



# Maine Gay Task Force NEWSLETTER

## COMPLIMENTARY COPY

Vol. 2 No. 1

You probably remember the controversy surrounding last year's Maine Gay Symposium. Well, grab your geezer, we are doing it again! Plans are now being finalized for the second Maine Gay Symposium to be held April 4, 5 and 6 at the Crono campus of the University of Maine. We believe that the publicity received last year was beneficial to the gay community here in Maine. We became an issue. We made people think. Let us continue to keep the population of Maine aware of our presence. Symposium II will be sponsored by MGTF and coordinated chiefly by one of its member organizations, the Wilde-Stein Club. Here is a tentative schedule for Symposium II:

**Friday, April 4**

6:00 p.m.-midnight Registration and reception with entertainment

**Saturday, April 5**

9:00-10:00 a.m. Registration  
10:00-11:30 Keynote speakers  
11:45-12:45 p.m. Lunch  
1:00-2:00 Workshop period  
2:15-3:15 Workshop period  
3:15-3:45 Coffee break  
3:45-4:45 Workshop period  
5:00-5:30 Feedback session  
6:00-8:00 Buffet dinner  
8:00-midnight Dance

**Sunday, April 6**

9:00-11:00 a.m. Pancake breakfast  
In the afternoon, there is a possibility of having an outing to the coast.

We are in the process of contacting speakers and workshop coordinators. We need the input of Maine gays. An important ingredient of Symposium II is your participation. If you have artwork, handicrafts, prose, poetry, etc., there will be space to display/sell your wares. The art display is being handled by Tim Bouffard c/o MGTF Box 4542 Portland, Maine 04112. The craft show is directed by Susan Henderson c/o Wilde-Stein Club Memorial Union University of Maine Crono, Maine 04473. Any other correspondence concerning the Symposium should be addressed to the Wilde-Stein Club. Symposium II has the potential of being a valuable learning experience for everyone. Get involved!

The greatest amount of work ahead of us lies in two areas: a stimulating program of workshops and housing space. A tentative workshop topics list includes the following: coming out, political action, sexism, lesbian separatism, women's and men's identity workshops and student gays. We have a limited amount of personnel, time and money. Your contributions will make or break Symposium II. If you have housing facilities in the Bangor-Crono area, please contact the Wilde-Stein Club.

The registration fee will be \$5.00. This includes the entertainment on Friday night, the workshops, coffee break, the buffet and the dance. Be assured that this is not a profit-making venture. Symposium I lost over \$100.

The formal publicity for Symposium II will begin in the first week of February. Greater details of the proceedings will be in the next newsletter.

Fundraising activities for Symposium II will commence with a quilt-making party in Bangor on February 1st. This will be an all day affair from 9:00 a.m. until completion. Drop in any time! Those interested contact Susan Henderson c/o Wilde-Stein Club.

We are also investigating the possibility of having a flea market in March. If you have contributions (second-hand articles in good condition), contact MGTF c/o Box 4542 Portland, Maine attn: Flea Market.



d the pub  
s limited to  
ork Police  
at number

ch in their own way, the police, the Cosa  
ners somehow manage to keep the number of g  
very few. And, somewhere in the bowels of  
reaucracy, someone decided that on June 28  
ould be reduced by one.

When the police arrived at the Stonewall Inn for the purpose of closing the place down because of "fire" and "liquor law" violations, the small squad of plainclothesmen encountered a rather remarkable occurrence: an uprising of very angry homosexuals.

Most leaders of the homosexual community say the Stonewall riot was as much a landmark in the homophile cause as the original North Carolina lunch counter sit-ins were for the civil rights movement. For the first time, the gay world, known additionally as passive and self-hating, became violent in defense of its right to exist.

The crisis at the Stonewall happened quite spontaneously. The police rounded up the establishment's owners and a few obvious transvestites, the patrons began pelting the officers with coins. The fury escalated as the arrests continued--and the crowd began hurling beer bottles and stones. In response to the rough manner in which a lesbian was pushed into a patrol car, a street queen and an isolated member of the Gay Liberation Front, the New York City Police Force--known in New York for their overzealous treatment of blacks and youth--

and pounded the hell out of him. This little trick caught on. Two officers had to be hospitalized after they, too, were ambushed. Inside the bar a trapped unit of the police attack squad stood in panic. They had never seen fighting fairies before. Some cops wanted to shoot. When an attempt was made to set the Stonewall on fire, all hell broke loose. There was hand-to-hand fighting in the street. Cops vs. Queens. For the whole night, the Village seemed much more like the central ward of Newark or Watts, than a tourist center and Bohemian enclave.

In an era when blacks, women and youth are in rebellion against mainstream American culture, it is no surprise that society's most "untouchable" group should also join the revolt. Since the founding of the country, homophiles have been the constant victims of primitive and intolerant laws. In colonial America homosexuality was a civil and religious crime, punishable by death. To this day, it is a crime to be a homosexual in all but two\* states of the union, Connecticut and Illinois.

\*Since the initial publication of this article, the number of states in which homosexual activity is legal has grown to eight: Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon.

From Gay Power: "The Birth of the Pink Panthers," by Claudia Dreyfus, Cavalier, December 1969.

A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A

THE LAVENDER RHINO IS ALIVE AND WELL AND LIVING IN THE BOSTON SUBWAY

After nine months of legal hassles and delay, Gay Media Action's advertising campaign -- finally in the subways! -- because the rhinoceros is a creature and not the monster it has been made out to be, a fitting symbol for our people." The lavender color, because it is our color -- a mixture of the 'feminine' pink and the 'masculine' blue. If you find yourself with some \$\$\$\$ that you don't know what to do



with, why not import the Rhino to Maine? GMA is offering Buttons @ 50¢; T-Shirts/S-M-L-XL @ \$5.00; Posters @ \$5.00; and Stickers @ 50¢. Send orders to Lavender Rhino, Inc., 7 Water St., Boston, MA 02109.



## ADDRESS

/// from richard jude

Fourscore and 5/4 years ago our times brought forth on this continent a new berry, conceived in timelessness, and dedicated to the proposition that all warp is created bent. Now we are engaged in a great mauve war, testing whether that berry or any berry so soared and so tripled, can long glow. We are met in a great closet of that war. We have come to slice a portion of that field, as a final giving wave for those who here gave their turns that that berry might expand. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this. But, in a mellower sense, we cannot fill--we cannot spill--we cannot grill-- this end. The gone men, living and dead, who sought here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little grow, nor long sow, what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the combining, rather, to be dedicated here to the leaky work which they who flexed here have thus far so vaguely advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great ground remaining before us,--that from these honored ambiguities we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full obscurity of obsolescence--that we here highly resolve that these ambiguities shall not have fallen in vain-- that berry, under God, shall have a new abstractness of oneness--and that government of the astral body, by the astral body, for the astral body, shall not breathe from the earth.

## MARCH AGAINST RACISM

On Saturday, December 14, representatives from the Gay Womens Group of Brunswick, the Gay Rights Organization, Lambda, the Maine Gay Task Force, and other concerned Mainers joined twenty thousand others in a march through the streets of downtown Boston to protest the racial violence that has accompanied court-ordered busing for school desegregation. Incorrectly billed as a "pro-busing" demonstration by both wire services and the Boston Globe, the National March Against Racism had been organized by a diverse ad hoc coalition to protest the stoning of school busses and also the Boston School Committee, which many felt was condoning a segregated school system.

TIME WARP: It is Saturday, December 14, approximately 1:00 PM. We are massing under a gray and drizzly sky in the Fenway section, near Northeastern. Civil rights, liberal, and left-wing groups -- many with hand-lettered banners and signs--shiver together on the soggy and stomped-on grass. A myriad of political/social button vendors, bullhorns, pamphleteers of numerous persuasions and the ubiquitous plain-clothespeople ply their trades amid a throng largely oblivious to it all. Smiling strangers exchange the Fine Vibes and Gentle Highs that come from sharing space in a common endeavor. Overhead, a particularly obnoxious police surveillance helicopter drones on--unaware that government weather satellites provide the identical service but with a greatly reduced (and energy-conscious) cost per/mile ratio. It is immediately apparent that business-as-usual politicians, the New England Patriots and the Goodyear Blimp are booked into the Orange Bowl

for the weekend. Their absence is not bemoaned. Friendly, although somewhat aggressive, Socialists distribute literature--most of which deals with alleged 'capitulation' to racist, bourgeois policies by (competing) 'fake socialists.' "Yeah, I'd buy it but I'm broke," plead sympathetic bystanders as fingers in pockets idly sift through loose change and perhaps a spare Audi key. At long last and for reasons known only to the deity-of-your-choice, the marchers get it on and the demonstration commences: street returning to the people as a colorful ribbon of humanity weaves its way through Back Bay towards the Common, and the ensuing mass rally.

Black and white march side by side, chanting such slogans as "WE SAY NO--WE SAY NO--TO RACISM," and "HO-HO-HOMOSEXUAL. RACIST SCHOOLS ARE INEFFECTUAL!" The bright green march flags mingle freely with banners of hospital workers, tenants unions, antiwar groups, Boston Socialist Feminist Organization, and Gay groups from Maine and Massachusetts. Stereotypical Bean Town Kops guard "strategic intersections" against egress and ingress by unauthorized anarchist/pinko/faggot dupes. Holiday strollers and shoppers are confronted with not only the march itself, but with 1) a full-sized effigy of Louise Day Hicks and, 2) several colonial-garbed people wheeling a ripped-off AMERICAN gasoline sign--altered slightly by the word REVOLUTION stenciled directly beneath the familiar company name. Thrusting clenched fists above their heads, the predominantly youthful crowd evokes the memory of the massive civil rights marches of the Sixties. Contact highs as well as the real thing (Continued next page)



MARCH--con't  
circulate freely along the freezing  
march route. Loretta Lotman of Gay  
Media Action distributes borrowed  
raisins to co-marchers.

At the last moment the parade  
route is changed by the Kops under  
pressure from City Hall under pres-  
sure from the local merchants scared  
three-quarters shitless that their  
trade on Boylston may panic by our  
presence and slam shut their check-  
books. Several of the leaders of the  
march, supported by a courageous few,  
decide not to be manipulated by the  
whims of merchants and a showdown  
ensues. The line of blue-clad, well-  
armed cavalry rout a truckload of  
mostly blacks, veterans of similar

confrontations in the South and  
West. With six arrested, a few  
hurt, and the point made, the pa-  
rade diverts down residential Com-  
monwealth instead.

At last 200,000 chilled toes  
assemble on the Common amid speeches  
by Ralph Abernathy, Bill Owens, a  
Black State Senator from Boston, and  
others. The arrival of darkness  
obscurities on the Remaining Hard Core  
to deal with dropping temperatures  
and a questionable rock group.  
A weary day is over, but we  
all feel good. A chant popular with  
the Gay contingents perhaps best  
sums up to march: ONE BATTLE, MANY  
FRONTS.

--Peter Prizer

### LOVING SPOONFUL OR. HATEFUL KRATEFUL

Rock bands tend to have bizarre names. Column Two is an example.  
Some of these names have been subjected to a few switcheroos, playing  
around with the words. Match the names in the second column with  
those in column one and enjoy the fun. (Answers at bottom of page)

#### Column One

- A Little Sister and That Drop-  
Business
- B Pleasant Tongue
- C Lt. Horseliver and Her Dull  
Orchestra
- D Diamonds After Cattle
- E Linen Surface
- F Hateful Krateful
- G Knowing Heresy
- H Despair of Dusting
- I Big Thyghs
- J Brand X
- K Fossil Fuel Hen
- L Stationary Trees
- M Tummy
- N The Fathers of Stagnation
- O I Know Them
- P Queen Quobalt
- Q David Copperfield
- R Chocolate Cake
- S Nasty
- T Empty Streets
- U Wong
- V Acts of the Apostles
- W Private This Side
- X Water Daughter
- Y Coal Train
- Z Senate

#### Column Two

- 1. Pink Floyd
- 2. The Doors
- 3. King Crimson
- 4. Genesis
- 5. Mothers of Invention
- 6. Atomic Rooster
- 7. Kinks
- 8. Mott the Hoople
- 9. Who
- 10. Deep Purple
- 11. Lovin' Spoonful
- 12. Blind Faith
- 13. Captain Beyond
- 14. Nice
- 15. Big Brother and the Holding  
Company
- 16. Pearls Before Swine
- 17. Led Zeppelin
- 18. Ten Years After
- 19. Country Joe and the Fish
- 20. Moody Blues
- 21. Vanilla Fudge
- 22. Rolling Stones
- 23. Little Feat
- 24. Captain Beefheart and His Magic  
Band
- 25. Uriah Heep
- 26. Cream
- 27. Triumvirat
- 28. Ruben and the Jets
- 29. Traffic
- 30. Spooky Tooth
- 31. Smith
- 32. Fanny
- 33. Supremes
- 34. Mother Earth
- 35. Ten Wheel Drive
- 36. The Hollies
- 37. Joy of Cooking
- 38. Three Dog Night
- 39. Grin
- 40. Velvet Underground



# EXCERPTS FROM A KITCHEN MANIFESTO

By Anne Garland

"In celebration of Feminist Radicalism" I bought some Chippety Choco-laty ice cream today in honor of Joan Pettis, who said it was her most favoritest kind, and ate it to celebrate Diane's birthday. I bought cigarettes again, too. Must be an oral stage, this. "Arrested develop-ment."

Arrested and put in jail (ideolog-ies are notoriously confining) where it blossoms and grows furiously. My Development, that is. Left totally to my own devices, neglected and unpruned for a change, I am bursting with wild flowers, stems and leaves shooting in the most radical tangle of joyous di-rections. Happy as the plant in my window, not to produce delicate pink flowers, but to stretch all my loosened limbs toward the sun. I do not make a very good culti-vator of house plants. I am too much interested in what we can do sitting in the middle of civili-zation if it leaves us alone. The results do not seem to be very dainty, but we are rather unkempt and comfortable together. The appearance is, at least, not so contrived as it has been. There is a look of freedom in my house, in the plants in my window. And it doesn't look frightening at all; there is a look of freedom coming slowly into my eyes. I am changing. I think I am going to be very beautiful soon.

For Nan ---  
Energy is what radiates from a sleeping woman when she rests wrapped in your arms and legs and you know she's staying for break-fast.

## "Poetry to Cook By"

A kitchen is a woman's temple-  
respect it. Her kitchen, where she offers the food of life to those she loves; her kitchen to prepare and to make sacrifices to the in-evitability of hunger, to the in-evitability of demands. Her kitchen to harbor herself and her sisters, her kitchen to offer as sanctuary to her friends, her kitchen to escape to, to rule in, to channel all her creative energies into food-life-beauty in. In it, she remembers somewhere in the back of her head, the spells and recipes, the chants and songs, the smells and feelings of her great-great-grandmother's kitchens. The senses and the magic inherited by daught-ers only, passed on in kitchens before and after Thanksgiving din-ners. Tradition and heirloom spoons clutter our spice cabinets, stuff our cookbooks, rattle their bones in our brains. We give life, we bake bread, we invent music and fire and cause the lightening to flash.

"I am a woman of ever growing strength, wisdom, and grace." The traditions are not dead but grow-ing. "A womans' place is in the home." "A mans' home is his castle." A womans home is a place of gather-ing and celebration, a temple of worship - the worship of life. Coffee at 10 at my house. We will share the hour together. Marge had a baby girl. Sandra's over the flu. Do you take milk? Welcome to my kitchen. You will find sanctuary here. It is holy. It is your home who share the mysteries. It is my temple. Respect it.

## "On Monogamy"

If I were to meet someone at a bar,  
Go home with her/(him), make love,  
leave, and come home to you,  
Have I been unfaithful?  
If I were to meet someone at a bar  
Talk to her/(him), expose my soul,  
talk, understand, empathize,  
leave, and come home to you,  
Have I been unfaithful?  
If I were to meet someone at a bar,  
Love her/(him), tell you, leave and  
not return,  
Have I been unfaithful?  
To you? To me? To love?

Each woman must draw her own line,  
Define her own terms,  
Live her own definition.  
Let us only be consistent.  
The games are changed, there are no  
rules, no laws.  
Murder is not illegal when there are  
no laws.  
Let us, please, not kill each other.  
If our monogamy is sexual we must be  
Sexually faithful  
Or leave.  
If our monogamy is spiritual we must  
be  
Spiritually celibate except with each  
other  
Or leave.  
If we do not intend to make imitation  
marriages  
We must not pretend to make promises.  
We must not lie to each other now  
Or the Women's Liberation Movement  
will be no stronger  
Than the institution of marriage.

Well I wasn't born a homosexual and  
I didn't necessarily grow up to be  
one. I was raised under the assump-  
tion, oddly enough, that I was  
straight. Society decided to cate-  
gorize my normal, healthy feelings,  
and so society calls me Lesbian.

(Continued next page)



LETTER:

Sirs:

Read with total dismay the recent article by one of your staff reference Roland's in Portland. It would seem to me someone was holding a grudge. Did anyone ask to circulate through the crowd and promote the Maine Gay Task Force? As near as I can find out NO. Did anyone ask to distribute the newsletter in Roland's? As near as I can find out, NO. If you go into any straight business to put up a poster they always expect to read them before the owner will accept them. This is only considered courtesy.

I for one would not be very pleased if I was in a bar, or any other place, for a quiet evening and was pressured by someone to join an organization. I would not join then if I had wanted to. After talking with several at Roland's, they were put in this position. They were approached by a representative of Maine Gay Task Force, who was very overbearing. He made a general pest and nuisance of himself, then, when asked to cooperate with the management, he became very hostile and wrote an entirely inaccurate article. I think the Maine Gay Task Force owes Roland's, Roland, the staff and all of us who go there a public apology via your newsletter. And, in the future, conduct yourselves like professionals, not the riot squad of MGTFF. You will get more support for your efforts.

It is my feeling that one can be depressed regardless of his surroundings. I have been very depressed when in company of a large group in a well lighted so-called "high class" joint. This depends on the state of mind of the individuals. And I have yet to be in a brightly lit bar, gay or straight!

I find the staff at Roland's friendly and very nice. They make you feel at home. There are some who go there that feel very withdrawn. That is not the fault of Roland's or the lighting or the mirrors on the wall. That is just them. I don't know what nut would purposely "feel" of the mirrors. Maybe he gets his "kicks" that way. This type of wall decoration is not unique or new.

As I say, it looks like someone is holding a grudge.

I will hold my membership fee for a while. I don't want to be classified with the "Storm Trooper" tactics and attitudes as displayed recently in Roland's. Wise up. If you expect us to support you, show some consideration for others.

George Sprague  
Liberty, Maine

RESPONSE:

G. Sprague:

Since publishing the article "Fear and Loathing at Roland's Tavern, or How We Learn to Beat Ourselves and Join the System," I have received many criticisms, most favoring the general theme conveyed by your letter. Positive criticism, however, was offered such as my failure to mention the sexist atmosphere in Roland's. I also failed to propose any positive suggestions for change at Roland's, such as decor, atmosphere, lighting and cleaner restrooms.

Your criticism against my article consists of trifling, non-essential examples which completely ignore the supporting theme of the article: how we oppress ourselves by subverting our lifestyles and beliefs to the expectations and demands of society. In my opinion, Roland's encourages this type of self-oppression through many ways, some more subtle than others. Many rebuttals were based on my statements taken out of context, incorrect and unfounded assumptions, and even a little name-calling.

I feel that I do not have to defend the theme of "Fear and Loathing at Roland's Tavern..." from your rebuttal because none of your arguments actually challenge it. The only statement in the article that could be challenged was the incorrect mention of the absence of emergency exits. Not only did you fail to mention this, but the statement in itself is only a picayune matter which, when read as part of the whole was meant to either create the atmosphere of Roland's as I perceive it, or to support the basic theorem of the article.

Most importantly, I wish to emphasize that "Fear and Loathing at Roland's Tavern..." is an expression of my opinions and personal feelings, and does not represent the viewpoint of MGTFF as a whole. Therefore, in reply to your last statement, and to your letter as a whole, the MGTFF exists out of consideration for the well-being of all Gay people and other oppressed minorities.

T.L.B.

\* \* \*

MANIFESTO - Con't

It's their word, their decision. If that's what they want to call me, they'd better be prepared to get the word thrown back at them, flaunted in their faces, exposed, on our streets (I pay taxes--they're my streets too). They made the label but they didn't want to see it used. I am a vocal person, world, get used to hearing me and all the things you arbitrarily decided I am.

Lesbian.



[Jan 1975]

## TOWARD A GAY COUNSELLING SERVICE

For a long time now, Gay people with problems of one kind or another have had to resort in desperation to the various sources of "aid," emotional or otherwise, offered by straight society. Yet most of us have found such counselling for Gay people to be tragically wanting.

More often than not, psychologists, social workers, psychiatrists, the clergy, etc., all blinded by the specious premise that homosexuality is somehow sick, evil, or both, have tended to isolate the client's Gayness as the ultimate issue, whether or not the client has felt this to be the source of his or her problems.

Motivated by this delightful hypothesis, the counsellor thereupon proceeds to administer the appropriate therapy. The cause being homosexuality, the solution must be to obliterate said homosexuality in the client (read - victim).

Sounds plausible, doesn't it? Well, life being what it is, Gay people have learned through sad experiences that the remedy can be worse than the disease, especially when the disease is no disease at all, but rather an integral part of one's human essence. The results of this benign succor all too often have included suicide, lobotomy, incarceration in mental asylums, total sexual impairment or simply a worse state of mind than before.

Gay people have finally decided that we have had it up to our lobotomized skulls and the time has come to help ourselves with our own problems. We in the MGTF feel that this approach is long overdue in Maine. Therefore we are in the process of establishing a Gay Counselling Service which we hope will go far toward relieving some of the assorted ills that this society has seen fit to lay on our Gay Heads.

Our goals are manifold. Of course our primary aim is to serve as an alternative source of counselling, where Gay people can come to talk with other Gays who will necessarily have greater insight into the Gay Experience than the typical "straight" counsellor can offer.

Gay counsellors are not encumbered by various colorful but unreal notions about "curing" what is natural in all human beings.

For those who are uncertain of their sexual orientation no attempts will be made to "indoctrinate" them into the Gay Community, unlike the straight world, which has so often tried to fit Gay people into an unacceptable mold. We feel that it is entirely up to the individuals to choose their own personal lifestyles while the most we can offer is to perhaps clear away some of society's gratuitous bullshit and help put things into some kind of perspective.

For homosexuals unable to cope with their oppression, we want to demonstrate that a fulfilling Gay life is possible to create. Furthermore, it is important that we open lines of communication with established agencies for the purposes of educating them about homosexuality and using their resources for people with problems which we are not equipped to handle.

On Dec. 7, '74 Lambda of Brunswick sponsored a counselling workshop in Yarmouth for the benefit of MGTF. Arranged by Stan Fortuna, this first effort in the training of para-professional, Gay counsellors was attended by 13 people from all over the state. The group was skillfully guided through its awareness and sensitivity sessions by 2 dynamic Lesbians originally from Maine. They employed a variety of techniques designed to put us more in touch with ourselves and others. We participated in mock interviews & were familiarized with the therapeutic process involving problem sensing, identification and solving. The 8-hour workshop proved a very heavy and a highly rewarding experience. We all expressed a deep satisfaction in what we learned, especially in terms of our personal awareness and growth.

We realize that this workshop, remarkable though it was, is only the first step toward establishing a functioning Gay counselling service in Maine. Much more groundwork must be laid before we can hope to offer the kind of effective, alternative counselling that we need.

We hope soon to have several Gay community centers, including one near realization in Brunswick, out of which counsellors will operate. Until that time a list of available counsellors throughout the state may be acquired by writing MGTF, Box 4542, Portland, Maine.

Stephen Leo

ps. We can't promise to change the world, but we're gonna try REAL HARD!



DEANNA FRANCIS

She's a Passamaquoddy from Pleasant Point, Maine. When she was a child, a man named Muskie came to the Reservation seeking support for the office of Governor. "Why aren't you in school little girl?" he asked. Deanna showed him her feet which were bare, and he patted her on the head, promising to buy her some shoes. Many months later when she was nearly seven years old she started school in a pair of sneakers her cousin had outgrown.

Eight years later he returned, of Maine today, she reminded them, if wanting to be a national Senator. her people had not remained loyal to This time when he asked her what he the American Patriots.

could do for her, she told him she She described the poverty and wanted her people to have a voting madness and suffering on her 100-acre Reservation and demanded to know representative in the State Legisla- what good had come to her tribe for ture. His assurances were glib and many. It's now 1975; the Native Amer- their misplaced loyalty. Their lands, Representative is permitted to sit on their culture, their very lives were the floor with the other Reps only af- being forfeited to white greed. By then her hatred of every stunned white face staring at her surfaced and she left the chamber in disgust.

Deanna's Uncle George was this Someone started to applaud and special representative for years and then they all rose to their feet in she would travel with him and listen one of the longest and loudest trib- and watch, her anger growing. Once utes ever paid to any speaker in that when the legislature was considering House of Representatives. She was cutting the budget at the Passama- 16 years old and Gay.

quoddy's expense, several concerned In early December, Deanna and members of the tribe attended the ses- her cousin Jeanne Francis brought 500 sion, but when the speaker asked if wreaths down from the Passamaquoddy there were any comments no one spoke Reservation and asked for help in sel- until Deanna rose from her seat and ling them. Miriam Dyak, Karyn Frank, asked to address the House. There Karen Bye, Anne Garland, a whole were a few snickers, and everyone set- troop of young people (I think they tled back expecting a good time.

It was customary to speak from the were all female, too!) and Sandra Swain worked for several days in floor but Deanna surprised everyone by front of churches and door-to-door. walking forward to the Speaker's po- They sold most of them and suc- dium and taking over the mike. She ceeded in raising some conscious- began by talking about her uncle who ness as well as money. Miriam and was beaten to death by five white Karyn Frank sold trees from their hunters, all of whom were acquitted land and donated the proceeds to the because the Court refused to accept fund, which helped to swell the total her eye-witness testimony.

She talked about her people's amount, some of which went to cover history. She quoted the letter from expenses. The rest is being used to General George Washington in which he purchase supplies to be smuggled in points out that without the vital to the Mohawks at Eagle Bay in N.Y. support of the Abnaki Nation, the pro- State who are presently under siege vince of Maine would have been lost from the combined forces of the N.Y. to the British during the Revolution- state, county and local police and ary War. There would not be a State the National Guard.

We wish our sisters and brothers at Eagle Bay strength and courage and Deanna success in getting through to them with the needed supplies.

Sandra Swain

\*\*\*\*\*

You're in the quiet past of my mind  
Away from the noisy confusion  
of my brain  
It clicks away constantly taking in  
questions  
Searching for & sometimes finding  
answers  
Like a computer programmed for  
survival  
And when I rest or am alone  
You are there  
In the quiet past of my mind.

Tim W.

This is for you my love though

I don't know you

I'm sure someday I will.

When I do, you'll have given back

A part of me I lost long ago.

You'll replace my bitterness

with your love.

We'll accept each other for

what we are

Expecting no more

no less

We will live in one another

and still

Allow ourselves our individuality

and freedom

We will be each others best friend

and lover.

Tim W.



THE PENOBSCOT COUNTY CURMUDGEON

by S.W. Henderson

A Few Thoughts on Drag and Drag Contests

The question of whether drag contests are oppressive has recently arisen in MGTFF, and yours truly thought that an article on the subject might be appropriate. Discussion of this, as of all articles to appear in this column, is welcome. Please send responses to MGTFFN.

The general consensus among my acquaintanceship is that dressing in drag is a healthy form of expression for those who enjoy it. Yours truly is addicted to pants and shirts (it is such a delight to have garments with pockets!). As for male drag, I feel a little freer every time I see a man with long hair, painted fingernails, a flowered caftan, or any of the other ornamental things we used to label "feminine". Decoration for the pleasure of it is one of the joys of life. Prescribed dress is an oppression, petty perhaps, but an infringement on one's personhood, nevertheless.

Drag contests, where people are judged and prizes given for adherence to someone's standards of "beauty", are a different matter. I for one have very mixed feelings about them. In the first place, the idea of setting up a single standard of beauty and judging people by it strikes me as not only undesirable, but unrealistic. There are many kinds of beauty, and everyone has one's own definition. Different people may seem beautiful to one for very different reasons. There is no such thing as a single standard of beauty.

If one is judging drag queens by their supposed resemblance to women, one gets into a particularly nasty can of worms. What, after all, is feminine? I think we Gay women are agreed that there is no such thing as a standard of femininity; femininity is what one

makes of it. Furthermore, the drag-contest image of the feminine is generally rather abhorrent to most of us: a vain, frivolous person who gushes in an artificial voice, spends a fortune on clothes and cosmetics when there are people starving in the world, and is a malicious gossip and a bad loser (runners-up in beauty contests are notorious, are they not?). Is this how drag contestants really see us? Is this the image of women we Gays want to promote?

To my mind, a beauty contest of any sort teaches false values. Many women have gone through a lot of psychic pain because their looks did not match the ideal of beauty set up by such contests as the Miss America Pageant. We sisters would be sorry to see our brothers take on this unnecessary agonizing. Furthermore, such a contest encourages competition, and competition over a trivial matter, insignificant in the total scheme of things, i.e. physical appearance. It seems to this author that the Gay community needs co-operation, not competition. Beauty contests often lead to hard feelings and are not the best generators of brother- and sisterhood. Isn't dressing up a lot more fun when you can feel good about how you look and enjoy what other people are wearing, instead of worrying that the others may outshine you?

\* \* \* \* \*

The Wilde-Stein Club is in the process of organizing a regular Gay radio show for the UMO campus station, WMEB-FM. The offer was made by Jim Cyr, soon-to-be program director, who had discovered at a media conference that very few campuses do not broadcast a women's show, and that many have Gay programs. Cyr wants to correct the situation at UMO, which has neither. Details are to be worked out, but to succeed in this project, we need your help. Any ideas/advice will be considered/used/appreciated. Also - perhaps prematurely - the co-ordinator is running a contest in search of a name for the show. The only stipulation is that the title must include the word "Gay". Winner will be awarded an all-expenses-paid tour of beautiful downtown Bangor (fare to/from Bangor not included). So send whatever you have to: Wilde-Stein Club - Radio, c/o Memorial Union, Orono, Me., 04473.



## IDEAS ANYONE?

Don't forget -- the depression is here/the hour, our hour, is near. aspirations and bullshit, popular jestures to the crowd, and damn quick.

We want to teach other people what we are doing with the newsletter -- how to put one out or on, as the case may be. We welcome nosey people on working days. Call Richard: 846-4451.

Yours truly,  
Louis Jalbert  
Lewiston 04240

(Thanks, Louis! By a happy coincidence we received your letter on the same day as the following Reader Survey - editor.)

If there is any information to be passed on in some way other than in the newsletter, we would be glad to send out by word-of-mouth anything that interests us from consciousness-raising messages to telling everybody 'I love you.' We do.

Hey! Give us any books you've already read and don't really need except to fill up your book case. People can't buy them sometimes, and we have been supplying as many as we can but times are getting brittle, fewer jobs, more madness and fear among us, "a crying in the sky at night for god's eternal sun." Give us your books, a call or something.

"The Little Community," I call us, running in the wilderness of loving and sharing. It's working out, I think, among our people in experiment with each other as total human creatures with separate, even unique gifts to share with each of us. So, good luck and just remember what the only thing in English my neighbor in New Mexico, Senora Montoya, would say -- "It's hard, si, it's hard."

There is an old saying -- that however you bring in the New Year, that is how you will spend much of that year. I danced -- with Sandy & Charlene & Stephen & Peter & JF & Steve & Sipsis & Pat & Kathy & Myself & many Already-forgotten names. It was Gay.

Tolerance is not to be tolerated, for in later stages of development, it becomes mentally cancerous. But if brick could burn, what then of our lives.

Community is Coming.

Is anybody reading this thing that gets sent out every month? Any reactions? Why doesn't somebody write to us? We'd really like to make a letters column!

Dear Editor,  
Re: "Is anybody reading this thing that gets sent out...", I have an answer to your question: probably 'Yes.' I know for a fact that your newsletter, like mine, is received in the Lewiston area. If they didn't like it they wouldn't receive it. But don't just take my good advice; go out and ask your lobbyists how they feel about your newsletter. If you want to be around as long as I have been -- over 20 years in the state legislature -- you better learn to tell the difference between corporate

SELECTED SUBSCRIBER COMMENT ON MAINE GAY TASK FORCE NEWSLETTER - a survey of reader attitudes:

Dr. Moe Larr, DDS (noted as the one dentist in five in the Trident survey who recommends gum with sugar for his patients who chew gum): "The MGTF Newsletter is the most read publication on my waiting-room table. I don't know about their minds, but it sure opens their mouths. Biting wit, incisive comment."

William Loeb (humorist-publisher): "Yet another documented case for selective disfranchisement of permissive literacy."

Baroness von Shock Absorber (well-known patroness of the bedroom arts): "Except for its obvious lack of class, I find nothing at all of any harm, relevance or interest in the rag."

Amy Vanderbilt (mild-mannered dead person): "Distasteful."

Gerald Ford (gov't employee): "Fourth down and long verbiage have always been a surmountable obstacle for the Federal bureaucracy. The presence of the Newsletter in the District is a fresh breeze through the smoke-filled corridors of our consciousness."

Rex Reed (elitist New York critic): "I honestly didn't know what to expect when I purchased my first copy last October in Wells. Not great, but it sure beats the tacky crap put out by Vidal."

Martha Mitchell (political groupie): "In short, it sucks."

Julie Nixon Eisenhower (professional daughter): "May I reprint 'Fear and Loathing in Roland's Tavern' in the Saturday Evening Post? Everything's fine with the family -- Daddy's clots are getting worse, though..."

David Eisenhower (the schmuck that Julie married): "Gee, I guess it's alright, but it has so many big words that I can't really tell."

Alexandr Solzhenitsyn (literary spokesperson of oppressed people worldwide; ex-con): "I refuse comment at this time in the same spirit when I refuse comment when approached by people in the street to inquire if I am really Rex Harrison or Abe Lincoln."

Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. (self-admitted liar): "It's all a lie."



MILITARY PICKING

MORE BITS 0 0 0 0

(announcements, letters, classifieds)

The AGTF is seeking information on any instances of discrimination be-  
cause of sexual preference. This  
information may be documented, as-  
serted, sworn, claimed, annotated,  
or whatever. All letters are being  
kept in strict confidence, whether  
or not you sign your name. The ad-  
dress is:

NCTF Legal Rights  
Box 4542  
Portland, 04112

Also, the Human Rights Commission receives confidential information at the following Augusta number:

289-2326

A log is being kept to compile complaints.

Independent country-loving woman  
needed for light farm work; own  
room and board. Write AGTF (Jobs)  
Box 4542, Portland 04112.

Fabric scraps wanted for a puff quilt to be made for NGTF 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, University of Maine, Orono 04473.

SUBSCRIBE  
TO: GCM - Gay Community News  
(a weekly forum for New England)  
22 Bromfield St.  
Boston, 02108

10 wks	- 2.50
25 wks	- 5.00
52 wks	-10.00

All copies sent in plain, sealed envelopes. \*\*\*\* The staff of the Gay Community News greatly appreciates the support - both moral and financial - shown by Gay people throughout New England during the recent money crisis at GCM. Their appeal for help is being heard and 1975 will be the Gayest and Best year yet!

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.

LAMEDA holds business meetings and raps every Wednesday evening at 7:30 at the Unitarian-Universalist Church on Pleasant St. in Brunswick. Come and relate.

FOR SALE

1971 Ski-Daddler 399cc Hirth, used only 10 hours. \$375. Also, a child-hood stamp collection, mostly US but some UN and foreign. I spent about \$200 on it from 1952-55, and will take the best offer. I would consider an old convertible car in trade, or a sports car. Write to: Norman White, Sumner, Maine or call 388-2154.

THE MAINE GAY TASK FORCE NEWSLETTER  
IS YOUR EXPRESSION

We need you, yes, YOU - the person reading this newsletter. We want your insights and revelations, your happenings and criticisms. Share your thoughts with us...

SUBSCRIBE  
To: The MGTF Newsletter  
Box 4542  
Portland, Maine 0411

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ST. & TOWN \_\_\_\_\_  
STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

— One Year - 12 copies - 3.00  
— Donation/contribution \_\_\_\_\_  
(we need these)

All copies sent in plain, sealed envelope.

Gay Support & Action (GSA) sponsors a dance every Saturday night, beginning at 8pm at the Gay Community Center/Tenants Union, 23 Franklin St., Bangor. BYOB; coffee available.

TV SHOW

The COSMIC FORECASTER - with Wendy Ashley. 9:30am, channel 5, cable. 15 minutes. Also, starting Jan. 15 Wendy will begin an 8 week class in astrology, at the Bo Tree Center in Brunswick. Each Wednesday at 7:30pm; \$20 for eight classes. Not for beginners.

BITS are free. They must be in to us by the 21st of each month.

MAYBE IT WAS THE FULL MOON  
s. Or the spirit of Christmas, the  
Newyear close upon us? In any  
case the dance of the 28th at the  
Unitarian Church in Brunswick  
created a light and furry end to  
the 74 season of dances sponsor-  
ed by Lambda & the Gay Women's  
Group. Another one is happening  
Jan. 25th. Same fun. Please come.



## NIT PICKING

It worries me a little that sometimes I still fail to understand how necessary to Gay Liberation is our commitment to the liberation of all peoples. The elimination of sexism which is central to our struggle will be even harder to achieve if we fail to confront it everywhere it surfaces.

So the Anti-Racism March in Boston attracts our energy, and the Native Americans under siege at Eagle Bay in N.Y. receive our support, both spiritual and physical. The farm-workers, the ex-cons, the run-aways, the crazies, the alcoholics---they all connect up under the green and red and lavender banners, along with many others, wishing simply to be free.

But it's hard for me to avoid the daily contradictions everywhere around me, and in me. I was surprised to learn from the latest issue of Gay Community News, for example, that the Lavender Rhino is male and further dismayed to read that same publication's Classified section where almost every other ad smacks of racism. I guess it embarrasses me that my sisters and brothers (GWF stands for Gay White Female and GWM for Gay White Male) are so thoroughly entrenched in their racism that they are not ashamed to advertise it. I confess my bewilderment, however, in the willingness of GCN to condone and perpetuate such attitudes by printing ads which, for me anyway, stood in direct contradiction to the lead article on the Anti-Racism March we all supported so liberally.

Some how it seems there must be more frequent, careful self-monitoring of our personal ideals and principles to insure their protection from inchoate or residual bigotry. It's so easy sometimes to discover its ominous presence in others, assuming my own purity of revolutionary thought and process.

Of course many people argue that such ideological regimen is in poor taste, considering the not-to-be-discussed existence of imminent disaster in the form of famine, nuclear holocaust, plague, pollution--name your own poison--all of which will go away in time if we simply have patience and stop nagging. It's the guilt I'm made to feel when I point out even the simpler truths, like, that cat has worms, which worries me.

Doesn't anyone besides RJ find it appalling that Amerika chose "Don't Rock the Boat" by the Hughes Corporation as its number one hit of the year?

Sandra Swain

## MORE BITS

The Quilting Party will be held on February 1st at the home of Susan W. Henderson. Contact her c/o the Wilde-Stein Club for details (her address may change). Time: 9am - ? Please bring sewing shears if you have them, and any thread you are willing to contribute. Fabrics should be sent before the party or pre-shrunk before you bring them. Come have a good time and help the Cause.

A craft fair, food sale, and art show are being planned as part of the Symposium 11. Artists and craftspeople may sell their wares, 30% of the sales to go to meet Symposium expenses, 70% to go to the seller. If you can't be present, we will sell your works for you. Donations of items to be sold for benefit of the Symposium will be gratefully appreciated. Contact Tim Bouffard about art, Susan Henderson about crafts and food, c/o MGTF, Box 4542, Portland, Me. 04112

There is a Gay and Bi Women's rap group in the Bangor-Orono area. New members are always welcomed. For details, call (207) 581-2571. Sponsored by UMO Feminists and the Wilde-Stein Club.

"I try my best to be just like I am  
But everybody wants me to be just  
like them."

- bob dylan -

CONTEST: We need a fitting name for the new regular radio show being planned for the UMO campus station. Name should have the word "GAY" in it. Winner gets an all-expenses-paid tour of beautiful downtown Bangor (fare to/from Bangor not included). Get those entries in today to: Wilde-Stein Club, c/o Radio co-ordinator, Memorial Union, UMO, Orono, Me. 04473

Who needs ya? Norman Mailer on homosexuals: "I recently discovered that they are people too!"  
Tanksalot, Norm!

## 1975

Celebrating the incoming of the New Year was really beautiful. Stephen and I decided, at the last minute, to have a Gay New Year's Eve/Day Party. We had discovered that many of our friends were wondering what to do on New Year's Night. And so... Well, about 25-30 people arrived, (almost all at the same time)- lots of LAMBDA people - lots of people that I didn't know yet. It was a great party! I feel confident in saying that everyone had a great Gay Ole Time (right, JF?). We all hop that you had a good New Year also, and that the whole New Year brings you higher & HIGHER.

rj

ps. this whole page is a fucking contradiction!



MAINE GAY TASK FORCE MINUTES

January 5, 1975

3:30-4:45 p.m.

Chairperson: Steve Bull

Bangor

The next meeting will be February 9, 1975, at 1p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Brunswick on Pleasant St. Karen Bye will chair.

Finance Committee: Stan Fortuna reported that currently we have \$18.00 in the MGTF account. The newsletter account has \$21.00. The primary expenditure the past month was \$100.00 to the Wilde-Stein Club to pay back last year's Symposium security bill. \$11.48 was collected at the meeting.

Education Committee: Ann Garland reported that no one showed up at the last meeting. Ann offered her services as a research person for anyone who needs information pertaining to education. Richard Jude has volunteered as librarian for the Brunswick branch of the MGTF Library, while Nelson Ackley will handle the Bangor branch. Ann is also planning a poetry reading and play in conjunction with Gay Culture Month. A list was circulated for those who wished to participate in the production of a play and for those who have poetry to read. Also, Dale Talbot is preparing a list of gay films and filmstrips. A meeting for preparation of the play will take place Sunday 1:00 p.m. January 19- at 17 Lincoln St., Brunswick.

Susan Henderson reported on the quilt-making party to be held at her apartment-131 Second St., Bangor on Feb. 1. The party will commence at 9:00 a.m. and will continue until completion. Bring your fabrics (pre-shrunk) and fingers! All are welcome whether you sew or wish to learn.

Political Committee: Peter Prizer and Stephen Leo will contact Rep. Gerald Talbot about introducing Gay Rights Legislation in the next session of the Legislature. Peter believes that we should follow through with the expansion of the Human Rights Act as proposed by the Gay plank in the Democratic Party Platform. This seems to be the most simple and direct way of obtaining Gay Rights in Maine. Danny Estes of GSA suggested that Reps. Dick Davies and Jim Henderson be contacted since they would probably be supportive and possible co-sponsors of a bill. Peter expressed the hope that Symposium II would help line up support for Gay Rights Legislation. Jonathan Sayward reported on his conversation with an aide to Gov. Longley. The aide stated that Longley was supportive of equal rights for all individuals. Peter noted the support which would be forthcoming from non-

gay groups such as NOW and the MCLU. Peter hoped that we could organize an impressive list of people to participate in any public hearings held, pertaining to a Gay Rights Bill.

GSA Incorporation: Danny Estes reported that Gay Support and Action's application for incorporation was refused by an assistant in the Attorney General's office because of certain words written within the petition which were termed as unacceptable; such as "gay and alternative lifestyles." The lawyer, Paul Zendzian, for GSA responded to the refusal with a letter to the Assistant Attorney General. Zendzian refuted the charges and at the conclusion of the letter stated, "I will expect to receive the returned certificate (of incorporation) approved by return mail." It is to be noted that the National Gay Task Force provided GSA with resource materials which were included with the incorporation papers. MCLU has also offered support if the petition is not accepted.

Newsletter: It was decided that Steve Bull would put an ad in the Bangor Daily News for newsletter subscriptions.

LAMBDA: Richard Jude announced that the next dance in Brunswick would be on January 25 at the Unitarian Universalist Church on Pleasant St. As usual the dance will be sponsored by Lambda and the Brunswick Gay Women's Group.

Seby and Susan Henderson reported that a Gay and Bisexual Women's Rap Group had been formed in the Bangor area.

Symposium II: Steve Bull then initiated discussion concerning Symposium II. Several suggestions for speakers and organizations were entertained. A Symposium Committee was formed to handle the particulars of the conference. This committee is made up of: Stan Fortuna, Karen Bye, Seby, Doug Soucie, Robert, Susan Henderson, Danny Estes, Kerry Black, John Frank, Peter Prizer, Continued on Back Page...



# MGTF Minutes Continued...

Richard Jude, and Ann Garland. This committee will coordinate all Symposium II activities. A meeting was proposed for January 12 at 1:00 pm. at Ann Garland and Karen Bye's apartment at 17 Lincoln St. in Brunswick.

Steve Bull

## CALENDAR OF GAY EVENTS

Sunday January 5 3:00p.m.  
MGTF Meeting 23 Franklin St. Bangor

Wednesday January 8 7:30 p.m.  
Lambda Meeting U.U.Church Pleasant St. Brunswick Business and Rap

Thursday January 9 7:30 p.m.  
GSA Meeting 23 Franklin St. Bangor Business and Rap

Friday January 10 7:00 p.m.  
Wilde-Stein Club Meeting Memorial Union UMO Business and Rap Brunswick Gay Women's Group 7:00 17 Lincoln St. Bruns. Business and Rap

Saturday January 11 8:00 - 1:00  
GSA Dance 23 Franklin St. Bangor BYOB

Sunday January 12 1:00 p.m.  
Symposium II Meeting 17 Lincoln St. Brunswick

Wednesday January 15 7:30 p.m.  
Lambda Meeting

Thursday January 16 7:30 p.m.  
GSA Meeting

Friday January 17 7:00 p.m.  
Wilde-Stein Club Meeting Brunswick Gay Women's Group Meeting

Saturday January 18 8:00 - 1:00  
GSA Dance

Sunday January 19 1:00 p.m.  
Education Committee: Play Meeting for those interested in any aspect of Gay Play(s) production. 17 Lincoln St. Brunswick. Front door.

Wednesday January 22 7:30 p.m.  
Lambda Meeting

Thursday January 23 7:30 p.m.  
GSA Meeting

Friday January 24 7:00 p.m.  
Wilde-Stein Club Meeting

Brunswick Gay Women's Group Meeting

Saturday January 25 8:00 - 1:00  
Lambda Dance

GSA Dance

Wednesday January 29 7:30 p.m.  
Lambda Meeting

Thursday January 30 7:30 p.m.  
GSA Meeting

Friday January 31 7:00 p.m.  
Wilde-Stein Club Meeting Brunswick Gay Women's Group Meeting

Saturday February 1 8:00 - 1:00  
GSA Dance

Quilting Party from 9:00 a.m. until completion. Bring pre-shrunk fabrics, sewing shears, interest and enthusiasm to 131 Second Street, Bangor.

## \*\*\*GAY BOOKS\*\*\*

If you cannot, or would prefer not to, purchase Gay books at your local bookstore, here is an opportunity to order through the Maine Gay Task Force. The MGTF is the proud caretaker of a listing of Gay books for purchase. But keeping this list hidden away isn't benefiting anyone. So...this listing will be re-published in the next newsletter. Meanwhile, if anyone is interested, please write to the MGTF Book Service, Box 4542, Portland, 04112, for information. And, as always, books will be sent in a plain sealed wrapper.

This service is made available to you because we feel there is a need for it. Your response(s) will determine if/how long this service continues.