

Mainely Gay

Vol 4

June '77

No 6

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1419

H. P. 1160

House of Representatives, March 31, 1977
Referred to Committee on Human Resources. Sent up for concurrence and
1,800 ordered printed.

Presented by Mr. Talbot of Portland.
Cosponsor: Mr. Connolly of Portland.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SEVEN

AN ACT to Include the Term "Sexual or Affectional Preference" in the
Maine Human Rights Act.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA § 4552, as repealed and replaced by PL 1975, c. 770, § 28,
is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§ 4552. Policy

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 the causes of such practices,
so that corrective measures may, where possible, be promptly recommended
and implemented, and to prevent discrimination in employment, housing or
access to public accommodations on account of race, color, sex, sexual or
affectional preference, physical or mental handicap, religion, ancestry or
national origin and in employment, discrimination on account of age; and to
prevent discrimination in the extension of credit on account of age, race,
color, sex, sexual or affectional preference; marital status, religion, ancestry
or national origin.

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The official positions and policies of *MAINELY GAY* are contained only in its editorials. Opinions put forth in individual articles, cartoons, poems, advertising, letters and notices are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of *MAINELY GAY*.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE MAINE
GAY TASK FORCE. POSTAGE PAID AT
PORTLAND, MAINE.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION PRICE: \$5
FIRST-CLASS POSTAGE: \$10
SINGLE COPY PRICE: 50¢

MAIL ALL SUBSCRIPTIONS AND COR-
RESPONDENCE TO

MAINELY GAY
PO BOX 4542
PORTLAND, ME 04112

PHONE: (207) 773-5530

Ad rates: \$3 per column inch,
with 10% and 15% discount, re-
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be insulting to people or to
the environment. We reserve
the right to reject any ad.

Note To Readers

■ HOW TO SPEND YOUR SUMMER

VACATION: Somewhere in the July issue of *Mainely Gay* you'll find tucked away one copy each of the Lesbian and Gay Male Sexuality Surveys developed by Karla Jay and Allen Young. You're getting one of each to avoid embarrassment of possible mistakes in gender.

(With the abundance of androgynous names on the mailing list, you can understand why we opted for the easy way out.) We suggest you give the extra survey to a friend.

The questionnaire is admittedly long, but once the info is compiled, we're confident that it will reveal much about ourselves. The results will be published next year by Summit.

*** *** ***

■ IN THIS ISSUE YOU'LL

FIND a copy of the final House roll call on L.D. 1419, the Gay Rights bill. Be aware that a "NO" vote

is a vote to support; a YES is a vote to kill it. The legislation got a lot of hate mail, so it would be a nice gesture to balance it with letters thanking them for their support...if they did, of course. The Senate vote is listed in the article on the bill.

*** *** ***

■ CURMUDGEON'S CALL FOR COOKBOOK COMPILATION: The Curmudgeon, aka Susan Henderson, has received recipes for everything from "Merrie's Munchies" to "Date Balls" and she wishes to make a final request for readers' recipes, to be published this summer in the MGTF Cookbook.

If you want to share a recipe, send it to Cookbook, Box 4542, Portland 04112. Please indicate whether or not we should use your name! Publication date will be announced soon.

*** *** ***

EDITORIAL

WHILE THE RECENT DEFEAT of the Gay Rights legislation was not altogether unexpected, an analysis of the voting pattern reveals some significant information which may be helpful in the future.

SUPPORT FOR the measure did not depend so much on the political ideology of the legislators as it did on their sex. Women in the legislature overwhelmingly voted for the Gay Rights bill (78-22%). Men, on the other hand, were strongly opposed to the bill (29-71%).

WHILE WOMEN CONSTITUTE 51.4% of Maine's total population, they hold less than 19% of the seats in the state legislature. If women were represented in the legislature according to their presence in Maine, the Gay Rights bill would have passed the House of Representatives by a narrow 79-71 margin.

ON THE BASIS of political parties, Democrats came across narrowly in support (54-46%) but only, we must note, because of the strong support of the Democratic women. Republicans overwhelmingly voted against the bill (16-84%).

WHILE WE APPRECIATE the men who voted for the bill, we can only conclude that we will be better off in the future by electing more women to serve in the state legislature. The defeat of the Gay Rights bill this year is as much a result of the discrimination against women in our society as it is a reflection of the prejudice that exists against Gay people. Prejudice begets prejudice. Only by opposing all forms of discrimination can we realize our rights as Gay people.



FEEDBACK

Dear MG,

Thanks very much for sending copies of your publication to us. We are a small, new group who needs information about life outside the desolate, isolated plains they call the Midwest. Mainely Gay is great.

Gary Gardenhire
Student Homophile Assn
Wichita State Univ.
Wichita, KS 67208

*** *** ***

Dear MG,

Greetings. I hope this letter will be printed so that they, the Gays, will see and read, and give us a helping hand.

As we all know, Arkansas passed a bill that makes all Gays once again criminals, and we do not want this to happen!

Arkansas is going backwards, not forward ... but a few Gays cannot do it, as it takes

many. We really cannot blame the Governor of Arkansas for signing the bill into law, as he had no Gay support. I do not think he would have signed it if there was backing behind it from Gays.

This is the reason for this letter, to print this address and hope that Gays everywhere will drop a letter and state why this bill should not be law. Thank you, and please send your letters in so that we can make the state of Arkansas a state where a Gay can have freedom of movement.

Governor Pryor
Capitol Building
Little Rock, AR 77021

"Project Concerned"
Fort Smith Chapter

*** *** ***

Dear MG,

In renewing my subscription to MG, I have the Good

feeling that my check not only buys me one of the finest Gay publications in the country but it also is a sound investment into our past, present and future here in Maine, in America, in the World. We've been a long time coming (out!) and there's a long way to go. The voyage so far has been very interesting, thanks to efforts like *Mainely Gay*.

In Gay love,
Richard Thibeault
Brunswick

*** *** ***

Dear Sisters,

We are two feminist women, Andra and Marilyn, who have "had it" with the patriarchal system and are seeking alternatives. We would like to travel across the country for one year and will be traveling on our motorcycles.

We are interested in experiencing women's living and business collectives, rural and urban. We would like to share our lives and other women's experiences with you. Hopefully we will make some kind of contribution to the women's revolution and want to

brainstorm ideas with you.

If you are involved in a living or business collective or know of any that would welcome us, please let us hear from you. We would like to hear from you regardless.

Traveling with extremely limited funds, we would appreciate any opportunity to work for our stay, meals, overnight-crashing, gas, bucks, references, or what have you. We need your help in order to do this.

Any information on tips about your weather conditions would be very helpful since we would like to avoid extreme cold, monsoons, etc. We'd like to leave mid-August. Please let us know if we are welcome.

We'd like to hear any feedback you can give us, except that we are crazy. (We've already been informed of that.)

In sisterhood,
Andra Dale
Marilyn Applegate
7232 Penn Way
Stanton, CA 90680.

Dear Readers of *Mainely Gay*,

On April 15, 1977, I was in the yard exercising and sunning, when I was approached by 12 officers who, in front of 500 inmates, forceably carried me to the 'hole.' The reasons were that I was wearing no shirt and that the IDC (prison court) wanted me. They hauled me and did not let me walk. On arrival to the 'hole,' I was beaten and kicked by a guard which did serious injury to my back and internally. This act was witnessed by an officer. The officials refused to give me medical treatment and have denied me any calls or probably even sending any mail out, as they won't let me receive any.

Previously, on March 8, 1977, I had been assaulted by two guards for asking about mail being held and legal mail being opened and read.

The reasons for these assaults are obvious in that I am a plaintiff for Lambda Legal Defense Inc. of New York City in a class action for federal prisoners pursuant to the federal prisons' ban on

Gay publications. Also I have six writs filed in US District Court in Lexington, and the court has ordered that officials answer within 20 days. Plus several other legal matters in Seattle, and a petition for clemency filed in Washington, DC. For the past two weeks I have protested any work due to the denial of dental and medical treatment.

The conspiracy by officials is a dangerous situation and I can only avoid more beatings and possibly death by your sending as many telegrams and letters as possible to Warden W.H. Rauch, Box 2000, F.C.I., Lexington, KY and to Judge Bernard I. Manahayan Jr., Eastern District of Kentucky, U.S. District Court, Lexington, KY 40501.

At present, I am in the 'hole,' suffering from the injuries, and all visitors are denied. But with your support, I'll continue the struggle and get stronger.

In struggle with you,
John Gibbs 86976-132
Box 2000, F.C.I.
Lexington, KY 40511

GAY RIGHTS BILL FAILS IN MAINE LEGISLATURE

By Staff

AUGUSTA--On June 1, the Maine House of Representatives voted 88-54 to kill legislation that would have expanded the state's Human Rights Act to prohibit discrimination against Gay people. The State Senate voted the next day to go along with the House, defeating the measure by a 21-10 vote.

Sponsored by Rep. Gerald Talbot (D-Portland) and co-sponsored by Rep. Laurence Connolly, Jr. (D-Portland) L.D. 1419 would have banned discrimination in the areas of employment, housing, credit and public accommodations.

The debate in the House was strongly in favor of the bill, with 12 legislators speaking in favor and three opposed. One lawmaker, Roland Gauthier (D-Sanford) offered debate that was difficult to classify, centering on the discrimination faced years ago by Franco-Americans in the Sanford area. He voted against the measure. Not unexpectedly, the statewide press reports emphasized debate by the two strongest opponents of the bill, Republican Rep. Stanley ("Tuffy") Laffin and Democrat Robert Carrier, both of Westbrook. Laffin argued "We should try to convert those in society that do not live like we do, rather than change the law. Sexual perverts want the law changed for their own benefit, and this is an insult to the people of this House." But Carrier's remarks made Laffin's appear mild. According to his testimony, Gay people were the "lowest forms of sickness," and that they "have chosen to lead lives of disgusting, animalistic behavior." He added "I don't want no (sic) queers or lesbians teaching my kids in school." House Speaker John Martin (D-Eagle Lake) had warned opponents prior to debate that insulting language by lawmakers would not be tolerated. Rep. Laffin hotly defended his "right, as an elected representative

of the people" to use slang words during debate. After his confrontation with Speaker Martin, he apparently rewrote his speech.

A dozen legislators supported the measure in debate that lasted just over one hour. Rep. Larry Connolly gave a strong speech, stressing that the issue is civil rights, not anyone's moral values concerning homosexuality. Rep. Nancy Masterton (R-Cape Elizabeth) traced the history of the struggle for civil rights in the nation and said that she was "proud" to support the legislation. She said that there is discrimination against Gay people in housing and employment. "I know it. You know it." Rep. Tim Moody (R-Richmond) spoke in favor of passage, centering his remarks around an excerpt from a Kennebec Journal editorial that had attacked Anita Bryant for opposing the civil rights of Gay people. Rep. Donald Hall (D-Dover-Foxcroft) testified in support of L.D. 1419, noting that as an employer he had hired "all kinds of people" and it didn't matter to him if the employees were Gay or not, "as long as they could fill a bushel basket with corn." Rep. Merle Nelson (D-Portland) and Rep. Sharon Benoit (R-South Portland) supported the bill in floor debate. Rep. Frank Wood (D-Sanford) related his personal experience of job discrimination because his employer "thought I was Gay." Rep. Barry Valentine (D-York Village) spoke of a Gay friend who is "forced to remain in the closet" because of his friend's fear of losing his job. Finally, Rep. Talbot gave an emotional, heart-felt plea for the House to pass the legislation. The measure failed by 17 votes.

The Public Hearing for L.D. 1419 had been held two weeks earlier, on Tuesday, May 17, when 150 supporters of the bill packed a hearing room in the State Office Building. Proponents before the Committee on Human Resources in favor of the bill included twenty Lesbians and Gay men from across the state, Katherine Triantafillou (a feminist Boston attorney specializing in Gay civil rights cases), representatives from the Maine Civil Liberties Union, the

Maine Chapter of the National Organization for Women, the Human Rights Commission, and Dr. Frank Kameny of Washington, D.C. (a well-known proponent of Gay civil rights.) Lois Reckitt, a coordinator of the Maine Coalition for Human Rights, presented petitions supporting the bill from virtually every community in the state. The crowded hearing room burst into loud applause when it was announced that there was no opposition to the bill. The hearing lasted about three hours, and was thought by virtually everyone associated with the bill to be a great success.

Three days later, the Committee on Human Resources met in a small "work session" to discuss the bill and to vote whether or not the bill "ought to pass." The vote of the Committee would later be reported to the full House and Senate. At the work session, Sen. Ralph Lovell of York County surprised others present by revoking his previous support of the bill. Stating his intention to vote "ought not to pass," he said that he was "too old" to vote for the measure. He also said that Gay people could avoid discrimination by staying in the closet or "telling white lies." Sen. Hitchens, like Lovell a Republican from York County, attended neither the Public Hearing nor the bill's work session. He was thought to vehemently oppose the bill, due to his fundamentalist religious views. At his convenience, he voted "ought not to pass." (Hitchen's "no" vote was generally conceded before the public hearing. "Hell," sneered Lovell later to a Gay man in a nearly deserted Senate chamber, "he [Sen. Hitchens] probably doesn't even have sex with his wife.") The third senator on the Committee, Thomas Mangan of Lewiston, in an apparent attempt to please both sides, irritated everyone by offering a watered-down, legally hazy amendment to the bill that never saw discussion. In the House, Representatives Talbot of Portland, Burns of North Anson, Cunningham of New Gloucester, Kany of Waterville, Davies of Orono and Green of Auburn voted "ought to pass" for the bill. Opposing the bill at the work session were Representatives Marshall of Millinocket, LaPlante of Sabattus, Hutchings

of Lincolnville and Peterson of Caribou. After the session, Rep. Hutchings, a strong opponent throughout the entire life of the bill, said that Gay people, whom she considered to be sick, would "flock" to the state if L.D. 1419 became law. Rep. David Marshall, a young, unmarried first-term Republican was especially hostile to the bill. At first, he opposed the measure because of what he said were prohibitions against homosexuality in the biblical book of Leviticus. However, a speaker at the Public Hearing pointed out that Leviticus also carried prohibitions against eating shellfish such as lobster. Later, Marshall said he opposed the bill because "homosexuality is chosen freely," and that the Human Rights Act should include "only those people who are discriminated against because of something they are born with, like sex or race." He did not advocate removing religion as a protected class in the act.

During the final debate in the House, a delegation of schoolchildren from Portland was escorted out of the House gallery, at Speaker of the House Martin's request. This action was considered by some legislators and a small contingent of Gay people in the gallery to be homophobic. Additionally, Martin turned off the lights in the House, in a move alleged by some to thwart TV coverage of the debate.

In the Senate, support for the already House-defeated bill came from Farley of Biddeford, Danton of Saco, Chapman of Woolwich, Cummings of Hampden, Curtis of Orono, Huber of Falmouth, Jackson of Harrison, Levine of Winslow and Morrell of Brunswick. President of the Senate Sewall of Old Town did not vote (as is usually customary in his position) and, to no one's surprise, Sen. Tom Mangan of Lewiston was absent. During the Senate debate, Sen. Lovell, who had promised legislators after his "ought not to pass" vote at the work session that he would, in any event, offer debate in support of the bill on the Senate floor ("I think that you will be surprised at my 'very pro' debate on the floor") said that if the bill passed, "Maine would be known as the 'Gay State' instead of Vacationland," and asserted that he

would move his family to Florida to escape Gay people. His "Gay State" comments were broadcast on the NBC radio network.

At least four Gay people worked as "corridor lobbyists" for the bill. They included Nan Stone, Peter Prizer, Richard Steinman and Stephen Leo.

Several days after the bill failed the legislature, a highly reliable source in the State House indicated that Gov. James Longley had intimated to members of the House that he would veto the bill "on moral grounds" if it passed. Whether or not the Governor's antic cost the bill votes can not be determined.

After defeat, the general consensus of supporters was that the bill would pass next time around. Rep. Connolly mentioned that the marijuana decriminalization did not pass on the initial effort and that this was true also of the ratification of the E.R.A. The experience of Rep. Donald Burns gave optimism to many of the bill's supporters. Rep. Burns approached the bill in a very skeptical mood and was not thought to be a final supporter. However, as the issues involved with discrimination towards Gay people gained more discussion in the State House, he found himself coming around to strongly favor the measure. "The more I know about this bill, the happier I am to support it," said the North Anson Democrat. During the final House debate, he remarked from his desk that he, himself, had prejudices against homosexuals. "As does 90% of the society (who is not homosexual)," he said. For this very reason, said Burns, "the bill is extremely necessary."

Note to Readers: Arlie Scott, representing the Office of Social Concern of the Unitarian-Universalist Church of Boston, spoke in behalf of L.D. 1419, the Gay Rights bill, at the public hearing. The Church paid her travel expenses and made a donation of \$50 to the cause. Arlie is National Action Vice President for N.O.W.

DADE COUNTY DEFEATED, ANITA DOES JIG...

OVERWHELMING DEFEAT IN DADE COUNTY

by Staff

MIAMI BEACH, FL -- Anita Bryant danced a jig, delighted with the repeal of a county homosexual rights law. Some 300 disappointed supporters of the measure sang "We shall overcome, someday." Dade County voted overwhelmingly Tuesday to reject the four-month-old law. The final, unofficial tally was 202,319 to 89,562, with voter participation setting a record for special elections here. Political observers expressed surprise at the high turnout -- 45% of the county's registered voters -- and at the lopsided vote.

The campaign had drawn national attention, and both sides said they would continue the battle elsewhere. "All America and the world will hear what the people have said," Ms. Bryant declared to cheers at a Miami Beach Holiday Inn. The law, outlawing discrimination based on sexual preference, was passed in January. But Ms. Bryant, a singer and the spokeswoman for the state's citrus industry, led a drive for 50,000 signatures, forcing the county commission to annul the law or put it up for a referendum. The commissioners refused to annul it.

The organization Ms. Bryant formed and led, Save Our Children, Inc., charged that the ordinance would allow homosexuals to recruit children and serve as role models.

Homosexuals and other supporters of the law gathered at the Fontainebleau Hotel for what they had hoped would be a victory party, but ended up singing the civil rights hymn "We Shall Overcome." Jean O'Leary, executive director of the National Gay Task Force, said the defeat supplied "all the evidence anyone could need of the extent and virulence of prejudice against Lesbians and Gay men in our society." However, she said, "The national debate provoked by the

Dade County referendum has united and strengthened us as a national movement."

Ms. Bryant said her organization would soon move into San Antonio, Tex., Washington, DC, Minneapolis and the state of California, all of which have laws like Dade County's. "With God's continued help we will prevail in our fight to repeal similar laws throughout the nation which attempt to legitimize a lifestyle that is both perverse and dangerous." Ms. Bryant, who was chiefly responsible for bringing national attention to the referendum, said in her victory statement that homosexuality is "dangerous to the sanctity of the family, dangerous to our children, dangerous to our freedom of religion and freedom of choice, dangerous to our survival as 'one nation, under God.'"

Former Air Force Sgt. Leonard Matlovich, who was discharged from the service after acknowledging he was a homosexual and who was a leader of the anti-repeal forces, told them, "When you walk out of here tonight, you go out of here with your heads high and your shoulders back and you be proud you're Gay and don't let anyone put you down."

The sponsor of the ordinance, county commissioner Ruth Shack, said afterward she hoped residents wouldn't overreact. "Dade County has been a loving community before, and I hope it will be a loving community tomorrow," she said. But she said she was still worried "about emotional violence and physical violence."

ANITA BRYANT'S RAMPAGE

WILL NOT BE CONFINED TO FLORIDA.

from

SAVE OUR CHILDREN FROM ANITA BRYANT

Robert Starkey, Coordinator

5020 Cathedral Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20016

NEWS SHORTS

WASHINGTON, DC (*Seattle Gay News*) -- The US Job Corps has recently distributed to all training centers a radically revised manual on sexuality which eliminates all the anti-Gay elements contained in the previous manual, entitled "Sexual Deviation". The new manual urges respect for differing sexual lifestyles and instructs Job Corps directors that "Rules concerning sexual behavior must be the same for heterosexual and homosexual activities." The manual follows the National Gay Task Force recommendations by suggesting that Job Corps centers use their Intergroup Relations Programs to "include understanding of different sexual preferences and lifestyles"; appending a list of books and articles by and about Gay women and men, and suggesting that local Gay groups be used as resources for staff training.

HARRISBURG, PA (*New Women's Times*) -- Lesbians and Gay men in Pennsylvania are or-

ganizing against what has been described as one of the most anti-Gay pieces of legislation ever to be introduced in the US. The proposed state law, Senate Bill 83, would prohibit Gays from taking jobs as state police, working with juveniles, the handicapped, the mentally retarded or people in institutions for the mentally ill. Penalties prescribed by the bill are dismissal, a \$300 fine, and 90 days imprisonment. Pennsylvania Lesbians and Gay men have organized resistance, including a demonstration at the state capitol building in Harrisburg. It is speculated that the bill is not intended so much as a serious attempt to get Gays fired from government jobs, but as a "muzzling device and a symbol." The reasoning goes that with the law hanging over their heads, Gay government employees are likely to be silent about their sexual preferences and their personal

lives. Another Gay activist described it as an "attempt to stifle the movement."

WASHINGTON, DC (*Lambda Legal Defense Newsletter*) -- The Carter Administration's new Secretary of the Navy, W. Graham Claytor, Jr., has upgraded to "honorable" the "other than honorable" discharge awarded to the first US Naval Academy graduate to challenge the Navy's ban on homosexuals in the Navy. The action was taken April 14, and retroactively upgraded the discharge of former Ensign Vernon Berg after the US District Court in Washington refused to enjoin the Navy from discharging the Annapolis graduate. Berg's case is being litigated by Lambda Legal Defense Fund's General Counsel, E. Carrington Boggan, on behalf of Lambda and the ACLU jointly. Boggan said, "While the new Secretary's action has in effect granted Berg part of the relief we sought in the case, it still, of course, does not change the Navy's basic policy of exclusion of Gay people from the service. We will continue to see to overturn that exclusionary policy."

OTTAWA, ONTARIO (*The Body Politic*) -- Sexual orientation should be included in the Canadian Human Rights Act. This is the opinion of all three organizations that have testified before the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs in the House of Commons. The Canada Bar Association was expressing its support on this issue for the first time. The Advisory Council on the Status of Women and the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) had previously supported the inclusion of sexual orientation in human rights legislation. The National Gay Rights Coalition (NGRC) is still awaiting word on whether it will be called to testify before the Committee. The government wants the bill passed by June 30 and so is trying to get it back before the full House as soon as possible for third and final reading. As a result, the Committee may decide to limit the number of witnesses. If NGRC is not called, it will still probably have an opportunity to forward a written presentation to the Committee.

MIAMI (GCN) -- Anti-Gay holy warrior Anita Bryant has

ascribed the present California drought to the passage of Gay rights legislation in a Southern California city (presumably Los Angeles). In an interview in *Miami Magazine* she has also widened her attacks on "crimes against nature" to include heterosexual women who engage in oral sex. Bryant stated that there is evidence that God punishes civilizations which show tolerance of homosexuality. She noted that after the passage of a Gay rights ordinance, "California is having its worst drought in history." When the *Miami* reporter asked her if there was a connection between the ordinance and the drought, she replied, "absolutely." In the same issue, Bryant said, "Do you know why God hates homosexuality? Because the male homosexual eats another man's sperm. Sperm is the most concentrated form of blood. The homosexual is eating life. That's why God calls homosexuality an abomination." Asked whether heterosexual females who engage in oral sexual activities are guilty, Bryant said, "absolutely." The same applied to Lesbians, she said.

MIAMI (NewsWest) -- He was

fired from his job for what was termed "unsatisfactory performance" -- although his supervisors told him his work was exemplary. That was only a few days after he circulated a petition favoring the local Gay rights ordinance. He joined in putting together "Latinos por Derechas Humanes" (Latinos for Human Rights), and appeared openly on Spanish language radio and television here. Following one appearance, he was awakened in his apartment by neighbors and firefighters to find his car gutted by arson. A short time later, his best friend, Ovidio Ramos, broke under the anti-Gay pressures and took his own life. On May 5, Manual Gomez also attempted suicide. Friends discovered him close to death and rushed him to Mt. Sinai hospital where he slowly edged back from critical to serious condition. The only words he could say were, "It got too heavy for me." Gay leaders in Dade County were unequivocal in laying responsibility for his brush with death at the door of anti-Gay bigotry. "This was an assault," they said, "as much as if he had

been beaten with fists and clubs." Said Coalition spokesperson Leonard Matlovich, "Opponents of human rights must share in at least part of the blame for generating an atmosphere of confusion and hatred which some in their ranks are manipulation for political purposes. This climate of fear threatens to disrupt the harmony of the entire community. We appeal to all people of good will to join us in rejecting distortion, scare tactics and violence."

DADE COUNTY, FL (GCN) -- The lines continue to be drawn for the June 7 referendum on the Dade County (Miami) Gay discrimination ordinance. Florida governor Reubin Askew, saying he would not want a "known homosexual teaching my children," has urged repeal of the ordinance. Although the Governor did not refer to Anita Bryant or Save Our Children, his remark is viewed as an endorsement of their efforts. Askew, once touted by *Time* as a leading voice in the New South, said that he "would find no difficulties in voting to repeal the ordinance." Singer-poet Rod McKuen joined the Miami controversy

by criticizing Bryant's Save Our Children campaign. McKuen says Anita Bryant is "a kind of Ginny Orangeseed spreading bigotry throughout the land." McKuen says the issue in Florida is not an issue of sexuality but "an issue of human rights." Asked if he was Gay, McKuen told newspeople, "I've been attracted to men and I've been attracted to women. You put a label on it."

BELLAFONTE, PA (Philadelphia Gay News) -- Gladys Hosler, a Lesbian teacher, has been termed "neither fit or proper" to teach children, according to an opinion released March 14. The Centre County Court denied Hosler reinstatement in the Bellafonte Area school district. Hosler's Lesbianism had never been mentioned in connection with her complaint. William Hebe, Hosler's attorney, wasn't aware of it until December when one of Hosler's former lovers took evidence to the school district. Judge John Cherry in his decision, however, contended that the school district, while it didn't know about Hosler's orientation when she was hired, knew of it when she

dismissed at the end of the 1970-71 school year. In January 1975 Commonwealth Court ruled Hosler was unfairly dismissed and ordered the school district to remove an unsatisfactory rating from her record. The decision failed to mention reinstatement or back pay, so Hosler was forced to appeal again for reinstatement. The official reason given by the school district was that Hosler had recommended another teacher for a position at Bella-fonte. Because Hosler was already aware that the teacher, Suzanne Merriam, had signed a contract with another school district, Hosler was given an unsatisfactory rating in two areas -- professional relationship and judgement. Hosler's appeals will be funded by the National Education Association and Pa. State Education Association local funds.

CONCORD, NH (GCN) -- The New Hampshire Senate has passed a bill that makes "lewd and licentious" behavior by homosexuals a crime. The measure (SB 87) specifies those public places as schools, apartment house lobbies,

restaurants, and government owned facilities. Although it appeared the Senate was headed toward passage of an amended, watered-down version, some last-minute maneuvering killed the chances of that occurring. Sen. Bradley, chirperson of the Senate Judiciary Committee, said his amendment covered the intent of the original bill, while avoiding what he sees as its vagueness and discrimination. The senator said that the bill is simply "designed to stamp out homosexuality." His observation is supported by the comments of Sen. Robert Monier, the anti-Gay bill's sponsor, who contends that his measure deals with a "social problem that I find particularly abhorrent." Sen. Bradley said that he does not know what will happen to the bill in the House. "I'd like to think they'll kill it, but if the sponsors make it a question of simply being for or against Gays, then it will probably pass."

LITTLE ROCK, AK (Philadelphia Gay News) -- Arkansas Governor David Pryor on March 17 signed legislation

to reinstate Arkansas' law against sodomy. The Democratic governor's signing came only days after the State Senate voted 25-0 to make sodomy a misdemeanor. Pryor's decision came despite letters from both Pennsylvania Governor Milton Shapp and California Governor Jerry Brown, as well as a meeting with Gay activists, all urging him to veto the bill. Arkansas had originally repealed its sodomy law during a 1975 comprehensive revision of its criminal code. State Representative W.H. Stancil, however, only learned of the repeal this year and went on to make reinstatement of sodomy penalties his personal legislative crusade in this session. As amended, the new law affects only sexual acts between members of the same sex. Arkansas is only the second state to legislate bans against consensual adult sex after such bans had been repealed. There are now 31 states where Gay sexual acts in private between consenting adults are criminal offenses.

BOISE, ID (NewsWest) -- Dismissal of seven women employees from the police

department here has stirred a public controversy. The department's internal investigations have reportedly resulted in accusations of homosexuality against some of the seven. Police Chief John Church confirmed that the issues revolve around Idaho's "crime against nature" statute. A Citizens' Committee for Civil Rights has been formed to support the legal struggles the women say they will wage. The largely Gay membership of the group insists that the issue is neither Gay or non-Gay, but that it is whether witchhunting can be allowed to take the place of lawful, rational procedures in employment considerations. The seven -- an eighth is reportedly facing the ax as well -- maintain that they were dismissed without being advised of formal charges against them and without the benefit of a hearing at which they might have an opportunity to dispute charges. The Citizens' Committee has demanded the reinstatement of the women pending regular procedural action. The Citizens' Coalition is organizing a defense fund and may be reached at Box 2634, Boise, ID 83701.

Cumberland County Curmudgeon

By Susan W. Henderson

HOW NOT TO WRITE GAY HISTORY

Rowse, A.L., Homosexuals in History: Ambivalence in Society, Literature, and the Arts, New York, Macmillan, 1977, 346 pp., \$12.95.

This book is an interesting collection of biographical sketches, but as history it is disappointing. The subtitle, "Ambivalence in Society, Literature, and the Arts," indicates one of its major problems. "Ambivalence", according to the dictionary, means "simultaneous attraction and repulsion". How this quality supposedly relates to homosexuality the author never tells us, and this reviewer fails to see where the word is relevant to the topic under discussion.

"Ambivalent" probably describes the author's attitude toward homosexuality better than anything else. He editorializes repeatedly about the virtue displayed by Gay people in not having children (a thing not to be scoffed at in an overcrowded world) and about how Gays' "outsider" status adds to their creativity, but he says nothing to indicate why he thinks this is so or how the process operates -- in fact, he seldom condescends to justify any of his opinions. On the other hand, he subscribes to some of the grossest stereotypes. He will frequently describe one of his subjects as a "mama's boy" or "effeminate", (i.e., gentle, non-aggressive, emotional, etc.), and imply that this female influence made the man homosexual. (We women would like to have that kind of power, but I'm afraid we don't.) He manages to describe every intelligent woman he mentions as an unpleasant character. By the time one finishes the book, one wonders whether he's for us or agin'

us. Historians don't have to take sides -- in fact, most professionals think it better not to. However, Rowse expresses his opinions and prejudices so freely that one would think he'd made it clear whose side he's on as long as he's taking sides at all.

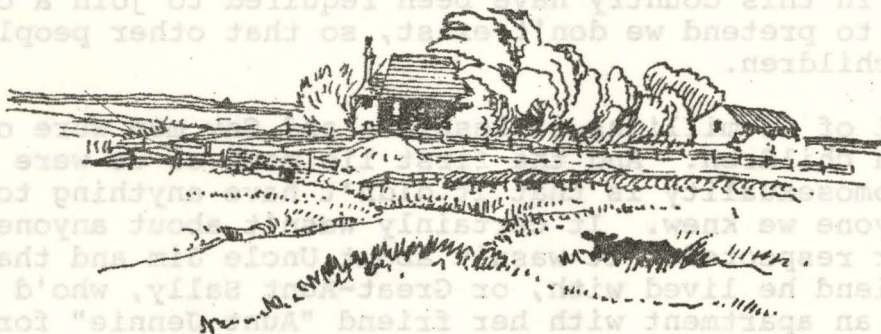
Rowse is full of prejudices. He can't say anything good about any German -- as far as he's concerned, they are all militaristic Huns. (One would think that even the English would have stopped believing their own World War I propaganda by now.) He downs the Germans and the Russians for being oppressive and anti-democratic, but proceeds to pour scorn on the masses himself, claiming that only the chosen few have the intelligence and sensitivity to appreciate art.

As noted above, Rowse seldom bothers to support his opinions. He also seldom bothers to credit his sources. This book has neither footnotes nor bibliography. As I have said before, Gay history is plagued by a lack of acknowledgement of source material. We need to know where our history comes from, because so much of it is based on legend and conjecture. Anyone who finds reliable sources should pass on the word. The only Gay person Rowse discusses whom I have also studied in depth is Frederick the Great of Prussia. In the section on Frederick, I recognize where some of Rowse's material came from. A lot of it was from Voltaire's Private Life of the King of Prussia, which you will recall that Voltaire wrote when he was mad at Frederick. Rowse, however, takes all the tacky digs at face value. One should be a little more careful than to believe what lovers say about each other when they've just had a fight. One should also give credit for where one got one's material from. There is at least one glaring omission from this collection: William of Orange. The author of The First Churchills (which repeated all the hackneyed Whig lies about James II, incidentally) should have been familiar with all the stories about William and Hans Bentinck and Arnoud van Keppel.

Homosexuals in History is not a total loss. There is a lot of interesting material on literary figures that one would have to look in a lot of other places to find. However, the book is still a disappointment, because it could have been so much better.

WOMEN'S COUNSELING SERVICE

The Women's Counseling Service provides low-cost feminist counseling and referrals for women throughout Maine. Some counselors are Lesbians, all are non-homophobic. Their hours are: Mondays, 11-2; Wednesdays, 11-2; Thursdays, 4-7 and Saturdays, 10-1. To contact them call 443-9531 (or write) or drop by their office at Room 23, 72 Front Street, Bath 04530.



ANITA BRYANT'S CRUSADE

By Jean O'Leary and Bruce Voeller

(The following editorial appeared in the June 7, 1977 issue of The New York Times. The authors are co-executive directors of the National Gay Task Force.)

Anita Bryant and her Save Our Children Inc. are doing the 20 million Lesbians and Gay men in America an enormous favor: They are focusing for the public the nature of the prejudice and discrimination we face.

Homosexuals, the Save Our Children folks said in a recent full-page ad in *The Miami Herald*, used to be stoned to death. But nowadays, they said, there's developed "an attitude of tolerance ... based on the understanding that homosexuals will keep their deviant activity to themselves, will not flaunt their lifestyles, will not be allowed to preach their sexual standards to, or otherwise influence, impressionable young people." Anita Bryant herself said it even more clearly on a recent network television show: "We're not going after their jobs, as long as they do their jobs and do not want to come out of the closet."

What this means should be abundantly clear: Gay women and men in this country have been required to join a conspiracy to pretend we don't exist, so that other people can lie to children.

All of us millions of Lesbians and Gay men were once American children. And the first lie most of us were told about homosexuality is that it didn't have anything to do with anyone we knew. It certainly wasn't about anyone we loved or respected. It wasn't about Uncle Jim and that nice friend he lived with, or Great-Aunt Sally, who'd been sharing an apartment with her friend "Aunt Jennie" for the last 40 years. It certainly wasn't about any of our teachers.

If we heard words like "queer" and wanted to know what they meant, our parents told us it wasn't something for children to talk about, but to be sure to stay away from strangers with candy, since "those people" wanted to hurt little children. So what we learned about Gay people we had to find out from our friends. What they were, we discovered, were funny men who wanted to be women and talked with a lisp. Most of our friends didn't think there were any women who were "that way," but some of them suspected there were some and that they all wore leather jackets and beat up people with chains.

So we learned all these lies, like everybody else, and from them we derived the biggest lie of all about homosexuality, that it couldn't possibly have anything to do with us. Those loving feelings we had for members of our own sex were just a "childish stage" we were going through. As we grew up, we were told, we'd see that we'd be able to repress such feelings or pretend to ourselves we didn't have them. Even later, when we knew we couldn't do that, and weren't prepared to lie to ourselves, we still weren't ready to believe that we were "homosexuals." After all, we didn't want to hurt children, or brandish chains, or talk with a lisp.

It took many of us a long time to realize that these stereotypes were lies, and that there were so many healthy, happy, productive, responsible human beings in this world who had refused to deny or repress their capacity to love members of their own sex. For some of us this realization had to wait until we were well into adulthood, and we suffered because we, too, believed the lies that we were sinful, criminal, sick.

We are not the only ones who suffered. Our parents suffered from the lie that they were somehow responsible for making us "queer." Everyone who cared for us suffered, believing the lie that we were sick. And every child in America who has learned the lies has suffered from the dehumanizing experience of learning to hate.

So we believe that Anita Bryant is correct to put the focus right where it belongs: on children. And on morality.

We believe it is immoral to lie to children. We believe it is immoral to teach them to hate people whom they choose to love. We believe it is immoral to pretend to children that they don't have a variety of loving options in their own lives, or to force them to believe that they are the only ones in the world to have loving or sexual feelings for their own sex. We think it is immoral to foster prejudice and discrimination by pretending to children that there are no real people who are Gay.

Along with a great many people in the churches these days, we believe that these are where the real moral issues lie, not in the sort of selective fundamentalism that allows Anita Bryant to quote St. Paul's injunction against homosexuality while sensibly disobeying his rule against woman's speaking in church. We choose another passage from St. Paul: "Love worketh no ill to his neighbor: Love therefore is the fulfillment of the law."

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ASPECTS OF HOMOSEXUAL SELF-OPPRESSION

By Andrew Hodges and David Hutter

UNDER THE GREENWOOD TREE

Homosexual public speakers find three complaints against Gay people cropping up with monotonous regularity. Thinly disguised as questions inevitably come the accusations that Gay men are mannered and effeminate, corruptors of children, and given to a mindless animal promiscuity that prevents their forming lasting relationships. 'Responsible' Gay activists respond in the appropriate apologetic, self-oppressive manner to the first two charges by pointing out that homosexual men do not necessarily look feminine and vice versa, and that few Gay people are interested in the very young; but probably none claim that "only a minority of homosexuals are promiscuous".

Our spokespeople generally point out that there are many happily settled homosexual couples whose lives of quiet fidelity pass unnoticed, and correctly they go on to point out that such permanent Gay relationships receive none of the recognition and support from family and social institutions that married couples take for granted. Unfortunately these facts are all too often used as excuses, the assumption that promiscuity is necessarily a bad thing remains unchallenged and we are presented with an ideal to which we may be measured. We shall explain how in effect there is imposed upon us yet one more hideous oppression.

HETEROSEXUAL MANNERISMS It is a basic mistake to accept heterosexual conventions as God-given criteria by which Gay people may be judged. Instead we should use the insights that we have gained as homosexuals to criticize a sexist and hypocritical society. An example of the failure to do this can be seen when the fact that Gay couples are childless is pleaded as an excuse for their relationships ending; and our spokespeople fail to

point out that if married couples stay together only for what they imagine to be the benefit of their children, they are not models of permanence but of thwarted impermanence. Instead of comparing our freedom unfavorably with such unions, homosexuals should feel pity for heterosexuals who find themselves trapped in an unhappy marriage and rejoice in the liberty their own homosexuality bestows.

Gay people have no reason to envy the institutionalized sexuality available to heterosexuals, cluttered as it is with ceremonies of courtship and marriage and further poisoned by a division of roles which condemns the man to dominate and the woman to submit. A heterosexual pick-up is fraught with implications of the man conquering and the woman surrendering; it is unlikely to enjoy the sense of mutual agreement enjoyed by Gay people. For this reason it is easier for homosexuals to make sexual contacts, and once made there is no tedious process of persuasion -- no ritualized escalation of intimacy to be carried out before sexual pleasure is reached.

MORE THAN TWO CAN PLAY When apologetic Gay speakers mention and then disparage the accessibility of Gay sex, they display a naive belief that non-Gay people themselves pay more than lip-service to the value of monogamy. Heterosexuals would dearly like the availability of desirable bodies and the affectionate sharing of pleasure that Gay people can enjoy. The heterosexual world has no equivalent of a Gay sauna! Moreover our heterosexual detractors betray their limited vision by their mistaken assumption that promiscuity is incompatible with lasting relationships. Homosexuals are in the happy position of being able to enjoy both at once. A Gay couple in the street will be admiring the same people, probably be exchanging remarks about them; already the heterosexual model is inadequate to describe what is going on. It is perfectly easy for a Gay couple to enjoy all the mutual care in the world and also enjoy sex with others separately or together. These things are possible simply because homosexuals can identify with the sexual feelings of those they care for in

a way logically impossible for non-Gay people. For this reason it is easy for a Gay relationship to develop into a non-sexual relationship in which the partners share loving companionship but find sexual pleasure outside the union -- unlike many heterosexual marriages which turn into a boring embittered cohabitation in which sexual attraction has long vanished but fidelity is rigidly enforced.

The model of heterosexual marriage often actually discourages Gay people from entering into any kind of permanent relationship, since they are unwilling to accept the exclusivity which they imagine a relationship must entail; moreover partnerships which do begin often break up because one partner thinks that he or she ought to feel jealous, or the other is unnecessarily secretive and guilty about "extra-marital" affairs. It is not the homosexual nature of such relationships which causes the trouble but the poisonous influence of the heterosexual model. An irony of which we would remind the Gay apologist is the fact that heterosexuals think nothing more comic than the idea of two men cooking and ironing together, or more pathetic than two women struggling to change a wheel -- such is the value which in reality is placed on the pair-bonding by means of which responsible homophiles hope to gain social acceptance.

POSITIVE GAINS Determined as they are to overlook the positive gains enjoyed by Gay people, our detractors ignore the value and meaning that promiscuous, unattached homosexuals place upon friendship, which for them has a far deeper significance than for most married people who direct what they have of love and concern into the narrow confines of the family circle. Many homosexuals have close friends to whom they turn for companionship and support while finding sexual pleasure outside this circle. The ability that Gay people possess to form deep and lasting friendships gives the lie to the idea that we must inevitably face a lonely old age. Logically the reverse is true, for unless their timing is perfect, it is inevitable that one partner of even a happy marriage will

be left behind to face a future without the "other half" upon whom they have developed a total dependence. Anyway why deny the eroticism of novelty in favor of the repressive dogma that sex is only satisfactory with one lifelong partner? Is there not a genuine ideal in the ability of Gay people to gain immediate trust and sexual satisfaction with people anywhere in the world? In these respects the writer of any Gay porn story offers more insight into our hearts than do the ponderous utterances of homosexual apologists who usually exclude any mention of the physical reality of our sexual lives, leaving their puzzled listeners to form a picture of unhappy Gay relationships based on the heterosexual model of allowable monogamy and forbidden promiscuity.

Puritanism lies at the heart of the distrust of promiscuity. Puritanism thrives on the universal fear that someone is getting something for nothing. If pleasure is not paid for with money, people feel that it still must be paid for in other ways: commitment, responsibility, even a lifetime's mutual incompatibility is not thought too great a price to pay for occasional moments of sexual pleasure. Even Gay Liberationists sometimes speak as though their sexuality had to pay its way by virtue of breaking down sexual roles or undermining capitalism. Gay sex, unencumbered as it is with conception and contraception, could be as free and available as sunshine and air, and yet we are encouraged to disown these benefits in favor of dubious respect gained by mimicking the outward forms of family life.

IRONIES Anyone looking upon the Gay movement with detachment finds ironies at every turn. Not least of these is the fact that although the movement has only arisen because there exists a situation of fluidity and rapid social change our homophile spokespeople can think of nothing better to do with this new freedom of thought than to urge Gay people to accept the claustrophobic restrictions of a life-long union. They are busily pushing us into the prison from which intelligent homosexuals are trying to escape. We foresee future anthropologists turning to the pair-bonding of discreet homosexuals as the only means

left available of examining the long-defunct institution of marriage.

Gay activists should stand up for the variety and freedom in sexuality that Gay people can enjoy, and yet how often do we read articles in the Gay press containing the words to the effect that "we shall never deserve our liberation until we stop being so promiscuous". Such phrases expose two aspects of self-oppression. Not only are our moral standards being measured against those of our heterosexual oppressors, but liberation is accepted as something that must be worked for and deserved rather than a fundamental right of which we have been deprived. It would be nearer the truth to say that we shall never deserve our liberation so long as we attempt to ingratiate ourselves into heterosexual favor by adopting the standards of the non-Gay world.

[Editor's note: The above article is the second excerpt reprinted from the pamphlet "WITH DOWNCAST GAYS," published by Pomegranate Press. Their address is: c/o 5 Caledonian Road, London N. 1., England. A third excerpt will appear in the July issue.]

GROWING...SOBER and GAY

A new group has formed in the Greater Waterville (Maine) area. We welcome all Gays and bisexuals who are interested in living a chemically-free life. We are recovering alcoholics and addicts who are enjoying life without booze and drugs. If you are interested in growing with us, drop a line to GSG, PO Box 893, Waterville, Maine 04901. We meet on Thursday nights, 8-9:30PM.



DEAR PEOPLE,

By Wendy Ashley

I am a Lesbian mother who went back to college at 34 years of age. It pays good money and might get me somewhere at the end of four years. I found before this year in college that things there seemed inaccessible to me. By "things," I mean the events -- social entertainment and educational -- that take place there apart from the education that the students buy and the teachers and administration sell. These things even seemed inaccessible the first month or two I was there. After having spent a year at the University, I am quite aware that one of the reasons for this inaccessibility is the lack of sufficient, consistent publicity into the community. (At the University, the "community" is everyone outside the school!) There are a number of reasons for this, but I am not going to apologize for or explain the consciousness of anyone at the University. What I do want to do is tell you what GPA is, what we've done this year and what we hope to do in the future.

The Gay People's Alliance is an organization of Gays and friends at the University of Maine at Portland. It is a recognized "student" organization -- which means that the Student Senate, which supposedly is the student governing body, has agreed that the group exists and serves a purpose, and therefore has a right to ask for money from the Student Activity Fee Fund. Each student at UMPG pays \$12 twice a year into this fund, and the Senate sees to its distribution.

GPA has an office and lounge area open every school day in Portland at 92 Bedford Street, which is one of the Student Union buildings. (There are two.) We also have a phone, radio, coffee pot, desks, typewriter, chairs, Gay periodicals, and a lending library of Gay books. The phone number is 773-2981, ext. 835. There is usually somebody there to answer the phone and to answer questions. (Often, however, we are on the phone -- so keep trying.) The office and lounge function as a social center to meet with friends or to meet new people, and all are welcome.

As part of GPA's social functioning, we have put on Gay dances, usually on the last Saturday of the month. This year we had six of them which we held in the ground floor cafeteria of Payson Smith Hall, 96 Falmouth Street. We try to have music that will appeal to everyone, but sometimes we fall short. We charge \$1.00 at the door, which pays our expenses. The dances are an alternative to the bars for many of us. And for those who don't go to bars, they are a welcomed opportunity to get down and boogie, chemically-free! You can bring your own bottle, but since none is sold, there is no pressure on you to drink. This year we also had a very well-attended "Rotten Orange Dance" to raise money for the Dade County Coalition, who desperately need help to fight the army of Anita Bryant's morality enforcers down in the sunny South.

Up here in the frozen North, we also held, in chilly November, a fundraising Potluck Supper for Carol Whitehead, and it was a heart-warming occasion. We netted some \$70+ (correct me if I'm wrong) for her lawyer's fees. Carol Whitehead is the Lesbian who won custody of her children in a much-publicized court trial last year. She, her partner, and her children suffered a great deal of anguish and financial liability in the long battle to keep the family together.

GPA has held weekly Monday night meetings at 92 Bedford Street and also held a Thursday night Rap Group, which is starting up again. We joined with the Wilde-Stein Club, Maine Lesbian Feminists, Growing... Sober and Gay, and with the Maine Gay Task Force to present Maine and the nation with Symposium IV this spring in Bangor. Also, we went to Roland's Tavern and the Phoenix to raise funds for Dade County, and had our collections matched by Roland, praise be to the Goddess!

We joined energies with the University Women's Forum, the Minority Support Group and others to elect student senators to represent our various minorities and to confer with concerned faculty about the quality of affirmative action and the extent of prejudice at the University. Our own Stephen Leo was elected as the first openly Gay senator there!

GPA, the Women's Forum, MSAG and Project Impact, a Senate sub-committee, brought sister Flo Kennedy to UMPG this year. She delighted most and outraged some with her wise and witty commentary on every scene. When one classy young man confided to her that he was a "chauvinist pig", she said, "Don't give yourself airs. You may be a big pig in your own

personal pigpen where you may cause all kinds of grief to your family, but you're a little tiny pig in the world. When I meet with a pig that effects my world, I like to kick ass, and, honey, I'd have difficulty finding yours to get my foot to it. When I kick ass, I like a big, broad one." Flo Kennedy is a 64-year-old black, woman lawyer with a fused spine, and she KNOWS about oppression, institutionalized and personal. Every word she said taught... and made us laugh and hug ourselves for her uppityness.

Because of the efforts of the Women's Forum and Cultural Affairs, we were able to see Jade and Sarsaparilla, the Lesbian singers, and we hugged each other in joy at their fine music and at the wonder of two women singing love songs to one another on a stage in front of a couple hundred people and singing 'em good!! And looking good!! Fantastic! It was all I could do to keep from nudging heterosexuals in the audience and saying, "See?! See?!" What a high to sit with all my sisters and brothers in Gorham, Maine, on a winter's night and celebrate Gayness and consciousness.

Getting down to serious business, we worked with the Maine Human Rights Coalition and statewide groups concerned about human rights and petitioned for support of L.D. 1419, which would include the phrase "sexual and affectional preference" in the Maine Human Rights Act. We went to the committee hearing on May 17 in Augusta where we vastly outnumbered the opposition.

Carol Pettijohn got us together for an Assertiveness Training workshop over two weekends, and we had a sister talk with us on alcoholism and addiction. In order to educate and reach out, Jan Munroe of MLF and Tony Norton of GPA were on *At Issue*, a weekly newsmagazine show on WGAN-TV, Channel 13, at the end of November. Denise and Tony of GPA and Peter Prizer of *Mainely Gay* spoke at Casco Bay College; Stephen and Wendy spoke at classes at UMPG. In addition, we did some counseling, referral and educating where we could via raps in the office and in classrooms. And... we lent out a fine worker, me, to organize The White Roots of Peace, a two-day symposium on American Indians -- a humungus and worthy commitment which reached a lot of people's heads and hearts.

That's what we did in the 76-77 school year.

Now. The GPA office will be open weekdays this summer. We are planning a couple of dances, and will continue the Monday night meetings. We will also be planning our fall and winter programs. Please keep in touch. You don't have to be a student to come and be a part of us. As Gay people, we're all "us".

We have a lot of good times ahead, as well as work to do. Our facilities are still inaccessible to our handicapped sisters and brothers. We need to find ways to reach out to so many young people who are questioning their sexuality in order to provide answers and support. And, of course, there is always work to do on ourselves, though Goddess knows, many of us are very nearly perfect, except for a few little things here and there...

In sisterhood and hope,
Wendy Ashley



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FEAR AND LOATHING ON CONGRESS STREET AND ELSEWHERE

By John Frank

I am walking home from seeing "Sunday Bloody Sunday" hand-in-hand with my lover. It is about 11:00 PM; the place is Congress Street in Portland. Suddenly a yellow VW Bug with four (presumably) heterosexual males slows down beside us and the verbal abuse begins. 'Wolf' whistles, "Look at the faggots!", "Hey, sweetie!", etc., etc., ad nauseum. We focus on a point ahead of us and keep walking. The VW with its crew of bigots continues on its way, too, but just ahead of us, it pulls over to the side. I am certain that we are about to have the shit beat out of us, but apparently the spiders have had enough amusement with the flies and they leave.

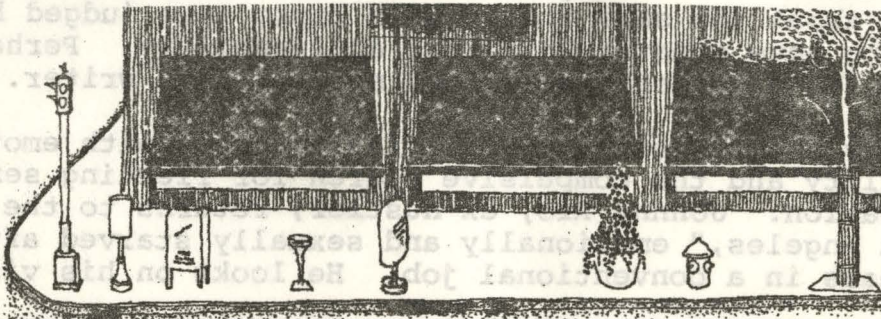
The fear I experienced last night during this attack gave way to waves of anger directed not only at those individuals who, after all, are merely products of what they have been taught, and not only at the society which taught them those tenets and which breeds such sick people (and considers them healthy), but also at myself for knowing, all the while this was happening, that there was not one thing I could do to defend myself should the situation escalate to the level of physical violence.

This is not the first time I have been subjected to someone's hatred simply because I am Gay (and once violence was used against me). And, in all probability, it will not be the last time. My purpose here is not to make an analysis of harassment and physical violence against Gay people. My purpose is to remind sisters and brothers that every day of our lives we are threatened with it if we have the audacity to live some semblance of an integrated life... if we have the audacity to touch, hold hands with, or (Anita forbid!) kiss in public a member of our own gender. And I am just mule-headed enough to refuse to compromise myself and my principles to closet myself for anyone, even if my

physical well-being is at stake, for that is exactly what they want. If they can't kill us legally, they will do all they can to kill our spirit to make sure that they don't witness any tenderness between/among us.

And this brings me to my concern for self-defense for the Gay community. Omitting the screams of "Faggot!" from moving vehicles and the derisive glances I often receive, I have been directly threatened by heterosexuals three times. I am not a violent person. Like many Gay people, I had never been involved in fighting as I was growing up. Thinking it absurd the idea that anything could be proven or solved by muscular superiority, I never invested time to learn the basics of fighting. But before the fists hit me again, reality is hitting me, and my naivete on the subject is rapidly diminishing. It is becoming obvious to me that there is a crying need for some knowledge of self-defense -- for me, and for each and every one of you who reads this. Violence is and always has been used against us in this society, individually and collectively, and we damn well better know how to combat it effectively.

This summer I would like to see a group of Gay women and men in the Portland area getting together perhaps one night a week to take self-defense classes. Perhaps there is someone reading this who could (and would) teach us the basics. If you're interested in this project, in the role of student or teacher, please contact me (24 Grant St., Portland 04101; 775-1597) and keep watching Mainly Gay for any further developments. It's our survival!



Jerry's Banter

TAKE THIS MAN SERIOUSLY!

One of the reasons I write these screeds is to discover what I believe. Which leads me this month to John Rechy, the author of five novels and a new work -- *The Sexual Outlaw: A Documentary* (subtitled: *a non-fiction account with commentaries of three days and nights in the sexual underground*), published by Grove Press, 1977, \$8.95.

Rechy was born in El Paso, Texas and is currently writer in-residence at UCLA. *City of Night*, his first novel, appeared in 1963. It was the first literary work to deal with the world of the male hustler and his score. Rechy depicted this world explicitly but without sensationalism. I knew something about this scene -- the Times Square version -- and I believe that he wrote with an authority that was not faked. Rechy aroused my empathy for this world. He reminded me that I was part of it though I hid in a white shirt and tie. With this realization of an identity, the beginnings of my own Gay social consciousness began.

Rechy's first book did not receive the recognition it deserved, partially because of the appearance of Herbert Selby's *Last Exit to Brooklyn* and James Leo Herlihy's *Midnight Cowboy* at about the same time. Both works were judged by the critics to have greater universal applicability. Perhaps they did for a lot of people, but not for this writer.

Rechy's next novel, *Numbers* (1967), dealt with emotional sterility and the compulsive search for fleeting sexual gratification. Johnny Rio, ex-hustler, returns to the city of "Lost Angeles," emotionally and sexually starved after three years in a conventional job. He looks on his visit

to L.A. as a test to prove his appeal and ability to turn off his drive at his moment of triumph. It doesn't quite happen that way. Johnny can't quit. His tricks are ticked off number by number, blow-job by blow-job. He finds himself trapped in an endless desert of sex without love. Keep Johnny in mind. It is this man grown older but very little wiser who reappears in *The Sexual Outlaw*.

Since *Numbers*, three other novels by Rechy have appeared. *This Day's Death* (1970) dealt with a man's relationship with his mother and his arrest for a sexual offense. In *The Vampires* (1971) Rechy used the tired device of getting a score of people together under the aegis of a domineering host who manipulates them so that they reveal their inner selves. Trite. *The Fourth Angel* (1973), the only book of Rechy's not published by Grove, dealt with four tormented teenagers, three boys and the girl who is their leader. This book was lauded for its power and knowledgeable description of psychedelic drugs. It was panned, however, as were others of Rechy's books, for its simplistic Freudian explanations.

Rechy's latest book, *The Sexual Outlaw*, hammers at the oppression of Gay men by themselves and the larger society. The book moves in three distinctly different but interwoven planes and the narrative style of each section varies. One part recounts in graphic detail Jim's (Johnny Rio grown older) three-day adventure in the parks, bars and baths of L.A.'s sexual jungle. This segment reads like a movie scenario. Another section depicts the brutality that Gay sex hunters endure from the police. These parts are treated as newspaper articles. Interspersed are short powerful statements which sum up the author's beliefs about the contemporary Gay experience. Rechy calls these essays "Voice Over". They deal with topics as varied as the relationship of Gay men and women, Gay politics, and S&M. They are the least lurid but possibly the most cogent part of the book for the Gay male who is or would be liberated. Some of you may want to read only these sections.

On first reading, the parts of *The Sexual Outlaw* which

deal with Jim and his adventures seem the typical jack-off fantasy. Like lousy porno, the sexual aspects of the characters are emphasized to the exclusion of almost everything else. We know Jim and his fellow huntsmen are "youngmen" with good bods, large ever-erect cocks, and that's about all. What do these people look like without their masks? What do they think? Are they capable of any emotion other than sexual desire? We are never told.

Rechy has done this intentionally. He is emphasizing the horrible truth that many of us have been so worked over by society that we are unable to relate to anyone except on the simplest sexual level. We are the self-despised. Rejected by the world of parents, teachers, and lovers posing as heterosexuals, the Gay male learns to hate himself. If he hates himself, how can he relate to or love anyone else? We are told that we are unable to form loving relationships so we accept the adage that only youth, body and penis count. We believe the lies told against us and we act out those lies.

If we are to be free, we must rid ourselves of the self-hate that exists in us. To do this we must also eliminate society's prejudice so that police harassment and brutality stop. I know that danger excites many of us and that cruising in parks and other supposedly public places can be fun. Rechy believes that we have a right to this excitement. With truth he points out that Gay male promiscuity is visible only to other Gay men and the cops. We have a right to our actions and to our bodies. Parks and rest rooms are not the best way to go, but if that's the way you want to go, that should be your right.

As a book person and libertarian, I am interested in who publishes what. Grove Press, Rechy's publisher, were the first to bring out the unexpurgated version of *Lady Chatterley's Lover* after a long legal battle. They also issued the novels of Henry Miller for the mass market. When *City of Night* was published in 1963, I was elated and impressed that a publisher with Grove's reputation was taking my

world and John Rechy seriously. After fourteen years John Rechy must still be taken seriously.

* * *

Two Other Books Not to Be Taken Lightly

New books that have crossed my path this month are Gore Vidal's *Matters of Fact and Fiction: Essays 1973-1976*. Vidal, the celebrated novelist and playwright, is also an essayist and critic of no mean ability. Included is his piece on Tennessee Williams, alone worth the price of admission (10.00, Random House).

Also new is Paul Goodman's *Collected Poems* (\$4.95 pap., Random House). Goodman, who died in 1972, is best known as the author of *Growing Up Absurd*. Goodman was bisexual and many of his poems celebrate his love of both sexes.

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STATEWIDE GAY MEN'S GROUP ORGANIZING

By John Frank, Portland
Richard Bulger, Old Town

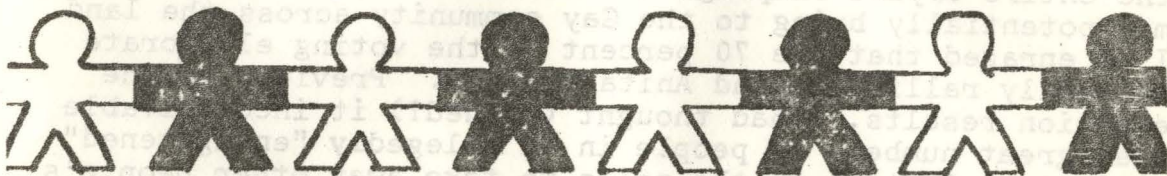
At Symposium IV during the Sunday brunch, several men recognized the potentiality for a statewide group which would respond to specific needs of the Gay male community in Maine. Two years ago Maine Lesbian Feminists (MLF) was formed and has since become a thriving organization and a viable social and political organ. We, too, can join together and become more effective in social change and social contact. There has never been an exclusively Gay male presence in the Maine Gay Movement and we feel that such a presence is at this point desirable. Our purpose is not to promote separatism between women and men, but we recognize that many issues relating solely to men are not addressed in existing organizations or publications. As Gay men, many of us have been socialized to fear and mistrust one another: we see an organization of this sort building trust, friendship and solidarity. There are Gay men in every corner of this state who have absolutely no contact with other Gay men: Maine Gay Men (working title of the group) can serve that need also. The Gay Movement here has always been oriented to the urban population which is unjust to those who live in 85% of the state: Maine Gay Men could provide the opportunity for social contact and political activity which these men currently lack.

Maine Gay Men (MGM) would, of course, have a Gay liberationist/non-sexist focus and would be open to all Gay men regardless of class, age, race or looks. As a group, we would explore ways in which to encourage a healthy self-image in ourselves and in others through an understanding of how our sexist and homophobic victimizations works against us.

A major vehicle for contact is the media. And one project of the group which has been discussed is the estab-

lishment of a periodic publication. Mainely Gay, effective as it is, does not present itself as a forum for many issues and concerns of Gay men. Seeking a broader-based appeal, the journal inevitably avoids discussion or inclusion of certain areas of pertinence, such as Gay male poetry, sexuality and art. We could fill that void. It is very important to note, however, that MGM, as a socio-political entity, would strive to work in harmony with and not in competition with existing groups. It is desirable to view Maine Gay Men as an addition -- not as an alternative.

With interest and energy we can accomplish much: regular mini-symposiums (symposia?) around the state, rap groups, outings, camping trips, dances, art shows, concerts, speakers, self-defense, and health clinics. It would also provide Maine with additional support, fund-raising and mobilizing around Gay, Feminist and human rights struggles (i.e., Dade County, LD 1419, custody cases). The expansion of the group depends on you. The first organizational meeting will be held at 24 Grant Street (between State and High Sts., parallel to Park Ave.) in Portland on June 26 at 2:00 PM. If you wish to be a part of the development of Maine Gay Men and/or would like your name on the mailing list (confidential, of course), write or call MGM, 24 Grant St., Portland 04101; 775-1597.



The State Street Straw

By Peter Prizer

BRYANT AND THE DADE REPEAL

TUESDAY, JUNE 7: My immediate reaction to the TV news report that Anita Bryant and her anti-Gay campaign have successfully repealed the Dade County anti-discrimination measure, and by a 70 to 30 percent margin, is one of surprise. I had expected a narrow victory for either side, but a landslide vote for Bryant, at least when viewed from a Maine vantage point, had seemed remote. After all, I had assumed that sane, rational people would turn off to the campaign of hate and fear waged by Bryant and her allies--especially as her rhetoric became more shrill and, in my opinion, demented in the closing days of the battle.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8: Now my surprise has passed. I use the word "surprise" rather than the stronger word "shock" because nothing our society engages in, whether it's snake-handling in Tennessee, racial hatred in Boston or political assassinations in foreign lands, has the ability to startle.

THURSDAY, JUNE 9 : Today I am angry. I am enraged at the entire Bryant campaign and the harm it has brought and may potentially bring to the Gay community across the land. I am enraged that the 70 percent of the voting electorate so easily rallied behind Anita's venom. Previous to the election results, I had thought (wished?) it inconceivable that great numbers of people in an allegedly "enlightened" society would trek to the polls to take away other people's civil rights. Does Dade County possess an inordinate percentage of snake-handlers, racists and CIA operatives?

But my cheerful cynicism allows me to remain angry only for short periods of time. Whether it's my jadedness from Vietnam-through-Watergate or simply my Pisces temperament is hard to say. In any event, I have some observations from the whole Miami defeat that I'd like to pass on.

In the final analysis, a great many heterosexuals do fear and hate us, and their hostility and anti-Gay backlash to the crumbs tossed the homosexual civil rights movement in recent years may escalate; especially if Bryant is effective outside her home territory. We'll have to see what develops over the next few months...

Regardless of the course of the heterosexual "inquisition" (and the quotation marks are optional), we should view the Miami defeat as an opportunity for real Gay solidarity for the struggles ahead. Easier said than done, too.

Finally, there may develop subtle though pervasive pressure from many segments of the society "to cool" our efforts for civil rights. Ideally, I'm sure, the establishment would prefer that the Gay Rights movement (including the Women's movement, too) gradually lost momentum and disappeared into obscurity. Bryant wants us jammed in the closets for good, and the "moderate straights" just want us to go away, anywhere. We should resist all efforts at censorship, whether self-imposed or coerced.

It's too early to tell which way the winds will blow. For now, it's enough to say 'We are here to stay' and will not be intimidated by either Bryant or any type of regressive movement she pushes. The Battle of Miami has been lost, and that's a damn shame, but the War continues...



The Kitchen Sink

THE OLIVIA RECORDING COMPANY has been in existence since 1973 and has featured such performers as Meg Christian, Cris Williamson, Casse Culver, and Pat Parker and Judy Grahn. Their most recent album released by the band, Be Be K'Roche, was listed as one of five "selected soul LPs" by *Billboard* magazine in its November 1976 issue.

Billboard called it "A compilation of well-produced and well-arranged material, although the lyrics tend to encompass what might be construed as love affairs between the same sex."

Horrors! Anyway, you can contact Olivia by writing Olivia Records, PO Box 70237, Los Angeles, CA 90070.

LESBIAN PRIDE WEEK -- JUNE 19-25 and Lesbian Feminist Liberation of New York needs your help to make this year's events successful. Specific needs:

*poets to read during Saturday open house

*Lesbians interested in participating in Saturday's

jam session

*photography for Women's Center show

*Lesbians who want to sell various wares

If you would like to participate, LFL must be notified as soon as possible. They can be reached at 243 West 20th St., New York, NY 10011; (212) 691-5460.

BOSTON GAY PRIDE FESTIVITIES

will begin on Friday, June 17 at 10:00 PM when a Gay dance will be held at Boston University. On Saturday at 12:00 the Gay Pride Parade begins at Copley Square, to be followed by a rally at 1:30 featuring Ann Maguire, Charlie Shively, Elaine Noble and Barney Frank.

Other activities include an Ethnic/Tribal Dance workshop, GCN's birthday benefit, and a Project Lambda Youth Forum.

Salinas, CA (Gay Community News) -- Inez García, whose case had become a rallying point for feminists throughout the country, was acquitted at a re-trial in April on charges of murdering a man she said helped rape her. Spectators in the packed court

room here burst into cheers as the 10 man, 2 woman jury announced its verdict. García, 32, was convinced over a year and a half ago on charges of killing Miguel Jiménez in Soledad, California in 1974. Although García claimed that she had been raped, the police ordered no examination of her for sexual assault at the time. Although the jury did find her guilty in her first trial and she has served 15 months in prison, an appeals court judge had ordered a second trial for her. Feminists took up García's case, viewing her as a woman who had courageously defended herself against attack.

Montreal (Gay Community News) -- Gay activists in the province of Quebec are becoming increasingly disappointed by the performance of the Parti Quebecois (P.Q.) in its first six months in power, according to the Association pour les Droits des Gai(e)s du Quebec (ADGQ), a Montreal group. The P.Q., under the leadership of Rene Levesque, won wide Gay support during its successful election campaign last November. In contrast with the hostility of the ruling Liberal Party, officers of the separatist P.Q. had been supportive of Gay rights. Now, however, attempts to contact the current Justice minister regarding the addition of sexual orientation to the province's Human Rights Code have not even been acknowledged.

Norman, OK (Seattle Gay News) -- Ten University of Oklahoma students face harassment charges in Superior Court after they wore T-shirts with "Bury a Fairy" and "Do the World a Favor -- Shoot a Faggot" stenciled on them. If found guilty, the students could face expulsion, suspension, or disciplinary probation. The incident follows months of campus dispute over whether the student government should recognize the campus Gay Activist Alliance.

LESBIAN COMMUNICATIONS AND CONTACTS: "introductions between Sisters" Contact The League, Box 2143GA, Darien, CT 06820. Tel: (203) 359-3141.

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FORCE, 773-5530, IN PORTLAND.

Calendar

The WILDE-STEIN CLUB will not meet regularly during the summer, but will continue monthly dances. ...The GAY PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE will meet throughout the summer MONDAYS at 7 PM at 92 Bedford Strret, Portland for business and rap. You need not be a student to attend either group's functions. -- all are welcome!

GROWING...SOBER AND GAY welcomes all Gays and bisexuals who are interested in living a chemical-free life. They may be contacted at GSG, PO Box 893, Waterville 04901. Group meetings 8-9:30 PM, SUNDAYS.

SPECIAL EVENTS

JUNE 17-18 (Friday-Saturday): Statewide International Woman's Year (IWY) Conference at Husson College in Bangor. Registration 4-10 PM, Friday.

JUNE 18 (Saturday): National Gay/Lesbian Pride Week begins. Gay Pride parades in Boston, New York, Lesbian Pride Week celebration begins in New York. For further information on both Gay and Lesbian Pride activities, see Kitchen Sink.

JUNE 19 (Sunday): Maine Lesbian Feminists (MLF) meeting, Bar Harbor.

JUNE 25 (Saturday): Gay Pride parade in Providence. Meet at Union Station at 1:30 PM.

JUNE 26 (Sunday): Maine Gay Men (MGM) Organizational Meeting, 24 Grant Street, Portland, 2 PM. For further info, see article.

JULY 9 (Saturday): Wilde-Stein Dance, MCA Center, College Avenue, Orono, 8-12 PM; \$1.00 donation if you can afford it. Everyone is welcomed.

UnclassifiedS

FREE BITS...free bits...FREE BITS...free bits...FREE BITS...free bits

● THE FIFTH EDITION of the *DIRECTORY OF HOMOSEXUAL ORGANIZATIONS* is now available for \$3.00 at Homosexual Information Center, 6715 Hollywood Blvd, #210, Hollywood, CA 90028.

● GAY COUPLE in Fort Kent invites other Gay men to visit their home and hostel during the summer. They offer a good time: canoe tips, hiking, nude swimming available. They grow, can and freeze their own food and are always happy to have a few extra hands to help out, in exchange for room and board. Contact Jacques and Gautier, c/o Bits, Box 4542, Portland, ME 04112.

● THE GAY NURSES' ALLIANCE needs members. A \$5.00 or more contribution will include you on the mailing list for one year, including *SIGNAL*, our thrice annually newsletter. RN's, LPN's and student nurses all welcome. We also need someone to organize and coordinate our organization in the State of Maine. Write GNA, Box 530, Back Bay Annex, Boston, MA 02117.

● WANTED AND NEEDED: Philanthropist to donate much money for the establishment of a Gay Community Center in Portland. Write Tony Norton, 831R Congress St., Portland, ME 04102.

● I AM PUTTING TOGETHER A SMALL BOOK concerning Gays in prison, and the abuse and cruel treatment they undergo. Many people outside do not know what a Gay goes through in prisons. One is sometimes sold to another inmate for a carton of cigarettes, to give just a single example. In men's prisons a Gay does not have the choice of a sex partner he may want, as they come in all sizes and shapes, white and black. If he does not freely submit, then he may be raped. I would like to hear from all concerned Gays on the outside who would like to share their comments and views on this subject. You do not have to use your name. And if you'd like a free copy of my report, then state so, and I will notify *Mainely Gay* when the book is ready. William F. Smith, 3804 Mussett Rd., Ft. Smith, AR 72901.

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● THE FOLLOWING PRISONERS wish to have correspondence:

Darius Slater #041414
PO Box 747
Starke, FL 32091

Don. D. Dumas #17909
USP, McNeil Island, WA
PO Box 1000
Steilacoom, WA 98388

James C. Welsh
PO Box 221
Raiford, FL 32083

Walter Stowars #A-042479
PO Box 221
Raiford, FL 32083

Richard M. Stewart B-15041
Box AE Rm. 1212
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Roger Hall #034941
PO Box 221
Raiford, FL 32083

Don Smith #140-872
PO Box 787
Lucasville, OH 45648

Tom R. Simonis #053889
PO Box 221
Raiford, FL 32083
Wilson Cannon #045767
PO Box 747
Starke, FL 32091

Carl Harp #126516
PO Box 520
Walla Walla, WA 99362

Buddy McWatters
PO Box 221
Raiford, FL 32083

Larry Joe Purkey
P.M.B. #76070 Camp A-10
Angola, LA 70712

John Hedlund
PO Box 100
Somers, CT 06071

Henry Carter 92440-1
Box 514
Granite, OK 73547

Joseph Ryan #035664
PO Box 747 S-1-N-13
Starke, FL 32091

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● WOMAN SEEKS same to share summer sublet, available mid-June, rent \$70. In Topsham. Call 775-2519.

● I AM COMPILING research for an exploration of the Lesbian and Gay male in Latin American culture and literature. I would appreciate anyone sending me articles from Gay periodicals or leads as to where I might find something. I will pay Xerox costs incurred. John Frank, 24 Grant, Portland, ME 04101.

● HERB WALKS -- 2 hours field trip gathering wild herbs, 2 hours workshop on identifying herbs and using them for healing, cooking, etc., with Miriam Dyak, 688-4432 (call for appt.), \$6. Starting after June 15.

● BEGINNING NUMEROLOGY with Miriam Dyak. 4 hours a week for 4 weeks in Pownal, 4-8 PM Saturdays starting June 18. Beginning knowledge of astrology needed. Call 688-4432 to register.

● YOGA INSTRUCTION -- Miriam Dyak will be teaching classes in yoga both in Portland and Pownal this summer. Call after June 10, 688-4432, to register.

● GAY MALE, 42, writer, editor, summers and autumns at own place in mid-coast area, would like to meet others for exchange of thoughts, friendship. Special interests: all things natural, piano, printing, poetry, antiques, cutting brush, moving rock. Contact Carl, c/o Bits, Box 4542, Portland, ME 04112.

I AM LOOKING FOR OTHER LESBIANS interested in camping, picnics, and other outdoor activities. Contact me by calling Wendy at 772-8469 or by writing Wendy Pergoda, 106 Congress St., 3rd Floor, Portland, ME 04101.

● ANYONE INTERESTED IN HAVING A PEN-PAL IN ENGLAND through the Wimbledon Area Gay Society (WAGS) please write to: WAGS, c/o Box 4542, Portland, ME 04112.

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● MALE, 35, LOOKING FOR PART-TIME HELP gardening and simple carpentry for the summer on 150-acre old farm in Bar Harbor area. Offer room and board in return. Write Box 222, Ellsworth, ME 04605.

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● GAY MALE, 29, would like to meet/correspond with other Gay people. I'm a college graduate and have a wide variety of interests. I especially enjoy such areas as history, music, nature, some sports. I'm a quiet type (so I've been told) and enjoy good conversation with others. Write Dan, c/o Bits, Box 4542, Portland, ME 04112.

● THIS SPRING the Women's Counseling Service is entering its third year. We continue to work with women in the Bath-Brunswick Area in many ways, including one-to-one counseling, pro-se divorce and

abortion counseling, and group workshops in Assertive Training and Female Sexuality. Our library has grown and our referral files provide information on medical, child-care, legal, therapeutic and other services in the area. Our staff now numbers 12 and is still growing. We have a lot of energy and are excited about the months ahead. To pay the rent and provide services, we rely completely on donations. Women who work with us in counseling give as they can, either money or time. The staff is not paid, so our costs are relatively low, but we need your contributions in order to insure that we can continue our services and grow. Anything you can give will benefit the whole community.

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