond formally to this letter, I will see to it that your reply is given space in *Esplanade*, and I am sure that the editors of *Gay Community News* will do the same.

Yours truly,

A. Nolder Gay  
Boston

### noble's campaign

Dear GCN:

Elaine Noble is running for the U.S. Senate and she is asking the "straight" community to support her because she says she is the most qualified candidate. She asks them to disregard the fact that she is gay.

To the gay community, she asks our support because she is "one of us."

Yet, when asked about whether the fact that Sen. Brooke is also the only Black member of the Senate, she claims that voters should not take things like race or sexual preference into consideration.

This is what I do not understand. Rep. Noble cannot ask straight people to support her for one reason, and gay people to support her for the opposite. She cannot have it both ways.

Sincerely yours,

Alan J. Monier  
Boston

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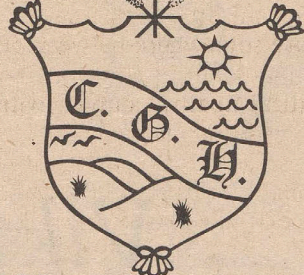
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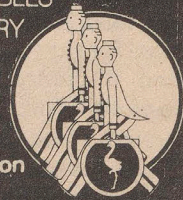
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# Welcome to Casse Culver Country

By Pat M. Kuras

In mid-May, Casse Culver and The Belle Starr Band blitzed Boston with a series of five nightly concerts in less than one week. Casse Culver has been criticized for her style of music; some people find it contradictory that a lesbian feminist woman would sing country and western. She has been criticized for letting her hair grow to shoulder-length; at one time, Casse had a crew-cut — no one can call her un-American! Some claim that Casse has even stooped to political incorrectness; she has been known to autograph her album covers on request. (I know because I made such a request myself.)

Yet none of these critiques deter her. She keeps on keeping on.

## The Cowdyke Image

I first heard of Casse Culver (two years ago) as a dyke country and western singer. Visions of Nashville flooded my mind, and I honestly could not fathom how or why a lesbian would sing C&W. I bought her "3 Gypsies" album and was immediately hooked. Casse's brand of C&W (which she affectionately calls *cowdyke*) soars far above Nashville's typical hoe-down tunes.

At the mere mention of C&W, most people focus on the more ridiculous, heterosexist songs, *à la* Dolly Parton. Casse confesses to having been a "closet C&W fan" in early years, and eventually she came out. She has listened to a lot of C&W and feels qualified to say that the female artists of C&W are real and earthy women. Their songs are honest and proclaim the daily struggles of

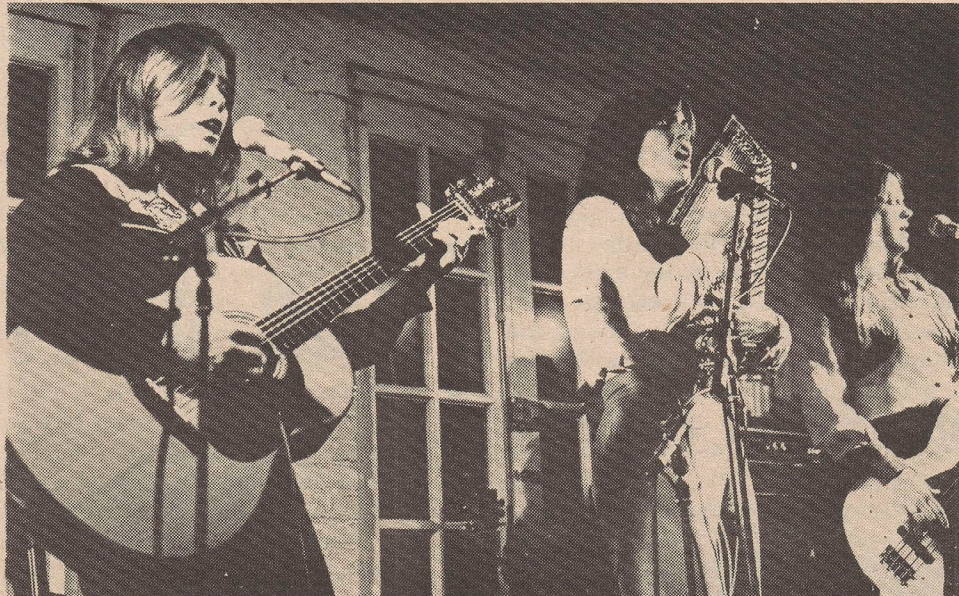


photo by JEB

Casse Culver and the Belle Star Band.

(L. to r.): Ellen Horton, Casse Culver, Diane Zimmerman

women, as in the case of Tammy Wynette's "D-I-V-O-R-C-E." Due to their rural and working class backgrounds, Casse speculates that the women of C&W are more in touch with reality and able to portray honest lives through their lyrics. Casse affirms that women in the C&W field "hold up half the sky" with their traditional involvement as players of fiddles, guitars and autoharps.

Casse's brand of C&W ranges from melodic love songs to tales of lesbian horse thieves and dyke truckers. In concert, she is a colorful character, wearing western outfits with boots and

spurs. When performing particular songs, she completes the image by wearing a beige Stetson.

Her cowdyke personality evolved through her search for an identity. In the badlands, of Bethesda, Maryland, where she was raised, there were no strong role models to follow; women grew up to be docile housewives. Casse says, "The identity I came to like and enjoy is that of being a lesbian. But what is a lesbian? How do you portray that?" Traveling cross-country helped answer her questions. In Yuma, Arizona, she got in touch with her C&W yearnings and it all fell into place. Acknowledging

her roots in Americana and the appeal of strong C&W women, Casse became a good ol' cowdyke. The image fit perfectly.

## Belle Starr & The Band

In the latter half of the 1800s, an actual woman, Belle Starr, was "Queen of the Bandits." One male historian has described her as "spiteful, reckless, headstrong, as dangerous as any of the desperadoes she loved." Her criminal record (robber, prostitute, horse thief) was as long as her countless line of lovers and husbands. On Feb. 3, 1889, Belle Starr was bushwhacked within one mile of her outlaw hideout/home. She was killed by an assailant whose identity is still unknown.

With her steely-blue eyes flashing, Casse Culver commends the long-ago woman outlaw, "I don't care what her politics were, she had self-esteem." It is only fitting that a feminist C&W band should take its name from a western woman who was fearless and strong.

Ellen Horton is The Belle Starr Band's bass player, supporting vocalist and teller of corny jokes. She was previously with the women's jazz-rock band, Hysteria. Diane Zimmerman plays flute, acoustic/electric guitar, and lends supporting vocals. She has performed with Sally Piano and Tiik Poulet (of Be Be K'roche). The sound engineers are self-taught Boden Sandstrom and assistant, Sharon Mullaly.

Continued on page 10

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# APA—Thunderous Silence



Photo by Angela Russo

The following is the text of a speech given by Jalna Perry, M.D. at the Homophile Community Health Service's Spring Brunch, on May 21, 1978. Dr. Perry is a psychiatrist and a member of the Board of Directors of HCHS.

The week before last I was at the American Psychiatric Association convention in Atlanta. I spent most of my time working with the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Caucus. The caucus is composed of homosexual workers in the mental health field, mostly psychiatrists. It is *not* an official body of the A.P.A. Up to this year it has been an informal group carried by a few courageous psychiatrists — and, to my novice eye, mostly by our own Dr. Richard Pillard.

This year the caucus created a formal structure to organize gay psychiatrists around the country. It is working to achieve minority status in the A.P.A. Until it does, it is hampered in speaking officially. This will take two years.

Psychiatry is a powerful force in this country. All humanistic studies and services look to psychology and psychiatry to explain the human condition. The courts, educators, and the mental health fields rely on psychiatry to define sickness and health. Feminists know this, civil rights groups know this, and homosexuals above all know this.

The individuals who know it the least or deny it the most are psychiatrists. Those psychiatrists opposed to the change in the diagnosis of homosexuality as a disorder even accused the National Gay Task Force of being responsible for the change through political pressure. Knowing what I know of my colleagues, I myself was amazed when the change occurred at all.

I didn't think too much about how it occurred until recently, and then assumed the gay caucus had something to do with it. My trip to the A.P.A. convention made it painfully clear to me that the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Caucus could not have existed until after the change.

Here is how I now understand it. Dr. Richard Pillard met with the Social Issues Committee, chaired by Dr. Larry Hartman of the Massachusetts District Branch of the A.P.A. They drafted a statement calling for a change in the diagnosis, as well as non-discrimination and a change in sex education and research. This was adopted by the Massachusetts District Branch and introduced by the national delegation to the Assembly of District Branches. They likewise passed it and sent it to the trustees of the A.P.A. After a positive review by Dr. Spitzer's Diagnostic Committee, the Board of Trustees unanimously passed it in December 1973. The members of the A.P.A. opposed to the change called for a vote of the membership, who

then supported the leadership by almost 2:1.

The gay community of this country owed much to Dr. Hartman and Dr. Pillard. The A.P.A. has done little to educate its own members about the change, let alone the public-at-large. Yet, by just filtering down, there has been an effect. Gay rights are legitimized for supportive legislators; lawyers are taught that lesbianism per se is not grounds for losing a child in a custody case; some psychiatrists have modified their treatment of homosexuals coming to them.

The A.P.A. has been working for several years on a new diagnostic manual which will come out shortly. Nomenclature and definitions will be radically changed in many areas. Since 1973, Sexual Orientation Disturbance has appeared in the manual. For a while it appeared that the new category would be Dyshomophilia, which implied in its definition that homosexuality was a disorder. Again Dr. Pillard was active in changing this. The new category is Ego-dystonic Homosexuality, which roughly translates: if you don't like yourself because you're gay, you are sick.

There are things wrong with this diagnosis and its definition — mainly that it is in the manual at all — but it can serve an educative function. Dr. Spitzer appeared at the forum where this was discussed. He stated that we had to accept this and the final version, unless we wanted to take it to the membership-at-large. We would then risk reopening the question of homosexuality as a disorder, and this time around we might lose. I got angry at this threat, but what is worse I feared he was right. The news from Wichita had come earlier in the week.

Clearly we are in bad times: Dade County; the defeat here of the gay rights bill; St. Paul; Wichita; a District Attorney arouses an indifferent electorate by launching a homosexual child molestation scare; the Supreme Court is deaf to any homosexual issue; murder in the name of Anita Bryant. Homophobia is endemic and epidemic. The A.P.A.'s silence is thunderous. The A.P.A.'s silence is political. The A.P.A. chooses not to address the issue of homophobia. Homophobia is the etiologic agent in Ego-dystonic Homosexuality.

Homophobia, like any phobia, restricts and inhibits its victims both straight and gay. The victims try to eliminate any manifestation of homosexuality from themselves and attack others who exhibit it. The rationale is protection of children. The fanatic would disenfranchise us. The liberals say you don't need special protection; you don't need to be out. They would have us invisible. Their message is clear, "We will tolerate you as long as you don't tell or show us or our kids it is okay to be queer." It is too late for that. Once seen, we can never be invisible again. Clearly, homophobia must be fought on many fronts — now.

The A.P.A. is abdicating its public health role. The Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Caucus of the A.P.A. is not yet organized. The straight mental health clinics are infected with homophobia. It is up to the gay mental health clinics around the country to take the lead. There are a few like the Homophile Community Health Services which are functioning well. H.C.H.S. has the

Continued on Page 12



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New York, May 1978

In the weeks after the deaths of eleven people at the Everard steam baths, many began to ask themselves if similarly dangerous conditions existed in other gathering places. Considering the fact that the Firefighters' Union is among the most active campaigners against equal treatment of gay people in jobs and housing, and that City Council hearings yield no action (the Fire Department shares inspection responsibilities with the Building Dept.), combined with the long tradition of bribery of officials to simply establish a place for gay people, get a liquor license, stay open 'till 4 a.m., etc. (not to mention obvious violations at many businessplaces), it seemed likely that we could not depend on city agencies to do their jobs where the lives of gay people were concerned.

We have found that to be the case in the majority of places we have checked out.

The firetrap receiving the most requests for our inspection was the St. Mark's Baths in the East Village. Like the Everard, this is a very old survivor of previous generations of bathhouses, with similar plywood partitions, substandard exits, etc. Also, like the Everard, it had constant uncorrected violations on the books, which did not result in any action by any city agency to suspend the occupancy permit until things were corrected. In almost every conversation we had on identifying firetraps, this one was mentioned, and at least one newspaper story on fire safety (on which FSRP consulted with the *Advocate*) mentioned it. Later, it closed, and has recently publicized its re-opening as a "new" place, which we've yet to inspect. From what we've been told, previous to the Everard disaster, of crowding levels at St. Mark's, and the sparse attendance during our inspections, it may be that people heard all the talk about it as "the next Everard" and have gone elsewhere.

The city agencies' records are contradictory. The Building Dept. found numerous violations in the exit provisions, which FSRP found as well, while the Fire Dept. inspection records indicated no violations. While the latter's inspector may have been incompetent, it seems more likely that indifference to gay people's survival and/or bribery were at work. While we've had no requests, and haven't inspected the renovated facilities, it's relatively unlikely that a building permit would be granted if reconstruction plans were substandard. If that's the case, this may be the best example to date of how our life safety is more likely to be protected by community awareness, than by ineffective bureaucracies.

In the past year, one of the questions we posed was — "How common are life-endangering conditions, especially illegal ones, in the city's hundred plus bars, baths, and discos?" The answer is, very common. We chose places for our spot checks based on requests, reports of obviously inadequate exits and/or gross overcrowding, and places known to our inspectors as unsafe previously. Although we tried to mix in a few places we expected to "pass," to show that there's nothing impossible about running a reasonably safe business design-wise or money-wise, the results were that most fully inspected places flunked.

Since our sample was tilted toward finding firetraps rather than discovering "average" conditions, this should *not* be taken to mean that most businessplaces serving gay people are unsafe. We haven't checked most of them. Based on purely personal visits, most of our participants agree that they know of as many places without gross or obvious violations — or extreme overcrowding. Most of these are smaller, corner bars, consisting of one long room, with exits both on the corner and at the "back."

There are two main types of dangerous conditions that may exist at a firetrap. One is the design of the place, such as the number and width of legal egresses, types of locks, space for exit door swings on stairs, and maximum distance to the exits from any location in the room. If construction or alteration plans are filed, the Building Dept. will require that the rules, as they apply to the specific place, be met. Several professionals in building design have told us, however, that the waiting period for approval is so long — often over a year — that bribery is common, even if the plans do meet the Code. It's better than going out of business.

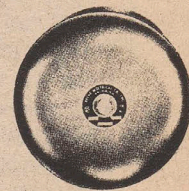
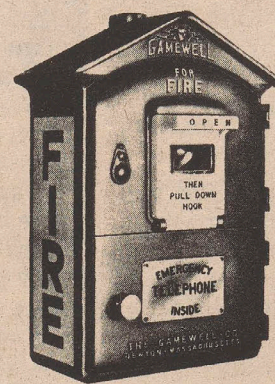
Once a bureaucrat is on the take for one reason, such as prompt review of plans, it would seem a small step to overlook what's *in* those plans. Another chronic problem is that to avoid delays and standards, businesses often just make changes *without filing* plans at all. The agencies don't patrol the streets looking for illegal alterations, and therefore may be unaware that it's time to at least send out an inspector. Along with exit systems, the building is subject to Codes on the degree and location of combustible materials on the premises, and sometimes sprinkler/alarm/smoke control features.

The second type of illegal, but perhaps more common hazard, is overcrowding. The Occupancy Permit (if any) states the maximum number of people that the place is rated as safely housing and able to exit in the event of fire. But there are few if any headcounting inspections on Friday and Saturday nights, at the peak crowding hours from 11 p.m. to 3 a.m. (except FSRP inspections.) Even more than skimping on various building features or devices, overcrowding is an easily available way of forgetting about public safety for profit. Except at certain moments, there's nothing to inspect. We have read of sheriff's officers going so far as to show up at midnight to seize a disco's or bar's cash for non-payment of liquor company debts. It doesn't seem too much to have one or two employees of the Building or Fire agencies scheduled to show up at the necessary times, dressing/acting like customers, to simply count heads.

Overcrowding has been so easy for FSRP to find, and is inherently so simple and not open to arguments of interpretation, stalling, etc., that we feel that this is an area in which we may be able to make progress with the city in the coming year. But, for now, we rank overcrowding with lack of fire detection, occupant signalling, F.D. signalling, and emergency lighting systems as the areas that are both most deficient and relatively easy to correct. The latter devices, generally battery-powered, do not even require electrical permits to install in many cases, and, though generally not mandated by codes, can be a crucial improvement.

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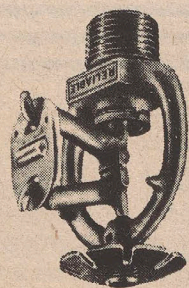
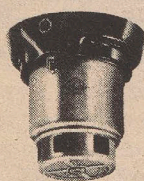
First Annual Report





# TRAPS

## Annual Report—Part 2



### Recommendations

1. *Legal reform.* The most pressing issue here is recognition of the simple fact that bathhouses *do* rent mini-rooms overnight, to people who *do* sleep in them. Hence, their function is, in part, similar to "overnight lodging" places, the law's term for hotels and motels. There are certain design considerations that are indigenous to the purpose of a bath, such as the toilet arrangements and the partitioning of small spaces whose separating walls do not reach the ceiling, thus allowing for one fire detector to serve for several cubicles. In all other respects the law should hold these places to hotel standards, particularly in the area of warning systems and combustibility of materials, including furnishings. Because polyurethane, the cheapest mattress material, produces such quantities of vision-blocking smoke that also contain deadly cyanide gas, we are calling for the banning of all urethane mattresses and other padding. We are also calling for the banning of urethane sheets or filled cavities in all parts of buildings in this type of use. (The codes are divided by use-type. Bathhouses with overnight guests are not listed separately, and should be, unless they and hotels are both subject to these reforms.)

The least sensitive type of sensor, the bimetal strip sprinkler valve, with a silent signal to the F.D. when water pressure drops, may be an economic way to save the building, but it is inadequate to protect people, some of whom are asleep. We call for legal provisions mandating smoke detectors, installed with the capability of covering every mattress, wired not only to the F.D. (this is usually done by a special type of phone line) but also wired to sound the alarm in all units. An acceptable alternative to this alarm form is the pre-recorded announcement type of existing system, interruptable by staff for live P.A. announcements.

Finally, we call for a maximum time limit of 60 days for any violations to be corrected, punishable by suspension or revoking of the building's Occupancy Permit and/or Consumer Affairs license to do business.

2. *Inspection Policy.* As expressed in the community call for inspections accompanied by community representatives, we have a legitimate concern that these inspections be thorough, and at the same time that city employees do not impose any prejudices they may have on patrons or staffs. Therefore, unannounced inspections, on a reasonably frequent basis, should be open to concerned community people as they occur, and results should be made available as soon as possible, without payment of fees to see reports. When gross violations such as Occupancy Permits with "accessory storage" — claimed for two floors — everyone knows those floors are in constant use — exist, or when the numbered lockers and rooms are far in excess of the total number of people allowed in the building, we have no basis for trusting a closed inspection system. We need some "government in the sunshine" in this area.

3. *Consumer Awareness.* We realize that there are factors that may be considered in selecting a place at a particular time, and that fire safety may compete with them, since no one place may have just the right combination of things. In considering the life-safety

factor in the event of fire, the basic steps would be to expect to see an Occupancy Permit posted where you can review it *before* paying and entering, whether it's a bath, disco, or bar. You won't be counting heads, but if the place is packed, if you cannot walk briskly to the door at any time, it may be legally and functionally overcrowded. Do the uses on the O.P. correspond to the realities? If serving liquor, is a license with the *current* business' name posted? If a bar has neither, don't ask, think. Legitimate renovation is indicated by a Building Permit, readable from outside.

4. *The Ghetto Factor.* The more you patronize a limited number of places out of habit and/or hesitancy to try new ones, the less chance you're giving yourself to discover better places. Though it would take an enormous amount of research for us to confirm it, the consensus of FSRP participants is that some, if not many of the most substandard life-safety conditions at certain places we've seen, do not seem to have their counterparts in places that are oriented toward a straight group of people. And we're going to get a lot further by assembling information than we may get at effecting an equalization of conditions at the worst places, or an equalization of city services. Government moves slow; you can move fast. The most exploitative places, particularly bars and some discos, which charge a standard price for a drink but are plainly putting less back into the place, have in part used our fears or hesitations to socially integrate, to stay in business without delivering what we pay for. Instead of choosing from a list of "gay places," why not categorize places by some other feature you like, such as dancing, type of music, etc. Consider a place in your neighborhood where you like the people, a bar more like a pub than a predictable social scene. It may take a certain amount of not too thin skin to be the only male or female couple dancing at a "straight" place, but you may be surprised that, if you're secure, prejudiced reactions may be rare or at least not expressed. The more freedom that you claim to go where you want, the wider your options for finding a good time *and* a safe time.

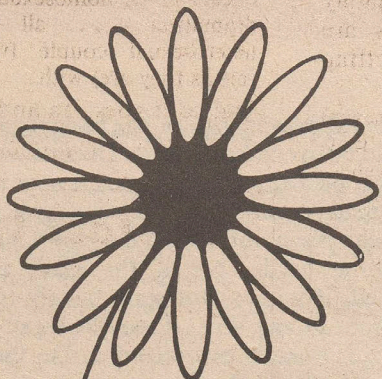
5. *Ongoing Community Vigilance.* The FSRP feels that deep investigation is less important in the long run than persistence. Massacre by negligence and fire, as at the Everard, the Upstairs in New Orleans, and near-massacres at San Francisco's Rich St. and Folsom St. baths, always seem unlikely until, once again, it's too late.

The FSRP can only cover as much ground as we have resources available — mainly time, tips on potential fire-traps we don't know of, and occasional expense funds. You can read our reports and we hope benefit from them, but how about giving us some of your time at a place you know that is relatively crowded or otherwise risky. To connect with us to consider a little participation, or to give us a tip, please see the final Part 3 of this report next week. It will include a questionnaire for these purposes.

To make reports that are more up to date, and more useful as consumer information, the FSRP will switch to bi-annual reports in its second year.

*Caveat emptor.* (Let the buyer beware.)





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# Casse Culver

Continued from page 6



## The Enigma of Gay Men

When Casse was a mere youngster, knee-high to a grasshopper, she adored her big brother Don, who was 12 years her senior. About a decade later, while having a heated argument with a male acquaintance from high school, Casse was told that her brother was "a screaming fag." This tidbit of information was wielded to humiliate, offend and devastate Casse. It didn't succeed on any of those levels. What her hostile friend failed to realize was that Casse had been que stioning her own sexuality for many years.

This is how Casse recalls her reactions to the incident: "I felt this incredible moment of relief, like ah, I'm not alone. There is somebody else who's experiencing the same thing I am. Because it was my brother, whom I [had] idolized, it made it even more okay that I was having sexual feelings towards my own sex."

Casse has just released a new single which contains the song, "Queen of the Nite." With its dreamy style, this song may remind some of "The Altar Boy and the Thief," by Joan Baez. However, Casse's composition seems more on target and dignified, drawing its inspiration from her brother's struggles of being a faggot in the '50s. "Queen of the Nite" is an "impressionistic painting" of what Casse thinks "gay men have gone through — hiding their emotions, and trying to be outrageous and closeted all at the same time." She thinks things are better for gay men today; there is more support from other gays. Casse hopes to reach gay men and perhaps put them in touch with feminism. She is anxious for their response to her efforts.

## Visions

Casse's musical scope is broadening. One side of her aforementioned single contains a "humdinger" of a song called "What We Gonna Do About Anita?" Before you shudder, oh no, not another Anita crack, read on. Casse's Anita song differs from the rest in that it is written and performed in a reggae style.

Casse continues to amaze her audiences. Many lesbian feminists will complain that reggae music is sexist. This is true in part, and Casse admits to an "accident of ignorance" in choosing the form. However, her ideals defuse some of the criticisms. Influenced by Jimmy Cliff's *The Harder They Come*, Casse chose the style because it expresses the beauty of an oppressed people singing "of struggles in an up way." The music is catchy and positive.

In the same positive spirit, Casse has written a dramatic song that debunks the myths of old age and senility. "Lydia's Song" portrays "how the patriarchy looks at aging and how it really could be," that is, being "fruitful and an alive person right until that moment [of] change called death." Sung *a capella*, "Lydia's Song" is a firm statement, yet a soothing melody with its hummed chorus.

## Riding Into the Sunset

Casse Culver has come a long way since being the 4-year-old that got "almost sexual feelings" from "listening to Eartha Kitt." Doffing her soprano voice, rejecting the "polite music" reserved for ladies, Casse has developed her own strong woman-identified sound, striving "deeper and deeper until my voice is coming out of my cunt — that's where it should come from." For the cowdyke who has never been called subtle, Casse (in one of her songs) demands to know, "Can you think of any reason why I might not remain?"

There is no argument. For the bold artist who topples cultural chauvinism, reflects on the gay men's realm, and paints pictures of dykes in pastel deserts, she most assuredly can stay. Casse Culver belongs.

Casse Culver's new single, which contains "What we Gonnd Do About Anita?" and "Queen of the Nite" can be obtained for \$1.50, plus 50¢ for shipping and handling. Send to Sweet Alliance Music, P.O. Box 2879, Washington, DC 20013.





## BOOKS

# Jargon and Jabber

*Like a Brother, Like a Lover* by Georges-Michel Sarotte. Anchor Press, 339pp. \$10.00.

By Robert Etherington

A great and terrible disease, for which there is as yet neither inoculation nor cure, seems to overcome many of those who write doctoral dissertations. Its principal systems include windiness, pedantry, an unwillingness to see the woods for the trees, an excessive use of jargon and buzz words, and, like *encephalitis lethargica*, the ability to induce sleep. Among the latest victims of this verbal and intellectual flatulence is one Georges-Michel Sarotte, a solemn student of American literature recently awarded a Ph.D. by the evidently absent-minded professors of the Sorbonne. M. Sarotte's dreary dissertation, exhibiting all of the above symptoms in abundance, is *Like a Brother, Like a Lover — Male Homosexuality in the American Novel and Theater from Herman Melville to James Baldwin*, translated from the French by Richard Miller.

*Like a Brother* attempts to examine male homosexual themes and characters in 178 novels and short stories and 38 plays (I know. I counted them. Every one.), all in a mere 300 pages. What professor in his right mind would allow a doctoral candidate to deal with so much material in a single dissertation? Because Sarotte must wade through 216 literary items, not to mention assorted works of criticism, *Like a Brother* is little more than a first-there's-this-novel-then-there's-that-play laundry list. Each work is examined only on the plot level with scant regard for any author's style or depth of feeling, though style is so much a part of, say, Henry James' art, while a depth and intensity of feeling are tremendously important for Melville.

And because Sarotte is determined to make his survey as exhaustive as possible, including even some works which are, I believe, not homosexual at all, he juxtaposes such masterpieces as *Billy Budd* with the worst imaginable trash like James Barr's *Quatrefoil* and Allen Drury's *Advise and Consent*, neither of which can possibly be called "literature."

Sarotte also includes works by D. H. Lawrence, who, if my memory serves me, was English, not American. Why is he included in a survey of American literature? Apparently Sarotte couldn't control his taxonomic impulses.

*Like a Brother* is the latest, and maybe, if we're very lucky, the last production of that school of literary criticism known as Psychoanalytical, a school whose ideas are derived from Freudian notions of human behavior. Among its principal members have been Frederick Hoffman, whose *Freudianism and the Literary Mind* started this noxious craze shortly after World War II; Leslie Fiedler, author of the homophobic *Love and Death in the American Novel*; E. H. Miller, whose biography of Melville is one of the major excrescences of Freudian criticism; and the always outrageous psychiatrist Edmund Bergler, who occasionally took time out from "curing" homosexuals to examine, none too kindly, books by gay authors.

Mercifully, psychoanalytical criticism, at least in America, is passing from fashion. (Fiedler has already largely abandoned it.) But Sarotte, being French, is evidently unaware of this new development, for *Like a Brother* is as intense in its devotion to

Freudian quackery as are the ravings of the late, unlamented Dr. Bergler.

Sarotte ominously states in the Preface that he has "a personal interest in depth psychology," and, unfortunately, never ceases to show us just how great that interest is. *Like a Brother* fairly oozes Freudian jargon with constant references to the id and superego, the Oedipus and Jocasta complexes, neuroses, psychoses, "renunciations of virility," and so on and on.

Sarotte respectfully quotes Irving Bieber on the subject of "smother mothers" as the principal cause of homosexuality, and has also adopted the shopworn Ericksonian belief that homosexuals are "fixated" at a narcissistic, adolescent stage of development. Thus, Sarotte assumes most homosexual characters in American novels and plays are poor saps who haven't grown beyond youthful hero-worshipping:

Freud has stated that such [hero-worshipping] identification marks a normal stage in the development of a boy's personality. When for some reason or other it fails to occur, the younger admirer, unsuccessful at introjecting the virile essence of the object of his admiration, remains fixed at this stage. Having failed to become a man by imitation and interiorization, he will love as a woman. His admiration and his desire to emulate the other becomes erotic in nature, and throughout his life he will form attachments to these stronger types, the handsome boys he will continue to idolize in the vain hope of captivating them by sexual means.

It is interesting to note that Sarotte here remarks that homosexuals "love as a woman." He later refers to homosexuals as "devirilized" and "emasculated" men and also uses the words "homosexual" and "inversion" as though they are synonymous (which they most certainly are not). In Sarotte's eyes, homosexuals are disturbed by their alleged lack of masculinity and, therefore, search endlessly for Great Studs whose virility they can share or steal. Thus, Stanley Kowalski in Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire* is "what Williams is not but would have liked to be. He is the male animal in all his magnificence, 'the gaudy seed bearer,' to whom one must attach oneself because long ago, in childhood, one was forced to abandon any hope of emulating him, of becoming him." Of course, this is patent nonsense. Sarotte has simply and stupidly assumed that all homosexuals envy rough, tough heterosexuals and want to be like them. In fact, Williams actively and genuinely despises Stanley and his cruelty and brutality; far from being someone Williams "would have liked to be," Stanley, as created by Williams, is an outright menace.

In analyzing the plays of William Inge, Sarotte further draws on Freud by maintaining that all of Inge's married (i.e. heterosexual) male characters have been "devirilized" by "praying-mantis females." This is supposed to be Inge's "homosexual spite in action." That is, Sarotte believes the homosexual Inge deliberately set out in all his plays to show that *heterosexual* relationships lead only to such problems as alcoholism (as in *Come Back Little Sheba*) — the nelly Inge trying to drag "normal" men down to his own low level.

If this rather fanciful interpretation of Inge's plays is correct, are we then to believe that *every* play about unhappy heterosexual relationships

was written by a spiteful homosexual? And, in any case, the premise is highly objectionable: that homosexuals are mean, envious people bent on getting back at heterosexuals.

Driven by love and hatred, homosexual writers will always be prey to a frustration seeking to vent itself in revenge.

The settling of accounts with society occurs in all homosexual novelists and dramatists . . . all describe the heterosexual couple (whose unloved rejects they are) with . . . ill-will. . . . And so it goes, on and on, through-

Continued on Page 12

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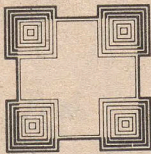
Continued on Page 12



## Behind The Red Door

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## "Ain't No Mountain High Enough"

By Bill Mulkern

Mention the word "gay" and most of us automatically think of a lifestyle within an urban context. For many reasons, gay people continue to migrate from the country and suburbs to the Big City. In so doing, many forget that the country has advantages as well as disadvantages, and numbered among those advantages are quiet, solitude, fresh air, and greenery. Simple things, but no amount of "vest-pocket" parks can ever wholly compensate for their absence. Although we soon become inured to urban noise, dirt, pollution, crowding, and anonymity, some of us still value the pleasures to be gained by merely walking through the woods. As anyone who has taken the trouble to find out can tell you, next to the Appalachian Trail, the Esplanade just doesn't make it.

You can find out whether this is true or not by joining the Unitarian-Universalist-Gay Caucus-sponsored Mountain Climbing Club some Saturday morning. Sturgis Haskins, organizer and leader of the hikes, himself a transplant to Boston from his native Maine, recently felt a need in the Boston gay community for another alternative to the bar scene. A veteran of many hikes in Maine, Haskins came up with the idea of the Gay Mountain-Climbing Club as a solution.

In its brief existence the club has scaled two mountains, Mount Wachusett on April 29, and Mount Monadnock on May 13. The first hike attracted 18 people; the second, 24. The people were even drawn from out-of-state: one from Vermont and the other from New Hampshire. After the first hike, everyone was invited to a barbecue. The second was followed by a potluck supper and dance sponsored by the Nashua (N.H.) Area Gays.

The club has thus already proven itself a viable and attractive social alternative to the bars. The hikes have drawn people of diverse backgrounds, all ages, and both sexes. Strangers at first, everyone soon discovers compatibility through their common interest in hiking.

Plans for the immediate future include a climb up North and South Baldface Mountains on the Maine-New Hampshire border on June 3. The following Saturday there will be a modest bicycle outing led by John Kyper, exploring Boston's Emerald Necklace park system. The outing will start at the Esplanade, proceed to the Fenway and to the Arboretum via the Jamaica Way. There will be a rest and lunch stop in the Arboretum, from whence everyone will return to the Fenway for the Gay Pride Fundraising Fair. The last Saturday in June will find the club hiking up Mt. Tom to view some of the most beautiful scenery in Massachusetts. For details, see GCN's Calendar, or call Sturgis Haskins at 227-6167 Friday nights.

The Mountain-Climbing Club is not part of the Gay Recreational Activities Committee. The club's founder, Sturgis Haskins, would like to see it eventually become self-sufficient and independent of the Unitarian-Universalist Gay Caucus, whose Social Committee he heads. Transportation has been a problem. There usually have been more people than cars available to comfortably take them to their destination, but Sturgis feels that this problem will be ironed out in time. He would like, however, to have other people help shoulder the responsibility for planning and organizing activities, because doing so single-handedly takes up too much of his own time.

It's not too early for Sturgis to envision the club taking overnight trips, and getting together with gay groups from the areas in which hikes are being planned, as happened with the Nashua-Area Gays on the Mount Monadnock climb.

On one of the trips, the hikers came across a pond filled with frogs and decided it would be a fine spot to take a rest. Everyone decided spontaneously to lie in a circle, feet inwards, by the pond, and bask in the sunlight. No reflection on Donna Summers, but if you haven't napped to the music of hundreds of frogs orgiastically chirping and croaking, then you haven't heard anything.

## BOOKS

Continued from page 11

out discussions of books and plays both good and awful, all of which, Sarotte believes, depict the homosexual's constant but fruitless search for virility. Sarotte never stops to think that perhaps many American authors, gay and straight, when writing about gay characters or situations, merely parrot Freudian theories (which were hardly unknown, at least to twentieth century authors), and, therefore, what those authors say about homosexuality is no more valid than the theories themselves. At no point does Sarotte question those theories; hence, he cannot believe that the frequently negative view of homosexuality

presented in American literature is often biased or incorrect.

Sarotte further adds insult to injury by writing in a heavy, windy, soporific style full of the worst jargon ("interiorize," "concretize") and the most banal of Freudian homilies ("Sado-masochism represents the struggle of the ego, which destroys the id on the orders of the superego. This is the classic of neurosis."). Of course, there is no way of knowing who the principal culprit is — Sarotte himself or his translator Richard Miller. The jargon is perhaps Miller's fault, the homilies undoubtedly Sarotte's. Both deserve nothing but condemnation.

## APA

Continued from page 7

structure, the credentials, and the capacity to influence the extended mental health field. H.C.H.S. can take the lead in forming an association of gay mental health clinics.

H.C.H.S. and other gay mental health clinics do not have the financial resources. We cannot rely on government or private funding agencies for

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Our message is simple: "You're healthy, if you like the part of the yourself and others that is gay."

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## BOOKS

# Happy Endings— and Politics Too

*Gay Rights and Gay Rights II* by John Ironstone.

By Maida Tilchen

*Gay Rights and Gay Rights II* are the latest in a continuing series of novels about an appealing group of gay people in a fictional city. Throughout the series, love affairs bloom among an attractive cross-section of gay people: young and old, beautiful and plain, professional and street people, intelligent and retarded, healthy and disabled, male and female. With the delightful love stories a realistic picture of gay life in the '70s unfolds, complete with everything from adult bookstore backrooms to university gay rights organizations to human rights commission politics. Author John Ironstone's style has been improving noticeably from the earliest to the latest entries in the series, maintaining a smoothly running plot with instructive comments by the author skillfully woven in. While the earlier books tended to end with graphic and violent attacks on gays by straights, the latest books have happy endings. Happy endings may seem trite, but in the world of novels about gays, happy endings can keep happening for quite a few decades before they equal the weight of all the gay suicides and car wrecks of past gay fiction.

"John Ironstone" is a pseudonym for Duffy LaCava, a former English professor and current law student who has written many books and articles about gay people and gay legal rights. The books are based on true occurrences in Bloomington, Ind., in the past few years. Bloomington had a gay rights ordinance added to its Human Rights Commission Ordinance in December, 1975, after years of dedicated efforts to build community support. At the time the ordinance passed the City Council, many highly respected civic, religious, and human rights organizations spoke in support of the ordinance. For almost two years, the 80,000 citizens of Bloomington felt the assurance of civil rights protection. Then, in the fall of 1977, the State Court of Appeals declared invalid the enabling statute for the entire Human Rights Commission, on the basis that the state constitution had never provided the power for cities to add new protected categories (such as gays or marital status) to their human rights ordinances. As Ironstone says, "whether it be by judicial fiat as in Indiana, or by referendum as it was in Miami, your rights can be taken away

from you" (*Gay Rights*, p. 181). As of April, 1978, the appeal by the city of Bloomington (earnestly supported by the Human Rights Commission, city administration, city council, and thirty other local commissions in Indiana) is still in that void of litigation where attempts by gay people to secure their rights always seem to end up.

It is around this judicial event that Ironstone has fashioned the two new books in his series. Court decisions and appeals on conflicts in state constitutions are not as sensational as criminal cases often are, but Ironstone does well at showing the significance of the case and its effect on the lives of his characters. For Brian, a blind man involved in a loving, monogamous relationship with another man, the court's decision means the sudden end to his legal recourse to regain a job lost because of his gayness. To Fran MacCoskey, lesbian city administrator, and John Citrone, gay composer, it means that their appointments to the Human Rights Commission will be meaningless to aid them in helping gay people receive equal justice under the law. Ironstone's novel cleverly explains the complex legal issues while entertaining the reader with an exciting plot. Numerous subplots present lively minor characters within the context of a supportive gay community. A lovely lesbian romance and a marriage ceremony of two men ("Now let's kiss the grooms!") are just two of many enchanting episodes.

Why hasn't this delightful series of books been given an expensive advertising campaign like many lesser gay novels? The answer lies with the two publishers, Blueboy and Maverick. Being in the "porn" book field, they have not attempted to publicize the books for a wider audience. The books do include language and descriptions of sexual activities that may shock the guilt-ridden. But these outstanding books do not deserve to be hidden behind raunchy covers in "adult" book stores only. They deserve to be reviewed in the many excellent gay publications that review significant gay novels; they deserve to be sold by gay and straight bookstores and book clubs; and they deserve to be read by serious devotees of the gay novel. They lead the way into a future of gay literature where characters are attractive, real, and varied; plots are interesting and significant; relationships are loving and non-sexist; and the gay community is strong and supportive. They also deserve to be read by those who read for entertainment, and for the very same reasons.

Here is the publishing information on the complete series of books:  
*Undercover* by John Ironstone, #80006, \$2.25, Blueboy Library  
*To Dare to Be Different*, by Martin Moore (different pseudonym, same author) #80031, Blueboy Library, \$2.25  
*The Price of Pride*, by Martin Moore, #80046, \$2.25, Blueboy Library  
*I'm Proud to Be Gay, Now I Want to Be Free*, by John Ironstone, #80075, Blueboy Library, \$2.25.

The four books above can be ordered from Blueboy Library, 9467 Mission Park Place, Santee, CA 92071.

*Gay Rights*, by John Ironstone, Maverick Publishing Co. \$2.25  
*Gay Rights II* by John Ironstone, Maverick Publishing Co. \$2.75

The two books above can be ordered from Parliament News Inc., 11085 Olinda St., Sun Valley, CA 91352. An early printing of *Gay Rights II* has been distributed in the wrong cover (reading "Hollywood Hot") so make sure your book begins with the sentence "Fran MacCoskey took one end of the table, and John Citrone picked up the other." When ordering books from both publishers, enclose a signed statement that you are over 21 and understand that you are receiving pornographic materials.

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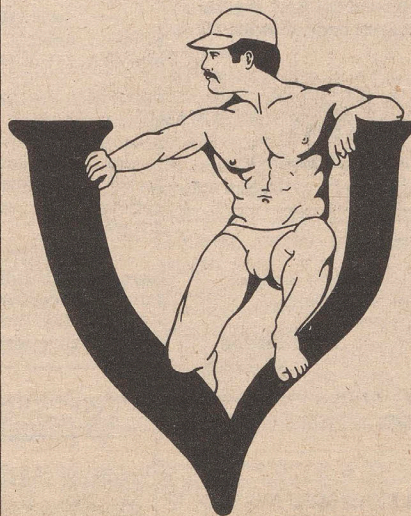
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## organizations

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Metropolitan Community Church of Boston, services each Sunday at 7:00 p.m. (hymn sing 6:45), 131 Cambridge St., Boston (Old West Church). Edward T. Houghton, pastor. Office 523-7664. All persons are welcome.

BOSTON GAY CATHOLICS Dignity/Boston sponsors EXODUS MASS, a liturgy for gay and concerned Catholics every Sunday at Arlington Street Church (Boston), Boylston St. entrance at 5:30 pm. For info. contact Dignity/Boston, 355 Boylston St., Boston, MA 02114. Tel. 536-6518. (35)

GAY ACTIVISTS ALLIANCE NJ — Men and women — Militantly gay — militantly proud — Join us at 176 Kansas St., Hackensack, NJ, every Fri. at 9 p.m. Political action caucus Tuesdays at 8:30 a.m. (201) 343-6402.

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BOSTON UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST GAYS AND LESBIANS (BUUGL), an inclusive group of religious liberals working to provide opportunities for community building among lesbians and gay men, meets every Sunday evening at the Arlington St. Church, 355 Boylston St., at 7:00 pm. Lesbians especially welcome. For more info call Bob Wheatly at 742-2100. (D49)

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12 noon — Northeastern U. GSO meeting, Eli Center, rm. 349, 369 Huntington Ave., Boston. Everyone welcome.

5:30pm — Women's Community Health Center open house, 137 Hampshire St., Cambridge.

6-10pm — NH Lambda for Lesbians, phone (603) 228-8542.

6-8pm — Lesbian awareness consciousness-raising group, BU Women's Center, basement of Sherman Union Bldg. 353-4240.

6:30-8pm — Alcoholism discussion/education group for lesbians, 20 Sacramento St., Cambridge, MA, 661-1316.

6:30-8:30pm — Gay Health Services by appointment, Fenway Community Health Center, 16 Haviland St., Boston, 267-7573.

7pm — Gay alcoholics group, 10 Walnut St., Worcester, MA.

7-9pm — Supportive lesbian rap, Janus House, 21 Bay St., Cambridge, (617) 661-2537.

7-9pm — U. of Vermont Gay Switchboard, 656-4173.

7-10pm — UMass Gay Women's Caucus Hotline, 545-3438.

7-9pm — Yggdrasil Gay Gathering at Yggdrasil, 15 Gilbert Rd., Storrs, CT, (203) 486-4737.

7:30pm — UMass Amherst, Bisexual Women's Rap Group, Campus Center.

7:30pm — Lesbian Feminist Union meeting, 55 Eddy St., Providence, RI.

7:30pm — Homophile Community Health Service — Drinking problems rap group, 80 Boylston St., Rm. 855, Boston.

8pm — Nashua (N.H.) Area Gays rap session; call (603) 882-8732.

8pm — Monadnock Area Gays, for information call Fitzwilliam, NH (603) 585-9419.

8pm — Lesbian Rap at Women's Center, 215 Park St. NH.

8pm — GPC business meeting, Columbia U., Furnald Basement, Broadway at 115th St.

8pm — Lesbian Rap at Women's Center, 148 Orange St., New Haven, CT.

8:30pm — Gay Alanon (gay alcoholics). Info. 843-5300.

8:30pm — Hartford Gay Alcoholics Group, (203) 522-2646.

8:30pm — Gay Alliance at Yale, open meeting, basement Hendrie Hall, 165 Elm St., New Haven, 436-8945; public welcome.

9pm — Gay discussion group, Columbia U., Furnald basement, Broadway at 115th St.

TUESDAYS

6:30-8pm — Women's Gay Collective, Women's Center, UConn, CT. (203) 486-4738.

7pm — Pot Luck Supper, 228½ Atwells Ave., Providence, RI.

7:30pm — Integrity, gay Episcopalians, Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury St., Boston.

8pm — Springfield Gay Alliance, First Unitarian Church, 245 Porter Lake Dr., Springfield.

8pm — Martha's Vineyard Gay Women & Men's Rap Group; info and details call 627-8097.

8pm — DOB women's rap, 1151 Mass. Ave., Cambridge, MA, 661-3633.

8:30pm — Providence Gay Group of AA, Assumption Parish Hall, 791 Potters Ave., Providence, RI, 333-1396.

8:30pm — Deaf lesbians and gay men are invited to meet other deaf and hearing gays who know (or are learning) sign. MCC, Old West Church, 131 Cambridge St., Boston

8:30pm — Gay A.A. 33-1396

WEDNESDAYS

6:30-8:30pm — Gay Health Services, Fenway Community Health Center, 16 Haviland St., Boston, 267-7573.

7pm — MCC/Providence Potluck at Parsonage, rap during and after dinner. Bring and share. (401) 272-9247.

7pm — Lesbian Support Group, UNH Women's Center, Durham, NH

7pm — Liberation Rap Group, (617) 756-0730.

7-10pm — Gay Women's Collective meeting, Storrs, CT. Info: (203) 486-4738.

7-10pm — Gay Women's Collective, UConn Women's Center, (203) 486-4738.

7-10pm — Gay Women's Collective meeting, Storrs, CT. Info. (203) 486-4738.

7-9pm — University of Vermont Gay Switchboard, (802) 656-4173.

7:30pm — MCC midweek service, 11 Amity St., Hartford, CT.

8pm — Discussion group for lesbians and gay men, Christ Church, 20 Carroll St., Poughkeepsie, NY.

8pm — HUM meets, Box 262, Fitchburg, MA 01420.

8pm — Yalesbians meeting, rm. B-8, Hendrie Hall, 165 Elm St., New Haven, CT, 436-8945.

To update your listing or to put a new listing into Everyweek send info to Listings Editor, GCN, 22 Bromfield St., Boston 02108.

8-10pm — URI Gay Social Club, 4th floor Group Room, Roosevelt Hall. (401) 792-5954 or Carl 789-8360.

8:30pm — Gay-straight Rap, UConn, Mental Health Clinic, (203) 486-4705.

8:30pm — Gay A.A. meeting, Old West Church (side door), 131 Cambridge St.

9-12pm — Gay Social, Columbia U., Furnald Basement, Broadway at 115th St.

10:15pm — "Gay News" radio on WHUS-FM, (91.7), Storrs, CT.

## THURSDAYS

5pm — Brandeis Gay Alliance, Usdan Student Ctr., Conf. Rm. C, Brandeis U., Waltham, MA.

7pm — Gay Alcoholics, St. Vincents Hospital, Worcester, MA.

7m — Game Night, 5 Junction St., Providence, RI, alternate weeks.

7-10pm — UMass Gay Women's Caucus Hotline, 545-3438.

7:30pm — Daughters of Bilitis. Gay women's rap at the Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave., Cambridge. For more information call 661-3633.

7:30pm — UConn Gay Alliance meets in the Student Union, Rm. 218, University of Connecticut, Storrs.

8pm — Lesbian Liberation, informal rap group Woman's Center, 46 Pleasant St. Cambridge, MA

8pm — Womenspace coffeehouse and workshop, 11 Amity St., Hartford, CT.

8pm — Capital Dist. Gay Comm. Council, 332 Hudson Ave., Albany, NY 12210.

8pm — Dykes & Tykes, Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Cambridge, MA, third floor, care for young people, 354-8807.

8-9pm — Lesbian Mother rap group, 21 Bay St., Cambridge, MA, 661-2537.

8pm — Lesbians with Children Support Group, Cambridge Women's Center, 354-8807.

8:30pm — Gay Women's Caucus, UMass/Amherst, 8th floor of Campus Center.

8:30pm — Gay Alliance at Yale, Hendrie Hall basement, 436-8945, New Haven, CT.

9pm — Emerson Homophile Society, rm. 24, 96 Beacon St., Boston.

FRIDAYS

7-8:30pm — GRAC swimming, Lindemann Cntr, Stanford St., across from Longfellow Towers.

7-9pm — GRAC men's basketball, Lindemann Center, Hurley Bldg., Stanford St., Boston.

8pm — Am Tikva service, social at Frost Lounge, Eli Center, Northeastern Univ., 300 Huntington Ave., Boston.

7:30pm — Rap group for men and women, MGTF, 193 Middle St., Portland, ME.

7:30pm — Gay get-together, downstairs round-room, Billings Center, U of VT, Burlington.

8:30pm — Berkshire Community Gay Coalition meets at 175 Wendell Ave., Pittsfield, MA. Call (617) 442-9450, M-Th eves.

8:30pm — Alcoholics Together, Our Lady of Victory Church, Isabella St., Boston.

8:30pm — Gay A.A. meeting, 150 Beacon St., 2nd floor.

9-12pm — GAY coffeehouse, Hendrie Hall basement, 165 Elm St., New Haven, CT.

## SATURDAYS

2pm — Project Lambda Rap session for gay teenagers, 70 Charles St., Boston.

3-6pm — Gay folk dancing for women and men, Peabody room, 3rd floor, Phillips Brooks House (north end of Harvard Yard). Call Eric (617) 776-6377.

SUNDAYS

9am — Closet Space 740AM with Lisa Schwartz and Joe Martin. (Boston)

11am — Church of the Beloved Disciple, 348 West 14th St., NYC.

1-2:30pm — GRAC swimming, Lindemann Cntr, Stanford St., across from Longfellow Towers.

2pm — Church of the Beloved Disciple, 348 West 14th St., NYC.

2pm — MCC/Worcester service, Central Cong. Church, 6 Institute Rd., Worcester.

2:30pm — Gay A.A. meeting, Old West Church (side door), 131 Cambridge St.

4-6pm — Gay Women's Group of Providence rap, (401) 831-5184.

5pm — Non-competitive women's softball game, Magazine Beach (on Charles River near Stop & Shop, 10 blocks south of Central Sq.).

5pm — Dignity/Integrity Mass, St. Luke's Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St., Rochester, NY.

5pm — MCC/Boston Bible study group, 131 Cambridge St., 523-7664.

5:30pm — Exodus Mass