

Maine Gay Task Force NEWSLETTER

VOL. 1 NO. 4

Dec 12, 1974

"TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE, IT IS DECLARED TO BE THE POLICY OF THIS STATE TO KEEP CONTINUALLY IN REVIEW ALL PRACTICES INFRINGING ON THE BASIC HUMAN RIGHT TO A LIFE WITH DIGNITY...AND TO PREVENT DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT, HOUSING OR ACCESS TO PUBLIC ACCOMODATION ON ACCOUNT OF RACE, COLOR, SEX, PHYSICAL HANDICAP, RELIGION, ANCESTRY, OR NATIONAL ORIGIN AND IN EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION ON ACCOUNT OF AGE." - Policy statement of the Maine Human Rights Act

One aspect of being openly Gay in Maine is to experience prejudice and bigotry in the form of adverse discrimination in such relevant categories as employment, credit, housing, and public accomodation. Should a homosexual person seek admittance or advancement in any of these areas, it is understood that candor is costly and that honesty invites discrimination - legal discrimination.

" 'Sexual preference' is not protected by law", notes Human Rights Commission Chairperson Tim Wilson. For this reason the main concern of MGTF will assist us with statistics, political coordination has been and continues to be the amendment of the Maine Human Rights Act to prohibit discrimination on the basis of homosexuality. Until this act is amended there is simply no legal recourse. But most important: State-sanctioned discrimination "infringes on the basic human right to a life with dignity." Groups such as the National Organization of Women (NOW) and the Maine Civil Liberties Union (MCLU) will assist us with statistics, past legislative experiences, and information in general. Also very significant is that the Human Rights Commission itself is asking for information concerning alleged cases of adverse discrimination towards Gay people. Obviously, they are not obligated by law to help in this way.

WHAT WE, AS INDIVIDUALS, CAN DO:

MGTF people, and others, have already begun to work for protective legislation. Last spring, the Democratic Party - following months of educational contact with Task Force people - included in its platform for the first time an anti-discrimination plank calling specifically for amendment of the Human Rights Act to "forbid discrimination on the basis of homosexuality." Individual state legislators have been contacted concerning introduction of appropriate legislation. Various educational efforts to benefit Gov. Longley as well as both the House and Senate are being coordinated. Democratic leaders will be reminded of their platform's directive.

The MGTF is seeking information on any instances of discrimination because of sexual preference. This information may be documented, asserted, sworn, claimed, annotated, or whatever. All letters will be kept in strict confidence, whether you wish to use your name or not. They may be mailed to:
MGTF
Box 4542
Portland 04112.

Also, the Human Rights Commission receives confidential information over the following Augusta number: 289-2326. A log will be kept to compile complaints.

There is very little chance for positive legislation if we cannot provide indications of discrimination. The Task Force itself is readying a poll of larger state businesses and concerns to document their policy towards Gay people. But as in any other difficult effort, it is ALL the people, pulling together, that brings success.

"I KNOW WHAT A LOVE LIKE YOURS
CAN DO TO A PERSON"

WILDE-STEIN CLUB

BANGOR - On the afternoon of Nov. 8, members of the MGTF and of UMO Feminists picketed the studios of WLBZ-TV (channel 2), the local NBC affiliate, in protest of an episode of Policewoman entitled: "Flowers of Evil." The show, by now well-known to the Gay Community, portrayed three stereotypical Lesbians who were murdering clients of a nursing home they operated.

A phone call campaign levelled against the station revealed that the Station Manager was "powerless to make any decision of his own" on the issue, as any final decision would be up to the General Manager who is based in, and controls, WCSH-TV, in Portland. The night prior to the program's scheduled broadcast, fifteen MGTF members viewed the show at a screening in Portland. Lengthy dialogue with the General Manager afterwards proved fruitless as he "couldn't see anything in the program which could be construed as being offensive," and refused to broadcast a disclaimer with the show, much less to black it out altogether. It might be suggested here that the General Manager exhibited very little understanding of why we were there in the first place, and seemed to be a businessman first, last and always. (Need it be added that Policewoman has been in the Top 10 of the Neilson ratings since its premiere last September?....)

John Frank, the northern sector's delegate to the screening, returned to Orono with the report of what had happened, and it was agreed that positive action must be taken against the Bangor affiliate. Local TV, radio and the Bangor Daily News were notified that we would be picketing that afternoon; an interview was set up with WLBZ-TV; and the intensive phone call campaign was continued. During the interview in which Karen Amabile (UMO Feminists), Dan Estes (MGTF) and John Frank (MGTF) participated, Steve Bull spoke with the Station Manager, who offered air time "Sometime in the future" for us to present our views. This will definitely be followed up.

Although the NBC affiliates refused to meet us halfway by airing a disclaimer, we feel that the publicity generated from the action taken reached a good percentage of the public, and probably had a like effect as if it had: that of demonstrating that the Madison Avenue image of Gays does not mirror reality.

*Quote from the script.

Several weeks ago, it was brought to the attention of a member of the Wilde-Stein Club that a question pertaining to homosexuality appeared on the Personal Health Form for classified employees. In talking to several Gay classified employees we discovered that the question is habitually answered "no". According to one Gay employee: "it is much more than a tendency to me." In any case, it was obvious that the question had been useless as well as discriminatory.

Sharon and I decided to invade the Personnel Office and register a complaint. We went to the office of the Director of Personnel, James Keane, and asked a secretary if we could look at a Personal Health Form. She asked me my name. I replied "Steve Bull." She left the room for a few minutes. Upon returning the secretary informed us that if we had a complaint about the form, we would have to make an appointment with Mr. Keane, who, unfortunately, was booked-up for the rest of the week. Even to view the form would require an appointment with the University's Director of Personnel! (Doubtless he was busy showing various forms to every other person who entered the Personnel Office in search of one.) Sharon and I left.

We proceeded to the Fair Employment Practice Office on the Orono campus. Ms. JoAnn Fritsche, the Director of that office, assured us that she would apply pressure independently of the Wilde-Stein Club. I then made an appointment with James Keane for the following week.

The interview with Keane, an ex-career Marine, was a homophobic classic. When Sharon and I entered the room, he showed us what he was made of with his first remark: "Which one of you is Steve Bull?" I assured him that I was and introduced him to Sharon. He mistook that for Sherman, and we were off and running. Keane's philosophies were interesting. 1-the question is valuable on the form since workers should know if there is a deviant around them. 2-Homosexuality is something akin to high blood pressure - if you took the proper medication and restrain from undue excitement, it can be kept under control. 3-Homosexuals make good dishwashers!

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SCENES (Continued from page 5)
parent-ownership-of-child, repeated in husband-ownership-of-wife, is to blame. As always he shows us through the beauty of magnificent filming and acting the painful lesson we need to learn. End.

WILDE-STEIN CLUB (continued)

We expressed our contempt for the question on the form. He was very uncomfortable. I believe that it was about five minutes into the meeting before he was able to cough up the word homosexual. It seemed that he was afraid that saying the word would whittle away his masculinity and perhaps his Marine sticker to fall off his rear bumper. We informed him that the topic of homosexuality should not even be mentioned on the health form, since it is not a sickness. We told him that we knew of many Gay brothers and sisters who had lied in filling out the form and were upset with the question. At this point in the meeting he thanked us "fellas" for coming down. What can you do with a blind person? Sharon and I departed with flashes of sit-ins in our minds.

The pressure from Wilde-Stein and JoAnn Fritsche paid off. The following week, at a staff meeting of the Personnel Office, it was voted that the question be deleted from the forms. A small victory for Gay Liberation -- a Bay of Pigs for the Marines.

Steve Bull

HELLO OUT THERE (A Short Story)

I. I used to be the ugliest of
The three of us, my sisters
and me.

Now people tell me I am the
most attractive by far.
My sisters still get the love,
Ugly or classic, I get none -
Just the loneliness, depression
and complimentary

physical adoration,
Which, for those who do not know,
Are closely related.

It keeps me in a state of
Feeling untouchable, -

 nice to look at
But not approachable,
 leaving me

Little to grasp on a sensitive
 level.

II. I love all the time.
 intensely on occasions
But nobody has ever loved me.
It hurts - and the fantasy
Of warm, trickling blood
Rushes down my wrists
 and bursting tears flood
Down my commended structure.
But sometimes when people
Keep thinking it is just a body
The time for it to go
 presses near.
I do not want to love
Intensely again without
A fusing copulation of
 bonds and feelings.

III. Only a fool would love

 a lover's lover
For something more
 than a brother,
So I'll write for a while
 and then...

IV. I am not so different from you;

I lived in my room
Alone for years, if you could
See beyond my facade you
Would be able to see I still do.
I live in books and poetry,
I am very quiet and
 in my own world.
I am afraid of disappointing
And afraid of being disappointed.
I am not as worldly as
I may appear to be
I am alone in the books, poetry
And the world of yesterday.

V. I came out physically
Learning how to be noticed,
Aggressive, sensational, outrageous,
And, so "they" say, classic.
I talked and talked, not being me,
Not being free.

I talked my way into many
Men's beds -- they took freely
Of my body, not touching me.
They missed the chill that
Mingles with the warmth
Within me when I read

"Intimations and Immorality",
Or the compassion in my heart
When I encounter an oppressed
And deprived individual
And the love, so delicate
and sensitive

Bursting inside me, pleading to be
Shared with somebody who can
Return the same - It is almost
Like my love wants to have its
Own relationship separate from one
I might have.
Loving, warmly entwined.

VI. Silent me is quite enough to be,
The priceless depths write poetry -
In love, in thyme, in free verse,
Even sometimes awkwardly.
I need only one person
To share the love, growing
From the sensitivity.

Dale

REGULAR MAINE BISCUITS

2 cups flour
2 heaping tsps. baking powder
 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. salt
2 heaping tbps. lard (shortening)
 (work that in you know)

Mix with a fork until the particles
are the size of coarse crumbs.
Then add enough sweet milk to mix
it up... or you can use water,
evaporated milk, dry milk (mixed),
or anything!
Roll out the dough, then cut with
a biscuit cutter (or a tin can with
the top and bottom cut out).
Drop onto a greased tin and bake
at 500 degs. for 10 minutes.

These are the real thing!

Society and the Healthy Homosexual

by Dr. George Weinberg
Doubleday Anchor Paperback
1973, New York \$1.95

In a radical departure from the ubiquitous bullshit that establishment psychiatry has been laying on Gay people for years, Dr. Weinberg has managed to get it together in this remarkable little book. It is about Gay people and is written for Gays and straights as well, in terms readily accessible to the layperson.

Weinberg's basic premise is that not only is homosexuality a perfectly healthy and normal variant of sexual expression, but also that the omnipresent homophobia that our culture accepts as normal is in fact itself a personality disorder. Gay people know this already, of course, but it is remarkable to hear it from the shrink community. The book deals with a good range of issues that all Gay people face, whether or not we choose to deal with them. He speaks of the psychological ramifications of the Gay experience from his vantage point of a sort of "unconditional positive regard" for Gay people.

He speaks of methods by which we can learn to view ourselves consistently with that same regard, thereby giving impetus to changing self-destructive and subtly negative behaviors that we Gay people oppress ourselves with all too often. He speaks also of the eternal issue: to tell our parents or not? and some ways of approaching this in a positive manner, and in a manner that at worst leaves our own integrity intact in the event that our parents blow theirs. The last chapter is an essay on existential aloneness -- how keeping the experience of that aloneness in perspective helps people deal with loneliness. All together a sort of handbook on How to Be a Healthy Gay Person. The book is not overtly sexist as far as I can tell, but you never know...

The book is fraught with the inevitable psychological vocabulary, the style is literate, sometimes simple and readily understood, sometimes heavy or convoluted. It's the kind of book to keep around when you need to know what you can do for yourself and there's no one nearby to help explore the problem with you.

Neil Woodward

BOOK SERVICE

The MAINE GAY TASK FORCE has created a book distribution program for the purpose of dispensing Gay literature to our sisters and brothers who would otherwise have no access to positive Gay material. Here is a list of some of the good Gay books which MGT F has acquired along with their respective prices. If you are interested in purchasing any Con't. on

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DRIVING A CAB ON THE FULL MOON

Miriam Dyak

The moon is red and swollen
in the blue slate sky
an eye snaring all our wayward
eyes

Any policeman will tell you
all crazies come out
on a full moon
ask the sales clerks
the emergency nurse

Tonight they are stone drunk
I rolled one man to the side of
his house

the body soaked with sleep
so heavy!

In the middle of the road

a raccoon
breathes still the head
is moving

I radio "an animal is hurt"
knowing

no one cares for one that's wild

I stroke and stroke it

carry it to the shoulders

so heavy!

and then really dead

I tell the radio "never mind"

air in my throat tastes acid

two boys stare at my badge

and crewcut

and tears

something to dissolve the

weight alive

inside me

Next ride Navy again

"If you run into any women

you don't care about

send them out way"

"No I'd keep them for myself"

meaning: I want you to know

I'm a lesbian you bastards

but that's wrong

"There aren't any women I don't

care about"

I say to myself and it's too late

something I am feeling is red

and swollen

and hangs over me like an eye

As a Holiday service for readers of the Newsletter, the following is a list of several organizations and their addresses that help feed the hungry in foreign countries. Even a \$1. donation is gratefully appreciated.

Oxfam-America
302 Columbus Ave.
Boston, Mass. 02116

Africare
1424 16th St, NW
Washington, D.C. 20036

CARE
660 First Ave.
New York, N.Y. 10016

SCENES FROM THE SYSTEM

By Miriam Dyak

It may never make it to Maine, but it's almost worth the trip to the Exter Theater in Boston to see Bergman's latest, SCENES FROM A MARRIAGE. For those of you who agonized over CRIES AND WHISPERS and can't face that kind of torment again, rest assured. SCENES is a far less dramatic and/or exotic hell, though in some ways perhaps even more threatening in its ordinariness. Originally filmed as a long TV serial for Swedish audiences, somewhat comparable to, though longer than, AN AMERICAN FAMILY (remember the Louds?), SCENES is evidence of what a true artist can do with the raw material of heterosexual, middle-class marriage.

In fact, I have never seen or read such a total exposure and, therefore, condemnation of the already faltering institution. Except for a party scene with one other couple (which ends in a screaming fight between the other couple--"we're sorry, but you you're our only friends"); an interview with a woman seeking a divorce; and a brief conversation with a colleague, the only two people on the screen the whole 3 hours are Marianne and Johann, wife and husband. All the other people who affect their relationship and their lives, children, lovers, co-workers, are seen only through their words, and the terrible isolation of marriage and the nuclear family is effectively driven home to us.

Their marriage of ten years is seen as ideal by the "outside world" (that term prisoners use seems so appropriate here), but it is quickly shown to be the union of two immature people, still tied to their parents for direction and approval (after all these years they still can't break away from Sundays with Mama -- they have no time to themselves). They have made agreements to tolerate each other's inadequacies (mostly sexual), and have substituted an exchange of goods and services and planned schedules for deep caring, passion, friendship and love. Marianne and Johann are upper middle-class professionals: he is a research scientist and she is a lawyer (ironically handling divorces). They have a house in town and in the country, two new cars, two invisible daughters (i.e. financial liabilities) and many other possessions typical of the affluent consumer. (I found it a positive note that they were poorer as a result of their divorce -- marriage feeds into and off of the system in a way that single living does not). Rather than my usual feeling of alienation at a "rich people movie", I felt a certain poetic justice in Bergman's choice of subjects. Marriage after all has become the hal- lowed institution of the middle-class; and the fact that none of Marianne's and Johann's advantages were able to save them makes this an even clearer indictment of the institution itself -- poverty, etc. can no longer be put to blame.

Neither does Marianne's position as a lawyer or her class status help her escape emotional oppression from all men in her life. Her struggle to move away from that oppression in the film meets with boredom, mockery and tirade against the women's movement from Johann. By the time Marianne meets Johann after a year's separation (he walked out on her and the children for a younger woman) she has finally, through the help of a psychiatrist begun to see her life as one

long struggle to please Daddy and husband/Daddy. "I always wanted what I thought he would want me to want." She has written her self-discoveries down, but Johann falls asleep when she reads them to him. In a later scene Marianne is equally indifferent to Johann's confession that he has always been striving to fulfill his father's ambitions. The difference is that at Johann goes into a rage, locks Marianne into her office and beats her up. This scene was even more devastating to me as Johann is not the usual Bergman two-dimensional male caricature. He is as real as your father or the man across the street. There is sympathy for him as he is trapped in his own system -- divorce leaves him broke, his job falls through and he is too old to be considered an asset to a company or university, his new marriage goes as stale as his old one -- but not to the point where we excuse his behavior toward women.

As destructive as Marianne's and Johann's relationship is, it is, the only thing that grows and matures in their lives. At the end they sneak off for a weekend together, and one gets the feeling of mutual understanding, sympathy, tolerance and perhaps a fondness and familiarity between them that would pass for love. It is clear Bergman is saying this depth of feeling only comes in spite of marriage and after a tortuously long growing-up period in which partners struggle to shed the crippling emotional shackles of childhood (and I would add of society as well). Without ever overstating his case Bergman shows the shallowness of relationships based on commodity exchanges (above all an exchange of sex) and hints that the patriarchal Continued Page 2

THE BRUNSWICK GAY WOMEN'S GROUP REFUSES TO DIE!
We will be meeting on Friday nights.
(Our astrologer says it's okay)
Karen Bye and Anne Garland wish to welcome all women to their home at 17 Lincoln St., Brunswick. The meetings will start at 7:30. If you have the need, call: 729-3702

Artist wishes to illustrate good, imaginative and innovative children's stories. Write to Tim c/o MGTF, Box 4542 Portland, Me.

FEMINIST ASTROLOGER
Wendy will do astrological charts with excellent interpretations for reasonable fee or barter.

WOMANCRAFT MIND CONTROL COURSE WILL START after Jan. 7, '75 as soon as there are ten(10) people who want to take the course. Miriam Dyak will instruct WOMANCRAFT in Brunswick at FULL CIRCLE on Jordan Ave. Fee will be \$15.00 or possible barter or other arrangements can be made. Men interested in the course should contact Miriam. 725-2784.

GAY MALE looking for gay friends in or around the Skowhegan area. Contact Reg Porter RFD #3 Box 73 Skowhegan, Me. or call: 474-3719 before 2p.m.

Jacataqua School for grades 7-12 needs more students. We are a small alternative school in Woolwich

FABRIC scraps wanted for a puff quilt to be made for MGTF auction. Anyone who sews or wants to learn is invited to help. Date and place to be arranged. Such a good excuse to have a party! Please send contributions to Susan W. Henderson, c/o Wilde-Stein Club, Memorial Union Univ., of Me., Orono, Me. 04473

Right now the Gay Community News is in serious difficulty and the human beings who make up the paper need your assistance. Can you type? or fold? or walk? or write??? Do you have a few \$\$\$\$ you could donate? How about a subscription?... So. Windham, Me. I'm in the Men's Correctional Center. I will be waiting to hear from my Gay family. In Gay Love James Bellmore

To: GCN - Gay Community News the state prison. He would like
A weekly forum for New England to correspond with Gay people.
22 Bromfield St. He is lonely and needs some word
Boston, Mass. 02108 from someone very much. Please
10 wks - 2.50 write to him at: Box A, Thomaston,
25 wks - 5.00 Me.
52 wks - 10.00

GCN Vol. 2 No. 22 Nov. 23, 1974
Front page article "What's it to you"
tells about all their hassles. They
need you a lot. How much do you need
them?? Please help.

Custom-Made Jigsaw Puzzles from photos, favorite pictures (have to be on heavy paper), erotic art & etc. Reasonable prices - Ideal gifts. Call Miriam at 725-2784

GSA notes

Remember the Gala Holiday Ball is December 28, from 9 till 1 at the Gay Community Center, 23 Franklin St., Bangor, Donation is \$4.00 in advance & \$5.00 at the door. Save a buck by contacting any GSA member with your donation or by sending it to the Center. There will be spectacular refreshments, entertainment, good music, good people, a surprise door prize and a great time. This is our Major Fund Raising Event of the year, so please help us make it a great success.

GSA is having a toy drive for Christmas. Please bring a new or like-new toy to any Thursday meeting or to a Saturday dance between now and Christmas. These toys will be given to the Salvation Army for distribution to needy children.

GSA meetings are every Thursday night at the Center at 7:30. The big news is that meetings now have a little ZIP! By the time you read this, we will have had a demonstration of Christmas arrangements and a discussion of food co-ops. Coming Dec. 12, "Celery and Exercise". Wear old clothes, you're going to be on the floor. Watch for future meetings. Most of them will be helpful, a few may be zany, but they will all be interesting.

GSA sponsors a dance every Saturday night, beginning at 8pm at the Gay Community Center. BYOB; coffee available. The dances have been a real success.

The Rev. Joe holds regular Gay Church services at GCC on Sunday evenings at 6:30.

GSA is incorporating! Since we discovered that the liability of any unincorporated group extends to all its members, we have retained an attorney and have started incorporation proceedings. We will keep everyone posted on our progress.

EVERYONE'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY

good gay buttons and books...

- *Rubyfruit Jungle
- *On The Cusp
- *The Queens Vernacular

AND MORE

at
The HCHS Bookstore
419 Boylston St.
Boston, Mass.

Open: Monday-Thursday, 6-9pm
Ring the bell four(4) times.

LAMBDA holds business meetings and rap groups every Wednesday night at 7:30 at Unitarian Universalist Church, Pleasant St. Brunswick, Me. Come and share yourselves.

Rumor has it that Sturgis Haskins plans to illustrate a book of Nursery Rhymes.

FOR SALE

1971 Ski-Daddler 399cc Hirth, used only 10 hours. \$475. Also a childhood stamp collection, mostly U.S. but some U.N. and foreign packets too. I spent about \$200. on it between 1952-55 and will take the best offer. Perhaps, I would consider an older convertible car in trade as I am interested in old cars and sports cars too. Write to: Norman White; Sumner, Maine or call: 388-2154.

FOUND

1 pr. of dirty, white sneakers, smelling slightly of Lobster. These sneakers were found in the vicinity of a foot of salt water. Would the owner(s) please contact the MGTFN. Thank you.

NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION!!!!!!

The Stage Door

Rte. 1 Wells, Maine presents a "New Year's Eve Extravaganza" for one of the gayest times of your life. For details, reservations and more information call Bob or Sue at 646-8431

THE MAINE GAY TASK FORCE NEWSLETTER

is your expression
We need you. We need your insights and revelations, your happenings and criticisms. Write to us. Help us help you. We need you and you need us...

SUBSCRIBE

To the M.G.T.F. Newsletter
Box 4542
Portland, Maine 04112

Name _____
Street _____
Town _____
State _____ ZIP _____

_____ One Year (12) issues \$3.00
_____ Donation/Contribution

(we need these)
All copies sent in sealed plain envelopes.

Bits are Free!
They must be in to us by the 21st of each month. Act now!

LAMBDA and the BRUNSWICK GAY WOMENS GROUP will be sponsoring a GAY DANCE in Brunswick at the Unitarian Universalist Church on Dec. 28, starting at 8pm to 1pm. BYOB and 1 dollar for a donation. The white church on Pleasant St.

The Newsletter Committee is considering a poetry issue or a literary magazine in the foreseeable future. Keep sending us your poetry. If you didn't see it in the Newsletter, that probably means that we're saving it.

La Grenouille Lavande

Il nous semble qu'il doit être beaucoup de Gais Francophones qui aimeront lire des articles en français dans le MGTF Newsletter. Qu'en pensez vous? Nous espérons que les intéressent. Veuillez s.v.p. nous envoyer vos pensées sur ceci. Que pensez vous sur le titre: "La Grenouille Lavande"? Nous l'avons choisis parce que le mot 'grenouille', qui l'on employait autrefois comme insulte, est aujourd'hui symbole de fierté Franco-américaine. Et tout le monde sait le signification de la couler lavande, n'est-ce pas?

A bientôt! Nous espérons entendre vos idées.

Tom Maxwell is now out of jail on personal recognizance, pending his trial on 17 December in Kennebec County Superior Court. Good luck, Tom..

M.G.T.F. will hold it's next meeting on January 5, 1975 in Bangor at the Gay Community Center. The meeting will be hosted by Wilde-Stein and GSA. Time: 3:00. See you there.

CORRECTION

An article in the November Newsletter entitled "Fear and Loathing at Roland's Tavern", incorrectly stated that the tavern had no emergency exits. Also - while the article represents the opinion of the majority of the Newsletter people, - it should be noted that the opinion expressed was that of an individual and not that of the Maine Gay Task Force.

*Trying Hard To Hear You 5.95

-Sandra Scoppettone
(Brand new novel about oppression of gay male high school students -written for adolescents, but worthwhile for everyone)

*Patience and Sarah .95
-Isabel Miller

(Fictional yet based on fact-Lesbian couple make it up as they go along in pioneer days)

*The Cook and the Carpenter 3.00
-A Novel by the Carpenter

(Great Lesbian novel-neuter pronouns) early Gay Liberation

Keep this list for future reference. Please allow a few weeks for delivery. Several of these books we have in short supply and may need to reorder them. New books will be added to this list in the future.

Book Service Con't. from Page 4
of these books, please enclose the appropriate amount (including 25¢ postage for each book) specifying which book you desire, to the following address:

MGTF Book Service
Box 4542
Portland, Me. 04112

*Sappho Was a Right-On Woman 1.95

-Sidney Abbott & Barbara Love
(Excellent non-fiction on Lesbianism by 2 lovers)

*Out of the Closets-Voices 1.95
of Gay Liberation

-Ed by Karla Jay & Allen Young
(Anthology covering the whole spectrum of homosexuality & Gay Liberation)

*Society and the Healthy Homosexual 1.95

-Dr. George Weinberg
(Review in this issue Page 4)

*The Male Muse - A Gay Anthology 3.95

-Ed by Ian Young
(Current poetry for Gay Men)

*Rubyfruit Jungle 2.95

-Rita Mae Brown
(Hilarious and moving novel about a Lesbian growing up in America)

*Is Gay Good? - Ethics, Theology & Homosexuality 3.50

-Ed by W. Dwight Oberholtzer
(Scholarly Christian anthology with a positive answer)

*Great Gay In The Morning 1.75
(All about life in a Gay commune)

*The Gay Insider 3.95

-John Francis Hunter
(Guide to bars, baths, restaurants, et. al., in Gay America with many good articles - esp. Finishing David Reuben - male oriented)

*Riverfinger Women 3.50

-Elana Nachman
(Interesting new Lesbian novel)

*Homosexual Oppression and Liberation 1.65

-Dennis Altman
(Examines the Gay experience in our time from his experience)

*Monster 1.95

-Robin Morgan
(Mind-blowing poetry by an amazing Radical Lesbian Feminist)

*The Gay Mystique 1.95

-Peter Fisher
(Superb book about male homosexuality)

*The Lord Is My Shepherd and He Knows I'm Gay 1.50

-The Rev. Troy Perry
(Founder of the Gay Metropolitan Community Church, relates his experiences)

*The Gay Crusaders 1.25

-Kay Tobin & Randy Wicker
(Anthology of pieces about early Gay Liberation)

MAINE GAY TASK FORCE MINUTES

November 24, 1974

3pm - 5:30pm

Chair person: Anne Garland

The next meeting will be January 5, 1975, at 3pm at the Gay Community Center in Bangor. Steve Bull will chair.

Finance Committee: Currently we have \$228.12 in the MGTF account, plus the \$16.21 that was collected at the meeting.

Correspondence Committee: Following the finance committee's report, Stephen Leo resigned as finance coordinator, turning the responsibility over to Stanley Fortuna who, in turn, left the office of Communications (correspondence) Coordinator to Stephen Leo. The trade was approved with no objections. As old Communications Coordinator, Stan reported that the Maine Civil Liberties Union is currently asking for reports of discrimination against Gays in order to accumulate documentation of the fact that we are treated unfairly. There will be no legislation prohibiting discrimination against us unless we can prove that we are discriminated against. As Gays we are guilty until proven innocent. IF YOU HAVE BEEN TREATED UNFAIRLY (legally) BECAUSE YOU ARE GAY, REPORT IT! As new Communications Coordinator, Stephen will set up a meeting with MCLU. MCLU will also be holding a conference on "Sex Censureship and Society."

Speakers' Bureau: Susan Breeding announced that since the Gay community in general, and MGTF in particular, have been offered television time, there will be a meeting at 3pm on Sunday, Dec. 8 at her apartment (266 Maine St., Brunswick) to discuss a program. The hour offered by WCSH as a result of the "Policewoman" viewing will probably be used. We may either offer the station a "pre-packaged" program, or meet with station personnel to discuss a format and filming. It was suggested that part of the available time be offered to members of the Gay community who do not belong to MGTF, but who are interested in media exposure. The Women's Group in Portland may also be a possible co-sponsor, or a separate program on Lesbians may be set up. Steve Bull said that Dan Estes might have access to filming equipment -- he will find out.

Education Committee: There will be a meeting at Anne Garland's apartment, 17 Lincoln, Brunswick on Friday, Dec. 13 at 7:30 pm.

March: On Saturday, Dec. 14, there will be a march in Boston against RACISM. It was urged that all Gays who can participate do so. Some members of the Task Force will march with our banners, in support of our Black sisters and brothers.

Womancraft: Miriam Dyak announced that the Womancraft course will be offered again soon. It will be a 10 week course and will cost \$15. For more information, contact Miriam c/o the Task Force.

Non-smokers requested that smokers be more considerate of their air. Smokers were asked to be aware of the amount of smoke in the rooms -- especially during Task Force meetings -- and not "all light up at once."

Tom Maxwell: Tom (a Gay brother - see last month's minutes) was released from jail on personal recognizance. He was released to Bangor and was staying with Susan Henderson. It was stipulated that Tom not return to Portland. On Saturday (Nov. 16), Tom went to Portland to pick up some belongings and decided to stay home. No member of the Task Force is any longer legally responsible for his actions. Of the \$70 in Task Force money allotted to the case, only \$27 was spent. However, Stan Fortuna has spent over \$57 and Susan Henderson has also spent a great deal, both on telephone calls. They will be reimbursed from the Task Force accounts.

Special Thanks to Art Meyers for his help and cooperation on Toms' case.

Stephen Leo suggested that the Task Force might serve as a clearinghouse for Gay literature by purchasing books for Gay people who might not want to buy them in person, or who do not have access to books they want.

Stan Fortuna announced that the counselor training will take place at his apartment in Yarmouth on Saturday, Dec. 7. Cost will be \$5; lunch included. The session will last from 10am until 6pm.

Peter Prizer brought up a suggestion that had been discussed

Continued on Page 10

at a Lambda meeting: that we contact the newly-elected state officers, congratulating them and letting them know who we are and what legislation we would like to see passed in Maine. A meeting with Gov.-elect Longley was discussed. Susan Henderson read a letter the Wilde-Stein Club proposed to send to David Bustin, head of the Maine State Democratic Committee, asking that the Gay plank on the party platform not be ignored. The letter was approved unanimously, and will be sent by the Task Force. Steve Bull suggested a lobbying day in the legislature or pamphletting all the members. He will work with Miriam Dyak, Stephen Leo and Peter Prizer on informing the representatives of our positions. Susan Henderson, as a result of a W-SC resolution will also write a letter recommending that Mark Gartley, a homophobe, not be appointed as Secretary of State.

Newsletter: A meeting will be on Wed. after the typing has been completed. Discussion of editorial policy included objections to ads for lovers, drag balls. Editorial crew will be forming.

Two positive actions were reported by Peter Prizer and Tim Bouffard as a result of the Maine Human Rights Committee meeting in Portland last Wed. (Nov. 20). The Committee is asking us all to collect and correlate reports of discrimination against Gays. The second supportive action was that members of N.O.W. (National Organization for Women) indicated their support of pro-Gay legislation and political or legal action.

Symposium II: Norman checked the Poland Spring Inn; only holds 300, \$25 a head -- but they're willing. Ferry Beach: booked up. Very good possibilities for speakers are: Dr. Howard Brown, Sheri Barden, Elaine Noble, and Frank Kameny.

MGTF position paper: We aren't the only ones oppressed by this society/We need to be positive, proud, and optimistic/Stam Fortuna, Wendy Ashley, Anne Garland and Peter Prizer will be writing a rough draft.

Any of the above-mentioned activities are jobs for the WHOLE Task Force -- YCU are a part of the Task Force simply by offering to be. If you're interested in anything, contact the people above, c/o MGTF, Box 4542, Portland, Me.

---Anne Garland

(The following test was devised by UMO'S Dr. John Frank, Chairperson of the University's Newsletter Aptitude Department.)

Score 10 points per correct answer.
100-90 :Fair
90-80 :No Comment
Below 80 :%&#!#&*

PART I: WORK ETHIC IN AMERICA

- A. "This Newsletter is written by:
1. highly-paid heterosexuals
2. a newsletter subscription service in Boise, Idaho
3. Volunteers
- B. "Newsletter People, in their spare time:
1. stamp envelopes
2. have full-time jobs
3. hustle subscriptions
- C. "Which, of the following attitudes most accurately describes that of the staff people?
1. they enjoy their work, but hope that others will volunteer also
2. they detest their work, but enjoy abusing their editorial privilege
3. C'est la vie.

PART II: STAGFLATION VS. MINORITIES

- A. "Staff people can expect:"
1. \$26,000 - 28,000 annually
2. \$150 in food stamps monthly
3. a ham & cheese to go, no oil
- B. "The cost of paper, along with postal rates in 1975 will rise:
1. moderately
2. incredibly

PART III: MORALITY IN AMERICA (true or false)

- A. "Since the Newsletter loses money on each subscription, and relies, in fact, on the money from new subscriber to continue publication, the entire operation should be investigated by the USPS as an illegal 'pyramid scheme:'
- B. "If all the readers of this newsletter were informed that Maine is one of the very few states in this huge country of ours with a statewide Gay Newsletter, the subscribers would probably become elitist.

Answers: IA(3), IB(ALL), IC(1)
IIA(3), IIB(astronomical-ly) IIIA(theUSPS should be investigated), IIIB(?)

The entire staff of the MAINE GAY TASK FORCE NEWSLETTER wishes all our GAY sisters and brothers the very GAYEST of HOLIDAYS.