Maine Gay Task Force Newsletter, Vol.1, No.04 (December 1974)

Coalition of Organizations

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.usm.maine.edu/megtf

Recommended Citation
Maine Gay Task Force Newsletter. 4.
https://digitalcommons.usm.maine.edu/megtf/4

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Periodicals at USM Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Maine Gay Task Force Newsletter by an authorized administrator of USM Digital Commons. For more information, please contact jessica.c.hovey@maine.edu.
"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 ACCOMMODATION 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 accommodation. 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 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:

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.
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 *Police Woman* 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 leveled 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 the issue, his response not indicating any interest in the problem, and seemed to be a business man first, last and always. (Need it be added that *Police Woman* has been in the Top 10 of the Nielsen 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 an 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 "someday 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 little effect on it. It had that of demonstrating that the Madison Avenue image of Gays does not mirror reality.

*Quote from the script.

WILDE-STEIN CLUB

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. 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-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 my partner, 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 deviation around them. 2. Homosexuality is something akin to high blood pressure - if you took the proper medication and restrained from undue excitement it didn't have to be kept under control. 3. Homosexuals make good dishwashers! continued on page 3

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 filling and acting the painful lesson we need to learn. End.
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 unctouchable, -

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 convoluted 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
Brother, or 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.

Now 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 his 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 tbsp. baking powder
1 tsp. salt
2 heaping tbsp. 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!
In a radical departure from the ubiquitous bullshit that establishment psychiatry has been dishing 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 church 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 written by the shrink community. The book deals with loneliness. All together a remarkable use-book.

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 has acquired along with their respective prices. If you are interested in purchasing any

DRIVING A CAB ON THE FULL MOON

Miriam Dyak

The moon is red and swollen in the blue slate sky. An eye snarling all our wayward eyes

Any policeman will tell you all crazies come out on a full moon. Ask the sales clerks the emergency nurses.

Tonight they are stone drunk. I rolled one man to the side of the 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 Exeter Theater in Boston to see Bergman's latest, SCENES FROM A MARRIAGE. For those of you who agonized over CRITES 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 Lounds?), 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 briefer 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 more than enough material 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 kind of empathy in Bergman's choice of subjects. Marriage after all has become the hallowed 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 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 charicature. 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 now 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 overtaking his case Bergman shows after a tough struggle 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

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.

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

Help!!!
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?...

SUBSCRIBE To: GCN - Gay Community News A weekly forum for New England 22 Bromfield St., Boston, Mass. 02108 10 wks - 2.50 25 wks - 5.00 52 wks - 10.00 All copies sent in sealed plain envelopes.

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

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

FEMINIST ASTROLOGER
Wendy will do astrological charts with excellent interpretations for reasonable fee or barter. call: 725-6507

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 serving the Dresden, Wiscasset, Bath and Brunswick area. Call: Barbara Silk, Director - 882-5037 or Miriam Dyak at 725-2784.

I would like to have my Gay brothers and sisters write to me, as I have no one, I don't have a family. I'm a state child and I'm very lonely. Please let me hear from my Gay family. Write: James Bellmore 119 Mallison St. So. Windham, Me.

Arnold Nash is a gay brother in the state prison. He would like to correspond with Gay people. He is lonely and needs some word from someone very much. Please write to him at: Box A, Thomaston, Me.

In Gay Love
James Bellmore

On November 2, at noon, a double ring ceremony occurred at the Clothes Horse in Brunswick. The clerk on duty was in attendance. Both brides wore denim jeans and work shirts and winter coats. One carried a notebook and the other carried an index card file. They left for a short honeymoon trip to the Bowdoin College Library.

BITS are FREE
GSA notes

Remember the Gala Holiday Ball is December 28, from 9 till 1 at the Gay Community Center, 23 Franklin St., Portland. Donations is $8 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 surprising 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 8 pm 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.

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

FOR SALE

1971 Ski-Draal 3996c Hirth, used only 10 hours, $2,475. 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: Dr. Fred W. Norman White; Summer, Maine. Tel.: 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!

LAMBD and the BRUNSWICK GAY WOMENS GROUP will be sponsoring a GAY DANCE in Brunswick at the Unitarian Universalist Church on Dec. 28, starting at 8 pm to 11 pm. BYOB and 1 dollar for a donation. Write the 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**


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.

----------

*Sappho Was a Right-On Woman* 1.95
- Sidney Abbott & Barbara Love
  (Excellent non-fiction on Lesbianism by 2 lovers)

*Out of the Closet - Voices* 1.95
- 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* 1.95
- 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, Theo.* 1.50
- 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 community)

*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)

*RiverWar Women* 3.50
- Elaine 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 I am Gay* 1.50
- The Rev. Troy Perry
  (Founder of the Gay Metropolitian Community Church, relates his experiences)

*The Gay Crusaders* 1.25
- Kay Tobin & Handy Wicker
  (Anthology of pieces about early Gay Liberation)

---

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.
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 "pre-packaged" program, or meet with station personnel to discuss a format and filming. It was suggested that a "Policewoman" special Thanks to Art Meyers for his help and cooperation on Tom's case.

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.

Women's Craft: 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.

Tom's case.

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. at the newly-elected state officers, then legislative and what legislation we would like to see passed in Maine. A meeting with Gov.-elect Longley was discussed. Susan Henderson read a letter to 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.

Quiz for All Newsletter Readers!

(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
80-70 = Below par
70-60 = Improvise

Part I: Work Ethic in America

A. "This Newsletter is written by:
1. highly-paid homosexuals
2. a newsletter subscription service in Boise, Idaho
3. Volunteers"

B. "Newsletter People, in their spare time:
1. stamp envelopes
2. hustle subscriptions
3. have full-time jobs"

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. "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."

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 (astronomically), IIC (the USPS should be investigated), IIB (7)

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