

Mainely Gay

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CONTENTS

- 1....NOTE TO READERS
 - 2....FEEDBACK..... Reader input
 - 5....NEWS SHORTS..... All that fits
 - 8....DADE COUNTY CHRONOLOGY..... John Frank
 - 15...DEFENDING CLOSETS & GOOD TASTE..... John McPherson
 - 17...MIAMI & THE SEIGE OF THE 14TH AMENDMENT..... John Mitzel
 - 23...COMING OUT IN THE BOWDOIN PINES..... Jon L. Clayborne
 - 31...CUMBERLAND COUNTY CURMUDGEON..... Susan Henderson
 - 33...POEMS..... Bill Gordon
 - 35...MEDICAL ADVISOR..... Paul Lindsay R. N.
 - 36...YOUR CONGRESSPEOPLE PONDER "THE GAY QUESTION" Kim Burch
 - 40...KITCHEN SINK..... Tidbits & bullshit
 - 42...CALENDAR
 - 43...LESBIAN SEXUAL FANTASY SURVEY..... Linda Hamilton
 - 44...POEM..... J.C. Beaulieu
 - 45...BITS
-

Who We Are

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COVER

*"A long, long time ago
in a galaxy far, far away..."*

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Robert Calkins

JULY PRODUCTION

All the regulars

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 not necessarily those of *MAINELY GAY*.

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Note To Readers

● **THEY SAID IT SHOULDN'T BE DONE:** Well here we are, at the 12th of August, and we're just about ready to throw together another issue of *Mainly Gay*. For those strange people keeping score, the rag/mag will be four years old in September. Hard to believe, I'd say. It's almost as unbelievable as our monthly "production techniques," but that's a tale for the Last Ish.

● **IN CASE ANYONE** might have thought that the July copy arrived particularly late in the cover month, you are correct. The trusty mimeograph, long a cherished stalwart amidst an operation not usually noted for smoothness, decided to throw in the towel (or something critical) and the well-paid folks at A.B. Dick spent the better part of a week figuring out what went wrong. For this month, the typing is done, the mimeo's inked, the shitworkers are cued, it's a standard deal and the check's in the mail...right?

● **OUR 47th PLEA:** If you change your mailing address, would you please take the effort to send us a Post Office-supplied post card listing your new location? It's a real drag spending \$3 or \$4 a week from the "ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED" stamped on the MG envelopes. Support your local Gay medium, not the Post Office!

● **TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY:** Three absolutely charming and erudite members of Maine's Gay community, plus a rep from the Maine Human Rights Commission and State Rep. Gerald Talbot (co-sponsor of L.D. 1419, the Gay Rights Bill) will be the guests on a 1 hour "On the Line" program. It's a live phone-in, on WLBZ-TV and radio (Bangor) and WCSH-TV and radio (Portland) from 7-8PM on Wednesday, August 31. The phone no. in Bangor is 942-4822 and in Portland, 772-0183. Discussion will probably center around the recent defeat of L.D. 1419 and "plans for the future..."

--Peter Prizer

FEEDBACK

Dear MG,

We are a group of Maine women who are interested in seeing women's music and live concerts come to Maine. Hence, we have organized a Willie Tyson concert for August 20 in the Portland area, and we hope this will be the first of many such concerts.

We are asking your assistance in publicizing this event, for a large turn-out will guarantee future concerts. Please distribute, post, or make the enclosed flyers available to those who would be interested.

...Thank you for your assistance.

In Sisterhood,
Gemini Prod.
POB 1047
Rockland

[It's certainly good to know that women's music is here in Maine and in the flesh! Your flyers have been plastered all over the Old Port section of Portland, and the concert is listed in the Calendar, this ish.]

Dear MG,

I am writing this letter to you in hopes that you might consider helping me with a problem I have concerning my parole. I am presently incarcerated in the Connecticut Correctional Institute at Somers, CT and will be seeing the parole board this Sept. 13. The last time I saw the board they asked me to have a parole plan ready for September which I am now in the process of doing. I would greatly appreciate any assistance in finding a place to stay, a job, and a sponsor. If you should know of anyone willing to help, please give them my address or send me theirs.

I would like to start all over again somewhere in the Portland area. I was born in Gardiner and have lived in Milo and Biddeford, but that was quite a while ago. Therefore I don't know anyone there now who could help me.

I have some experience in molding (compression and injection) rubber, plastics and metals. Also heat-treating and typewriter repair. I have also done many various other odd jobs. I am a good worker and learn fast. I have a high school equivalency and have attended evening college classes since I've been here.

In closing I would like to thank you for your time, help and any consideration that you may have on this matter. There is more detailed information available for those wishing to help. In hopes to hear from someone soon, thank you.

John Hedlund
PO Box 100
Somers, CT 06071

Dear MG,

The Lesbian Defense Fund needs your help. LDF has spent almost a year of intensive fundraising up and down the east coast, going to almost every major women's and Gay gathering, asking people for support. You have come through for us.

But things change in the summer: there just aren't so

many events at which we can fundraise. Loyal supporters have stuck by us and contributed two or three times. But even with this help, we're just stretched too thin.

Bills from lawyers and expert witnesses are still coming in. We may think in terms of quarters and dollars; our bills are in hundreds and thousands.

The custody case with which we have been struggling the longest has taken turns for the better. When it started it looked as though there was little chance of winning, but now, after many months, it is beginning to look as though it will be over and that we may win. There are no promises that it will continue to look this good, but we feel that it will. If it hadn't been for the amazing support that we have received from the women's and Gay communities, we would have had to have given up almost as soon as it started. Thanks to you, and those like you, we have made it this far with considerable success.

That is why it is so crucial that we do not lose the support that has kept us going for this long. For the bills to stop being paid would mean disaster. It would be over when we have almost made it and we will have lost!

Please, if it is at all possible, send us another contribution, or send us your first, so that we don't go under now, when it begins to look like all the time, energy, and your support will begin to pay off.

We appreciate your past support, and strongly hope that you will be able to add to it.

Sincerely,
Lesbian Defense
Fund
PO Box 4
Essex Jct., VT
05452

[Members of LDF were present at Symposium IV in Bangor this year raising money to support their struggle. For background, see article in the April issue of Mainely Gay.]

LETTER FROM MAINELY GAY

Dear Dan,

Your unclassified ad that was printed in the June and July issues of MG attracted lots of mail, Dan, but the strangest thing happened...

As one of the members of our industrious and extraordinarily efficient staff was on the way to a nearby burgern fries stand carrying your address between his thumb and index finger, an American eagle descended from the skies and, presumably mistaking the slip of paper for its contract renewal as Nation's Top Bird, ruthlessly tore your address out of the staff-person's grasp and flew to its local aerie.

So can you send your address so that we can send you your mail? Thanks.

Love,
Mainely Gay
PO Box 4542
Portland, ME
04112

NEWS SHORTS

IRVINE, CA (Advocate) --

The Gay way is not just for human beings. It's also for the birds. Contrary to the popular notion that only human beings become homosexual, two researchers at the University of California at Irvine have documented that homosexuality is an accepted lifestyle for up to 14% of Southern California's seagull population. George and Molly Warner Hunt of the university's Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology have been observing the breeding cycle of 1,200 pairs of western gulls on Santa Barbara Island for five years. The researchers say that between eight and 14 per cent of the gulls they've studied form "homosexual pairs" and "exhibit all the courtship and territorial behaviors used by heterosexually mated birds." Many of the gulls remain with their Gay partners year after

year, say the researchers.

NEW YORK (Gay Community News)

The incoming executive director of the NAACP, appearing on CBS-TV's "Face the Nation" show on July 10, expressed his support for the Gay rights movement. Benjamin Hooks, former commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission, was asked whether he thought the Gay movement was a legitimate civil rights movement. "The Gay rights movement has some strong and striking similarities to the civil rights movement," replied Hooks.

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Gay Life)

Two different times during recent weeks the U.S. House of Representatives has specifically excluded Gay people from participating in federal projects. The first such instance came when the appropriations bill for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HR 7554) was being discussed. A HUD ruling that homosexual couples

would be eligible for low-cost housing was nullified by a voice vote on the House floor. The second instance happened when an amendment was added to HR 6666 which extends the life of the Legal Services Corporation. This agency provides legal assistance for persons with incomes below the federal poverty level. The amendment which was introduced by Rep. Larry McDonald (D, Georgia and a John Birch Society member) excluded homosexuals by saying "no funds can be used to provide legal assistance with respect to any proceeding or litigation arising out of disputes or controversies on the issue of homosexuality or so-called Gay rights." The amendment was approved by a vote of 230 to 133. Maine's First District Rep. David F. Emery voted for the anti-Gay amendment, and Second District Rep. William Cohen voted against.

MINNEAPOLIS (Advocate) -- The National Education Association (NEA), the world's largest organization of teachers, has added the phrase "sexual orientation" to its state-

ment of philosophy on civil rights. The addition was approved during the Associations annual convention. The revised policy calls for the removal "by statute and practice" of all "barriers of race, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, handicap and economic status."

The Board of Directors of the 4,300-member Medical Library Association has voted not to consider Dade County, Florida, as a meeting site "until the climate there alters so that large numbers of the Association's members do not feel unwelcome and uncomfortable there."

HUNTINGTON, W VA (GCN) -- As ten hooded Ku Klux Klan members watched, Gay protesters jeered and threw cherry bombs at anti-Gay Crusader Anita Bryant following her appearance at Marshall University. Bryant was uninjured in the incident which followed a performance to benefit a "family oriented" television station in Huntington. The singer received a standing ovation for her performance which included renditions

of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" and "Amazing Grace." The Ku Klux Klan members told the press "We are on hand to protect her [Bryant]." It is not known whether the KKK "protection" of the controversial singer was initiated by Bryant or simply by the group itself. After the incident, Bryant said, "Sometimes, when water hits the wheel, you have to stand up...I am pro-civil rights for parents and for the straight majority."

MIAMI (GCN) -- A federal judge has granted a temporary order barring Anita Bryant and her anti-Gay organization from further use of the name "Save Our Children." U.S. District Judge William H. Hoeverler also issued a ten-day temporary restraining order preventing Bryant from using the name for the title of her forthcoming book, "Save Our Children: One Woman's Crusade Against the Sin of Homosexuality." The court order was requested by the Connecticut-based Save the Children Foundation, a 46-year-old non-

profit group that collects money for underprivileged children. The group charged that fundraising efforts are being hurt nationally by the criticism and publicity drawn by Bryant's vitriolic anti-Gay campaign. "We estimate our loss at \$44,000 for the month of June," said a spokesperson for the group. "This would have sponsored 229 children here and abroad for the year." Appearing before Judge Hoeverler, private investigator Tom Wolfe said he was unable to serve process papers on Bryant. At one point, Wolfe said, he couldn't get anyone to come to the gate of the singer's Miami Beach estate. "Finally a female answered the gate but refused to identify herself and refused to accept the papers which I attempted to hand her," he said. Wolfe testified that he left the papers in a mail chute.



THE ANITA BRYANT STORY: A DADE COUNTY CHRONOLOGY

By John Frank

Now's your chance to catch up on what you've missed of "The Trials of Hurricane Anita." More absurd than "Waiting for Godot," more heart-rending than "Days of Our Lives," this new series has been, for the past few months, the rage of the Walter Cronkite set. If Neilsen ratings were given out to news stories, "Hurricane Anita" would have beaten "Mary Hartman, Mary Hartman" hands down. (Having little to do with myself this summer, the mind wanders...and peering about the MG offices, I found several Gay publications at hand, so I've compiled this chronology which indicates, to me anyway, just how crazy the Big AB and her tragicomedy has been...)

1976

July 26: Dade County Coalition formed.

Sept 7: Dade County Coalition surveys 65 candidates for local and state offices. 45 of 49 endorsed candidates are elected.

Dec: Miami Metro Commissioner Ruth Shack introduces an ordinance protecting Dade County Gays in housing, employment and public accommodation.

1977

Jan 18: Metro Commission passes Gay Rights ordinance by 5-3 vote. Anita Bryant and Alvin Dark argue against the measure at a public hearing in a chamber packed with their supporters.

Jan: Anita and Coral Gables Commissioner Robert Brake form Save Our Children Inc. to oppose the ordinance and embark on a campaign to gather enough signatures to force a public referendum on the issue.

Feb: Save Our Children presents petitions to County Commission with over 60,000 names on them. Necessary to force referendum: 10,000.

Feb 18: Anita displays pro-Gay flyer, allegedly found at a local high school. Bob Kunst, of Dade County Coalition, denies the circulation of literature at schools.

- Feb: Anita sez: "I do not have hate or have anger toward homosexuals. I hate the act of homosexuality. I have the right as a mother to be jealous of the atmosphere created by flaunting homosexuals."
- Feb: Anita sez: "Some [males who could become teachers] would even wear dresses to work and flaunt their homosexuality in front of my children."
- Feb 24: Tele-Tactics and Singer cancel plans for Anita's projected TV talk-show because of "the extensive national publicity arising from the controversial political activities you have been engaged in..."
- Feb: Nation-wide "gaycott" of Florida citrus products initiated.
- Mar: Anita sez: "Our laws were never meant for the abnormals and were made for the majority."
- Mar 3: Anita claims she has been "blacklisted for exercising her right as a mother to defend her children...against their being recruited by homosexuals."
- Mar 4: Singer reinstates Anita, saying the previous decision had not been cleared with top management.
- Mar 6: Anita sez: "They call themselves a minority; it's not a birth-right, it's a style they've chosen. For the same matter it would mean making a special law for fat, short, tall or nail-biting people. Next, the prostitutes will be demanding their rights."
- Mar 9: Arkansas House of Representatives unanimously pass a resolution supporting Anita's crusade. Resolution's sponsor, Rep. Tom Collier, says, "When you go against God's law, you have no human rights."
- Mar 12: Anita sez: "It is a battle of the agnostics, the atheists, and the ungodly on one side, and God's people on the other."
- Mar 15: Miami Metro Commission votes 6-3 to hold county-wide referendum.
- Mar 16: Anita announces on "The Phil Donahue Show" that she is taking her campaign to Congress to block passage of the National Gay Rights Bill.
- Mar 21: When opposition to holding the vote mounts after it is revealed that referendum will cost \$400,000, Dade County Coalition offers to finance election's cost.
- Mar 22: Outbreak of anti-Gay violence in Dade County. Front door of apartment of Brad Wilson, MCC pastor, firebombed; Car of Manuel Gomez, member of Dade County Coalition, gutted by fire; Ovidio Ramos, also a member of DCC, is found dead -- presumed suicide.
- Mar: Miami lawyer Ellis Rubin introduces a suit contesting legality of the ordinance.
- Apr 5: Second firebombing of an auto; two Gay activists are targetted,

but they escape injury.

- Apr 12: Anita appears on "Who's Who" and sez: "Our pastor would even burn down the school" rather than allow homosexual teachers in it.
- Apr 16: Dover (NH) City Council member Arnold Peters announces intentions of introducing ordinance barring homosexuals from teaching and states, "Anita Bryant's stand against homosexuals is surely one of the most moral stands that any concerned American or parent could ever take."
- Apr: ERA fails ratification in Florida, a key state (no pun intended), due in large part to Anita's anti-Gay campaign there.
- Apr 15: Judge Sam Silver rules the ordinance constitutional.
- Apr 19: Miami Metro Commission agrees to finance referendum and sets June 7 as the date for voting.
- Apr: Phyllis Schafley, leader of anti-ERA/anti-abortion campaign, requests Anita to tone down her anti-Gay campaign because, according to Schafley, the ugliness of the Save Our Children campaign is winning too many supporters to the Gay Rights cause.
- Apr 26: Florida's governor Reuben Askew announces his support of repeal of Dade County ordinance, stating that he would not want a known homosexual teaching his children and that he would not hire a professed homosexual for his staff."
- May 3: Poet Rod McKuen criticizes Anita as "a kind of Ginny Orangeseed spreading bigotry throughout the land."
- May 4: Anita sez: "If homosexuality were not against nature, God would have created Adam and Bruce."
- May 5: LA police dispute Anita's claim that "25,000 boys 17-years-old or younger in Los Angeles have been recruited into a homosexual ring" in the last year.
- May 5: Manuel Gomez, Miami activist, attempts suicide; hate campaign is blamed.
- May 7: Anita labels Rod McKuen a "pervert and a carpetbagger."
- May 7: Sen. Edward Brooke (MA), announces his support for the ordinance saying that Anita "is, it seems to me, wrong."
- May 7: Big Brothers of Minneapolis commend Anita for her "efforts in behalf of the children in your area." Save Our Children immediately uses the letter for their campaign with the ad headline: "Would you want a homosexual 'Big Brother' for YOUR fatherless boy?"
- May: Jim Curasi of Florida's Public Service Commission announces he is bisexual and criticizes Gov. Askew's comment in support of Anita. Curasi is asked to resign.

- May: Seattle TV station KIRO praises Anita's crusade and is deluged by demands for equal time. At KIRO's refusal, station is picketed by 200 demonstrators.
- May 8: In Miami magazine interview, Anita sez that the current California drought is a punishment from God because of recent sodomy-repeal legislation. In the same interview she sez: "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." Anita sez the same applies to heterosexual women who engage in oral sex, ...and also to Lesbians.
- May 19: United Teachers of Dade County (AFL-CIO) adopts statement endorsing "human rights and dignity of every individual in the conduct of one's personal life," and "oppose the repeal of civil rights protections for Gays..."
- May: Gay Rights attorney, Albert Gordon, announces plans to sue Anita for libel for her claim that Gay people are to blame for the California drought if she does not give "a full and complete retraction."
- May: Save Our Children, fearing it is a letter bomb, has a large brown envelope received in the mail detonated by Miami police.. Air is filled with hundreds of Gay Rights leaflets.
- May 25: Coors Brewing Company, supporter of many right-wing causes, denies rumor of financially supporting Anita's anti-Gay campaign.
- May 28: Gloria Steinem speaks out for Gay rights and against ordinance repeal at Memorial Day celebration in Florida.
- May 28: Organized outburst of anti-Gay violence in Waterloo, Iowa, attributed to Anita's crusade.
- May 29: Anti-Gay rally in San Antonio brings "out" only 1,000 of the expected 10,000. Placards read "Help Homos Find Jesus" and "Homos Need Help."
- Jun 2: Southern Baptist Convention confirms that homosexuality is a sin and adopts resolution praising Anita for her "courageous stand against the evils inherent in homosexuality."
- Jun 4: Dade County Gay Rights ordinance is rated a "toss-up."
- Jun 4: American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (AFTRA), New Orleans chapter, unanimously pass motion to deny services to Anita at her scheduled performance there June 16-17.
- Jun 5: Attempted firebombing on Dade County Coalition's Miami offices.
- Jun 7: Dade County ordinance defeated: 202,319--83,319, 44.8% voting. Anita sez: "The laws and the cultural values of man have been vindicated," and announces her plans to carry her "holy war" to Washington,

- DC, Minneapolis, San Antonio, and Los Angeles. Gay protest demonstrations in New York, San Francisco, Denver and other cities.
- Jun 8: 300 Gay people march and shout inside Scopes Arena, Norfolk, VA where Anita addresses religious crusade. 1,000 march outside.
- Jun 9: Robert Brake of Save Our Children sez: "The molestation tactic was the thing that particularly got the headlines. We know now how effectively it can be used."
- Jun 9: The National Gay Task Force announced beginning of \$1M fund-raising campaign entitled, "We ARE Your Children."
- Jun: Save Our Cherished Kids (SOCK) organized in San Antonio, TX. Save Our Society (SOS) organized in Indianapolis.
- Jun 11: Although according to rules, no out-of-state participants were to speak at Ohio's IWY (International Women's Year) meeting, Anita, invited through the governor's office, addresses the group in Columbus where she is met by demonstrations.
- Jun 12: Leader of Indiana's Save Our Society, Rev. Lawson, advocates that Gay people should be "eliminated."
- Jun 13: Entertainer Florence Henderson, when asked what she thinks of Anita's campaign, says that she had always been taught that Jesus was loving, forgiving, caring and compassionate and that she doesn't "see much of that in Anita."
- Jun 14: Bryant's appearance before 1,000 Shriners at Medinah Temple, Chicago, set off protest demonstrations. 3,000 encircle the temple; 8 are arrested for disorderly conduct.
- Jun: San Francisco activists ask FCC to order a Glendale television station to give equal time to Gays in response to 6 hours of air time featuring Anita and hubby, Bob Green.
- Jun: Prominent Dutch political and religious leaders send cable to Carter calling on him to "make America an example, a nation with civil rights for all" and for him to "announce support for the civil rights of Gay people in the US."
- Jun 16: Gay protest rally of 6,000-8,000 accompanies Anita's speech in Houston, TX. Anti-Gay counterdemonstration, slated to draw 10,000 attracts only 250.
- Jun 16-17: Anita appears in New Orleans at Summer Pops Concert and is met by 200 silent protesters the first night. The following night, 1,500-2,000 march through French Quarter to Municipal Auditorium where she is appearing. At an interview after the show, Anita sez: "I'd rather my child be dead than be a homosexual."
- Jun 17: Bill designed to congratulate Anita for her "courageous cam-

- paign" fails in Illinois House. During debate, Rep. Harold Byers states, "Next we'll be passing a resolution congratulating the Nazis who want to march through Skokie."
- Jun 18: Boston Gay Pride march, marked by an increase of seriousness and numbers (7,000).
- Jun 19: Unitarian Conference condemns Save Our Children campaign, saying that Anita's "bigotry and misinformation...strike at the very foundation of the basic tenet of the Unitarian-Universalist Association, to seek the truth and support the worth of all humans."
- Jun 21: Bob Hope, long-time Anita fan, says, "I know an awful lot of people of all sexes -- the middle one included -- and I don't want to criticize anybody that way."
- Jun: Actress Lauren Bacall says that she thinks that what Anita is doing is "very foolish and very ignorant" and that she doesn't "know what the woman's problem is."
- Jun 22: Robert Hillsborough, San Francisco Gay man, murdered by 4 youths yelling "faggot, faggot" as they stabbed him 15 times in the face and chest. As they left the scene, it is reported that they said, "Here's one for Anita."
- Jun 22: Entertainer Shirley MacLaine pleads for other celebrities to support Gay rights. "We owe...plenty of everything to Gays. You've got to come out and bop this thing on the head, hit it as hard as you can, to protect the civil liberties and human rights in this country."
- Jun 25: Gay Pride Day: "largest demonstrations of protest since the anti-war days" (Time). Marches bring out over 350,000 people internationally. 250,000-San Francisco, 40,000-New York, 3,000-Los Angeles, 1,000-Denver, 2,000-Seattle, 1,200-Atlanta, 1,000-London, 4,000-Barcelona, 2,000-Amsterdam.
- Jun 26: Gay man shot outside of dance in Miami. Dade County Coalition issues a request that Save Our Children make public statement deploring violence. Silence from SOC.
- Jul 2: Mother of Robert Hillsborough, victim of San Francisco homophobes, files \$5M lawsuit against Anita and others, claiming that they conspired to incite beating death of her son. Says Mrs. Hillsborough, "My son's blood is on Anita Bryant's hands."
- Jul 2: Executive Committee of the National Emergency Civil Liberties Committee reaffirms its "commitment to the struggle for recognition of civil rights of homosexuals" and "deplores the efforts of Anita Bryant."

Jul: Rumored that Florida Citrus Commission is considering firing Anita as official spokesperson because of her "controversial activities."

Jul 3: Charles Lewis, San Francisco Gay man, is kidnapped and raped at gunpoint by teenagers. While one of the two women held a gun in his mouth, two of the three men rape him, repeatedly shouting, "Anita is right, Anita is right."

Jul: National Council of the Actors Equity Association reprimands Anita, calling her campaign "no different from any other threat on the right of all persons to live, worship or believe as they choose."

Jul 13: 400 Gay people and supporters demonstrate against Anita at her Kansas City appearance.

Jul: Save Our Children sued by Save the Children Federation, saying that because that because of the use of the name by Anita's group, Save the Children lost an estimated \$44,000 in the month of June alone.

Jul 14: Anita, subpoenaed for suit involving Save the Children Federation, fails to appear in court.

Jul 16: Gallup Poll reveals that 56% Americans, 52% Canadians support Gay Rights.

Jul: Deseret News (Salt Lake City), owned by the Mormon Church, praises Anita and condemns homosexual sex as "disgusting, repulsive, severely condemned by Almighty God." The Church's president, Spencer W. Kimball, says that the reason for the drought in western US is the Mormon's "tolerance of late of too much homosexuality."

Jul: Federal judge orders ten-day temporary restraining order preventing Anita from using "Save Our Children" in the title of her forthcoming book and in the title of her organization.

Jul 20: Ten hooded KKK members "protect" Anita at Marshall University, Huntington, WV, following her appearance when Gay protesters jeered and threw cherry bombs at her.

Jul 20: Florida Citrus Commission announces that Anita will be retained as Orange Juice Queen.

Jul: Nation-wide poll of teenaged beauty contestants vote Anita as "America's greatest American." (Well, what did you expect?)

Jul: 16 demonstrators picket Anita's presence in Sun Valley, ID where she is on vacation, chanting "Anita go home, leave Idaho alone."

Jul: Libertarian party denounces "the whipping up of anti-homosexual hysteria" by Anita.

* * * * *

DEFENDING CLOSETS AND GOOD TASTE

By John McPherson

These are some ramblings on misdirections in Gay pride and its workings down strange paths or wrong ones.

Maybe it's just as well the Maine Gay rights bill lost. It may have forced some of us out of the closet more than we find convenient or comfortable. I've heard the thesis that there are myriads of subtle nonvocal and disguised ways of coming out; I still remember decades ago Pop was ready to turn my picture to the wall and bar the house to me when the friendly family doctor babbled what I had naively thought was confidential. Current women's magazines still talk of how Telling the Folks is super-traumatic. Even now, I still haven't told the grown-up kids or various assorted in-laws. I've been afraid.

Riding with a co-worker to an affirmative action meeting we were both attending, he asks if I guess we'll get any homosexual cases. I say that since there is no law on the books now, I doubt it. It's a typical evasion we all make regularly, and it's so common it hardly bothers me much. "Would it have been worth it, after all -- would it have been worthwhile" to say: "You're talking of a cause near and dear to me" and to elaborate that I signed a petition and showed up at the legislative hearing? The declaration would have been unwise. My elastic conscience is not bothered by the white lies.

John Addington Symonds was that one of the Victorian Good Gay Poets who wrote Whitman that horribly blunt question about which the latter lied evasively in answering. And he also wrote the words to good, uplifting hymns I've sung countless Sundays, and authored the two 19th century scholarly tomes, Problems in Ancient Ethics and Problems in Modern Ethics -- now changed from library rare-book Delta collections to Marboro dollar reprints. In one of his

songs to street-walkers lauding the one-night stands as conceivably meaningful, he pulled off a sex-change operation:

Why is it I remember yet
You of all women one has met
In random wayfare as one meets
The chance romances of the streets
The Juliet of a night...

Lying and evading are built into us; make economic and social common sense.

* * * * *

The Advocate, I see, has come out against "chicken porn", daring to lose one percent or less of its advertising. I'm waiting for it also to decide that water sports, enemas, S+M, bondage and discipline, toys, and terminal sex are freaky lunatic fringes... and to lose substantially larger advertising dollars.... Someone wrote to Esplanade that the Gay movies are weird come-ons. Why doesn't anyone warn the potential customer that they are plotless showings of acres of genitals, enlarged, on screens? When I paid my cash in to go to one of these shows (in Manhattan, not Maine), the film was interrupted by a half-hour or more of male burlesque, timed even more stupidly than the cuts for TV commercials in the idiot-box movies. But maybe it wasn't stupid; it wouldn't have mattered where the break came in. The whole film seemed to be impersonal, unemotional fellatio between a dozen persons. So what difference did it make whether it was time 11 between persons C and K or time 7 between persons A and B?

* * * * *

Gay pride doesn't mean I have to approve of all that's spoken in its name.

MIAMI AND THE SIEGE OF THE 14TH AMENDMENT

By John Mitzel

A friend was the first to ask me my reaction to the vote in Dade County. "Well," I said, "remember that over 60% of the electorate voted for Nixon in 1972 and his show folded less than two and a half years later. So will Anita's." But the heavy margin of the vote in Anita's favor gave her act a great boost. She's got it all together now, and she's taking her show on the road. We've seen the curtain-raiser in Miami. Whether it ends as a farce, social-message drama, or a jacobean revenge play will depend in great measure on the appropriateness of the response of the Gay community across this country.

Looking back at the debacle in Dade County, we can analyze the mistakes in the tactics used by the supporters of Gay rights there and, I hope, not repeat them in our upcoming encounters with the forces of reaction.

That the reactionaries would use the ballot box to assault a minority's rights is so peculiarly American. The ballot box: visible symbol of American democracy (!), through which all issues and candidates can be validated and legitimized, no matter how unconstitutional or morally noxious. Using the forms and the slogans of our corrupt participatory democracy makes the threat of their political reaction no less threatening to us and to the rule of law. And it is ample evidence that the rights of citizens in a polyglot and secular nation are too important to be left up to the fanciful and changing prejudices of a majority (the "Normal Majority" as Anita, in her unctuous and self-serving way, call them, a phrase obviously reminiscent of Nixon's "great silent majority").

To begin with, I think it was incorrect for the referendum battle to be joined at all. It was false and diversionary step to even acknowledge the legitimacy of this

particular vote. It debased us to submit our rights to the ballyhoo and whirligig irresponsibility of a popular election. Our rights are not like candidates who can be voted in and out of office each term. Rights are inalienable; the only party we need to negotiate with are the representatives of The State. We demand that The State must acknowledge and guarantee to protect our rights. We need not to submit to the regard of the popular will in this matter. As I think the Dade County Coalition -- and advocates of civil rights anywhere -- have come to realize, the proper place for opinion on the limits of civil rights is in the Federal Court System.

One reason the Dade County Coalition and its supporters were eager to join the battle in Florida was because there was a fair chance of scoring a "victory at the polls" which would be of enormous symbolic value. I never for a minute believed there was any truth to these polls. The polls were, in fact, wildly in error, as the final vote demonstrated. The Gay coalition was misled by a lie.

How did it happen? It's difficult to establish whether it was a deliberate conspiracy or not. I think much blame must be placed on the mass media who have for years participated in their own kind of conspiracy of silence about the conditions of life for faggots and lesbians, I think John Rechy hit the right note in his recent commentary in the Los Angeles Times: "A new kind of gentlemen's agreement -- a frightened gentlemen's agreement -- exists in the 'liberal' heterosexual establishment. It is an agreement to ignore the daily violation of homosexuals' civil rights; to systematically shun Gay subject matter; to never mention marauders inevitably unleashed and legitimized by public campaigns against homosexuals. With the help of the news media, the Anita Bryants of this world repeat a whole litany of ugly myths..." So in the absence of truth about our condition in this Christian-riddled country, it's no wonder that Anita's Big Lie that we are child-molesters seeking "special privileges" goes down so well. As one of Anita's flunkies said himself after the referendum vote: "The molestation was the

thing that particularly got the headlines. We now know how effectively it can be used."

The so-called "liberal" media in this land bear much of the responsibility for the reactionary results of the vote in Dade County. This was a response to their legacy of years of ignoring and abusing us. Some future energy must be expanded correcting the attitudes of the press. As obtuse as journalists and editors can be, they are educable.

As to our position vis-a-vis the general public, we should establish right away that we seek rational discussion with those who are open to it. There is no point in talking to people who are already thumping their bibles to Anita's beat. We must emphasize that we are not like Anita's people; we must not assume for ourselves any tactics or characteristics of her fanatics. Nothing could hurt us more than adopting the strategy recommended by Brian McNaught. McNaught suggests that Gay people reclaim religion and patriotism as their own. He advocates that we sing patriotic songs along with Anita, and while doing so we should "vigorously wave a small American flag in one hand and a Bible in the other." This is a prescription for self-destruction. Half the enemy's fight is to get us to acknowledge *the legitimacy of their terms for the battle*. They use lies, superstitions, appeals to ignorance and emotions and prejudices backed up by the "authority" of the Bible. To combat them, we should not become like that. Our terms are: civil rights, appeals to laws based on the Constitution, and the rights of minorities in a diverse and secular society. The bible is not our friend; it is the most vicious instrument of the enemy. We must avoid appeals to unreason and religious prophets.

McNaught is not alone in his fallacious strategy. Bruce Voeller and Jean O'Leary made the same error in a piece that appeared on the Op-Ed page of the New York Times the day of the vote. Voeller and O'Leary actually quoted St. Paul against Anita! St. Paul! We must not base our arguments on whatever St. Paul is alleged to have said. We must base our

arguments on American history of civil rights guarantees based on the 14th Amendment (as well as others). Citing religious figures is Anita's gambit; it is a fit tactic for those who wish to live in a theocratic society. And Anita and her people *want* a theocracy; she said, "The laws of God have been vindicated." (The "laws of God" dictates that all homosexuals should be murdered -- remember that the next time a Gay person quotes a testament to you.) It is to our advantage to quote someone like James Madison, who wrote: "Religion is not within the cognizance of Civil Government."

Another error in public action was the use of the "Thank You Anita For Bringing Us Together" line. We heard this over and over again. If one result of her campaign of bigotry and hatred has been to bring us closer and focus our energies, well, is it reasonable to assume that we would have done anything else? Would you not fight back against an attack on your civil rights and personal safety? Yes, we can acknowledge that Anita has brought us together, but this truth is strictly for intra-Gay consumption. The straights to whom we are addressing ourselves in this battle must *never* see any of us saying, "Thank you Anita." They will not understand. They will only wonder what all the fuss is about -- they see Anita saying she loves homosexuals and prays for us, and we're saying thank you Anita. It makes no sense!

One member of the Boston Advocates for Human Rights, upon hearing that Anita might be making a personal appearance in Boston, suggested to me that we paint a big THANK YOU ANITA banner, meet her at the airport, then present her with a dozen roses. I explained that we must depict Anita as an American fascist -- not as a symbol of unity. We must not kiss the boot that's aiming to smash us in the face.

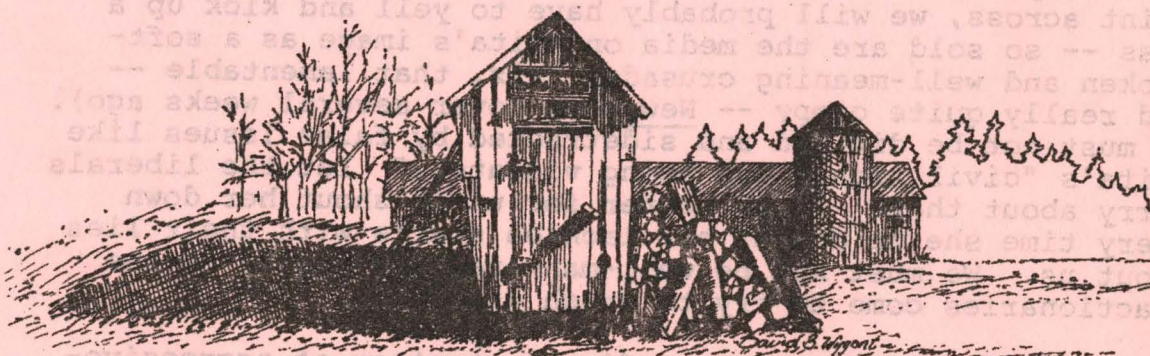
Speaking of identifying Anita as a fascist, I think the Dade County Coalition was insensitive in allowing, permitting or encouraging comparison of Anita to Hitler. For many Jews in Dade County, no one is on the level with Hitler. Putting Anita on that level only debases the point we are making, and reveals our lack of understanding of the history of oppres-

sion of other minorities.-- with whom we should otherwise form a natural alliance. I recommend that we identify Anita as a fascist, but a fascist of a distinctly -- and in some capacities sublime -- American stripe. She stands in the company of Father Coughlin (the best analogy), Joe McCarthy, and Richard Nixon. It is up to us to get across the image of Anita not as a sweet, gentle, crying, tender mother and sunshine'n'orange juice lover; we must reveal her as a yahoo, know-nothing, bible-thumping subverter of civil law and due process. Unfortunately, to get this rather obvious point across, we will probably have to yell and kick up a fuss -- so sold are the media on Anita's image as a soft-spoken and well-meaning crusader (viz. that lamentable -- and really quite campy -- Newsweek cover several weeks ago). We must not be divided and sidetracked by false issues like Anita's "civil rights are being violated." Let the liberals worry about that. It is better for us to shout her down every time she or one of her lackies starts with their lies about us. We must not be well-mannered and polite as the reactionaries come to try to crush us.

All in all, I'm recommending a strategy of aggressiveness and not one of apologetic defensiveness. We set the terms of discussion; we make demands on The State. And to date we've met with great success in utilizing this strategy. To have the Pope admit in public (as he did last year) that he is not a homosexual is an enormous step. Homosexuality is more widely discussed now than in any time in western culture since the days of Justinian (who made sodomy a capital crime because, as we all know, it caused earthquakes; and I dread the day when San Francisco gets levelled by a 'quake -- think how the fundamentalists will rant and rave over that, though they are oddly silent at the devastating earthquake that killed over a half million people last year in the People's Republic of China, a country whose leaders maintain there is no homosexuality in China). We must remain ourselves; we must stand on our own ground; we must continue to demand protection of our rights as we are today, and we must *not* become like those of the opposition who, religious and patriotic though they say they

are, seek only to rid the world of us.

[Editor's note: The above article was reprinted from GAY COMMUNITY NEWS. GCN, a weekly journal of Gay news, features and opinion, is available by subscription. The annual sub rate is \$15. Their address is GCN, 22 Bromfield St., Boston, Mass. 02108. GCN is mailed in a plain, no-peek envelope.]



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COMING OUT IN THE BOWDOIN PINES

By Jon L. Clayborne

There was only one consideration on my mind when I selected a college; I wanted to separate myself as far as possible from urban America, in particular, New York City. Grown and nurtured primarily in Southeast Bronx, I was desperate to flee from squalor, concrete, and paranoia. Conditioned to be a loner, I sought some bucolic environment for my undergraduate studies.

My college placement advisor in high school convinced me to divert my attention from Ohio and persuaded me to look further North. Maine! Maine? He recommended two small private schools, neither of which I had ever heard of before. Aside from associating potatoes and seafood with Maine, I knew nothing about the state. Still, it was far away from New York City and I suspected that it would placate my yearning to be emerged in tranquility. I applied to Colby and Bowdoin in the Fall of 1964.

It was not until colleges began to notify my class of their decisions during the following Spring that I realized I had only sent applications to two schools, both of them highly competitive. Other people in my high school were receiving acceptances and rejections, while I received nothing. "Oh, Shit! Maybe there is still time to apply to some other colleges. In the middle of April! You dummy!" What relief I felt when my first acceptance notice arrived. "I'm going to college!" Then the second acceptance. "Thank god! I'm getting out of the Bronx!"

Deciding which school I would choose was not very difficult. I had spent a pre-freshman weekend at Bowdoin earlier in the Spring and had been captivated by the atmosphere on the Brunswick campus. Colby had offered me more scholarship funding, but the idea of attending an all-male college* carried more sophistication. Class won out over

*In 1971 Bowdoin became a coeducational institution; a move I found myself supporting during my years at the College.

crass concerns like money.

By May I was ready for my September departure date. A clock, blankets and sheets, and new undergarments were purchased. A steamer trunk was sent ahead, in care of me at my new address of 9 Hyde Hall, and additional luggage was packed for the auto journey. Amidst the congratulations my mother took time to warn me to be careful in my encounters with girls, because they could get a boy into serious difficulties. Although I had never received a sex lecture from my parents I knew exactly what my mother meant. I assured mom that I would be cautious with females, and was completely self-assured that no problems would arise.

I was settled on the Bowdoin campus for only a week when I was, nevertheless, confronted with the male/female problem that would recur almost every weekend: How was I to find a date to accompany me to the various social functions at the then unisexed Bowdoin? Bowdoin's sister school was located a three and a half hour drive south in Massachusetts; "townies" were theoretically off-limits; dating women from the nearby junior college made a Bowdoin man a pariah; and a black male, in a state with seemingly fewer blacks than lived in a Southeast Bronx apartment building, could arouse some glares with his white date. Despite these obstacles, I was always able to arrange a date with a minimum of effort.

During the first few weeks of the new term the twelve fraternities held parties called "mixers" (not named for the liquid served, although the amount of drinking was only surpassed by the amount of passing out). Women were bussed to the fraternity houses from diverse locales, in hopes of enticing Bowdoin freshmen to become "brothers" at the fraternities. Once pledged to a house, the freshman "little brother" was assigned an upperclassman "big brother" whose fraternal concern was occasionally extended to fixing up his charge with a blind date. Personal reconnaissances for dates on other campuses, and the assistance of newly acquired friends rounded out the options for finding female companions during my freshman year. What alternatives were there to this constant pursuit of women! Some guys did take an oath of celibacy, but I was not about to become a monk. There was another alternative. When I returned to the Bronx for the summer break in 1966 I had dated five women; I had also slept with one male. I was hopelessly in love with the male.

I had never been taught that two males could love each other, but neither had anyone told me that it was inconceivable. In fact, momentarily diverting my attention from a junior high school homework assignment, I had once concluded that there was no logical reason prohibiting two males from falling in love. When I suddenly found myself one of those males in love with another male I was overwhelmed by the ease and the naturalness of the relationship.

Looking back on that first sexual encounter with another male (the first with anyone) I sense a mixture of humor and satisfaction. I had insistently convinced a friend, Doug, to spend the night in my room because I genuinely thought he was too drunk to make it back to his dormitory. Surely he must have concealed his amusement by my seemingly corny approach to get him into the sack. When I told him he could sleep in the vacant top bunk and I promptly went to sleep in the lower bunk, he must have thought I was nothing but bizarre. Any misunderstanding, however, was rectified the next morning when I playfully grabbed for a pair of legs dangling from the upper bunk. Shaking loose from my hold on his ankles Doug jumped down and pounced on me. We wrestled in my bed until exhaustion left us spent one on top of the other, facing each other. I have forgotten what transpired between the moment when we smiled at each other and the next, when we embraced. Everything I did from that point on occurred innately. I stretched my body in every direction over his body. His kisses were returned fervently. We stopped a couple of times to lie close beside each other and talked until we felt like resuming our lovemaking. It was after noon when Doug departed, but the happiness lasted for months.

My happiness was to become bittersweet as I endured a schoolboy crush over a guy who was not interested in becoming my lover. Yes, my mother had warned me about falling love with women, but no one had ever told me what it was like being in love with another male. By the time I learned that there was even a special term in the dictionary for males who were affectionate to each other, I had traveled to Portsmouth, New Hampshire, to experience my first Gay bar. I had also recovered from my futile pursuit of Doug, only to meet, love and lose my first lover (to California). It was distressing to have romantic involvement turn into solitude and pain.

Nonetheless, I benefited from every experience, whether it produced

joy or sorrow. When Doug, during one of his frequent infirmity residences, told me he was a homosexual I automatically accepted my homosexuality. Not only could I live with the realization, but I felt a sense of well-being and ease. It was also through Doug that I acquired my first circle of Gay friends and acquaintances. Although discretion was the unspoken code among us, my Gay consciousness was continually nourished.

If I had become something different as a result of my realized homosexuality, the change escaped me. I was the same individual in Portsmouth's Sagamore Club among other homosexuals as I was in the Bowdoin Student Union dining room, where I presumed heterosexuals accounted for substantially more than an even balance. I did know that my homosexuality would mean that I would not lead the typical college lifestyle and I had a desire to know more about my sexual orientation.

Shown a copy of Sanford Friedman's Gay novel *Totempole* by a friend, I immediately requested that the college bookstore stock it so I could have my own copy. *Totempole* was ordered, despite an irate cashier's interrogative, "Do you know what this book is about?" I knowingly and gladly paid my ninety-five cents. The next year no one even questioned my motives in requesting copies of the just-published script of *Boys in the Band*.

I shared the Gay experiences of numerous literary characters with those of my own. I befriended and visibly cavorted with guys on campus who I knew were rumored to be homosexual, willing to accept the same label. People did wonder about me, probably many more than I was aware of; yet few had the courage to ask -- I was not then in the habit of telling folks. One who did ask was, and still remains, one of my best friends.

Arriving back at the fraternity house (yes, I joined one) early one morning with an excursion to Portsmouth, I found one of my roommates waiting up for me. "Where have you been?" If he had not looked so serious, I would have laughed at the situation. I had sought a college far from home to experience independence, but subsequently found myself the ward of a peer. "Just out." My attempt to initiate small talk was quickly curtailed. I knew what was coming. "Are you a homosexual?" He finally asked the question that I perceived he had been stifling for quite a while, and that I thought he would never voice. "Yes!" Soft and calm, but emphatic. I honestly expected blows to proceed. Instead hurt, and

not hurt by me: hurt for me, because he knew how cruel society could be to a homosexual. We must have talked a bit longer before heading upstairs to our six-person bedroom. Lying in bed, still keyed up, I was glad to know that I could declare my sexuality regardless of the presumed dire consequences. In addition, I was contented to know that the friendship I had developed early on with this particular fraternity brother was secure and deep. My judgement, unfortunately, was not always accurate.

At Bowdoin, a junior was required to choose three roommates to join him in sharing a senior year housing suite. My above-mentioned friend, a second roommate, and I decided to ask another fraternity brother, Ralph, to come in with us. Ralph accepted, and for weeks the four of us anticipated our last year of college by joyously contemplating our fellowship. I foresaw no difficulties arising. I had, however, let many superficial pleasantries obliterate my knowledge of Ralph's homophobic bias.

The summer between of sophomore and junior years, Ralph and I had worked at a pizzeria in Boothbay Harbor with several other fraternity brothers. Three of us had shared a bungalow on South Orr's Island, just outside of town. On two occasions Ralph and I discussed homosexuality that summer.

Over lunch one afternoon, Ralph brought up the subject, drawing out stereotype after stereotype. I countered by saying that the homosexuals I knew did not bear out his claims, not ready to reveal the intimacy of my knowledge with Ralph. The conversation with Ralph concluded with him swearing that he would kill his own brother if he ever discovered that his brother was a homosexual.

The second time we talked about homosexuality was more notable, if only for its visual effects. Early in the particular evening, Ralph had gone out to dinner at the home of a local, recently met friend. By eleven o'clock I had made up the daybed in the living room and went to sleep. I had been asleep for a couple hours when loud banging on the bungalow's front door startled me awake. I turned on the ceiling light and cautiously opened the door. Ralph scurried in, smelling like a New York sewer which had been backed up for days in the middle of a July heatwave. Slime and muck oozed down his cutoffs onto his sneakers

and his face and hands were streaked with mud. Ralph was very agitated, telling me to shut off the light and asking if his friend had come by the bungalow. I started to answer that no one had stopped by, when Ralph hushed me. Bright lights illuminated the front window as a vehicle slowly drove across the road just in front of the bungalow. I had known Ralph to dwell on hyperbole before, but despite my initial skepticism, I, too, was becoming edgy. Shortly after the lights had dimmed outside and the sounds of the vehicle faded, Ralph began relating his encounter during the evening.

Ralph's friend had prepared a hearty dinner and afterwards the two of them had talked late into the night. When the host mentioned the time and offered Ralph sleeping accommodations Ralph agreed to stay over. There was only one large bed, but the host's wife was away and Ralph was invited to share it. Undressing to scivvies, Ralph got into bed with his friend. Their conversation continued. Soon Ralph's friend began talking about his brother. He told Ralph how he used to enjoy sharing his bed with his brother when they were younger and how much Ralph reminded him of his brother. While he talked, the host moved closer to Ralph, corresponding to each attempt Ralph made to keep a space between them. When a hand stretched out and touched him and Ralph heard a confession of love, his naivete was finally pervaded.

I have forgotten exactly how Ralph maneuvered his quick departure, but he was able to divert his admirer long enough to get his clothes on and dash out of the house. Avoiding the main road, where he was sure he would be pursued by a pick-up truck, Ralph traveled across damp fields and through swamps to reach out bungalow. Ralph was upset and frightened but eventually calmed down enough to take a shower and, exhausted, fell asleep in his bed. I felt bad, because I knew that this episode would only reinforce Ralph's aversion to homosexuals. I also felt a little envious, sorry that I had not had Ralph's opportunity to spend the night with an attractive man.

The next morning Ralph swore me to secrecy; he did not want anyone else to know what had occurred. Two days later, however, all of the other kids we hung around with knew what had happened. I watched in silent anger as Ralph related his greatly embellished tale with indignant pride to a friend's visiting mother. It had been wrong for the guy to lure Ralph into an uncomfortable situation, but how much more malicious

of Ralph to continually malign the guy merely to spice up his conversation.

My summer in Boothbay Harbor was cut short suddenly by an automobile accident which I obviously survived, but left me emotionally distraught. I spent the remainder of the break on the Bowdoin campus, except for ten lively days at Expo '67 at Montréal. When my junior year began in the fall I had forgotten the unpleasant aspects of the summer. The memory of Ralph's vicious insensitivity was revived, nevertheless, during the first semester. Eventually my two roommates had to tell me that Ralph had withdrawn as our fourth roommate for senior year. One of the older fraternity brothers had told Ralph that I was a homosexual, and Ralph immediately told my roommates to forget about our plans for the following year with regards to him. When I found out about Ralph's change of mind I thought of what had happened to other college students I had read about whose homosexuality had been exposed. They had either willingly accepted expulsion or transferred to a different school. Well, I was furious and I was not going anywhere.

The fraternity brother who had told Ralph about my sexual orientation was someone I hardly spoke to; he could only have had the vaguest suspicions to support his declaration. He did have a considerable inferiority complex and to compensate for it he sensationalized most of his conversations to gain social acceptability. It was impossible for me to hate someone for whom I had so little regard, but I was able to deal with something I had avoided for so long. I had considered very few of the guys in the fraternity as my brothers and it suddenly became easy to drop my membership. My two roommates and I had chosen to reside in the dorm junior year, so I had no occasion to explain my action to anyone in the fraternity (no one ever asked, but maybe no one had to.)

It only remained to confront Ralph, and for that I had him lured to the Student Union cafeteria. As he walked into the dining area he was talking with one of my friends. Seeing me, he stopped speaking and his bubbling expression dissolved. He realized that he had been duped. I think someone guided to a seat at the table. I told Ralph that I felt we needed to discuss something, and then spent ten minutes unleashing my distaste for him. I did not really care that Ralph had decided not to live with me because I was a homosexual, but his inconsi-

deration in not asking me for verification of my homosexuality before he withdrew from our agreement did piss me off. Ralph and I had known each other since the first month of our freshman year and had developed what I thought was a good, if not close, friendship. I knew it must have been difficult for Ralph to come to me when he first changed his mind. Yet I was going to find out his reason for not living with me anyway, and I felt I had a right to respond yes, no, or pass. When I finished talking, Ralph asked if I were a homosexual. I told him it was none of his concern and besides, hadn't he already reached his decision? This time I did not forget how Ralph could not wait to divulge his embarrassing secret from the past summer. If anyone wanted to know my sexual identity, they could ask me; I did not want Ralph privy to my life anymore.

While I do not feel particularly indebted to Ralph, I think the demise of our relationship gave substance to my increasing, though unnoticed, Gay consciousness. I have no regret for any of the Gay experiences I had at Bowdoin: the futile attempt to pick up a faculty member, whom I am still convinced was interested but not enough to jeopardize his position; the recurring discovery that some presumably straight friend or acquaintance was also homosexually inclined; the sailor from the neighboring base who essentially became our fourth senior year roommate; the Gay foreign student whose outrageous public behavior resulted in his being labeled bizarre when all he wanted was to be loved; the college librarian who remains as close as a brother; my Gay-themed drama written to fulfill a Black history assignment and short stories involving homosexual characters for a creative writing course; my being aware that a lot of folks at Bowdoin knew I was a homosexual, but my not being aware that it should concern me. If it was especially painful for me to be a pre-Gay Liberation homosexual in college, I have few sad memories.

Whether losing a lover or a friend, or making out with another guy in his car while parked in the fraternity lot, I gained a strong sense of what and who I was and am. Of all the reasons I had for choosing Bowdoin as my college, I never considered or realized that I had to find a personal identity. Perhaps I was lucky, but in any case, to take liberty with an old school song, "Bowdoin Beata, my dear alma mater; there is no fairer 'lover' 'neath the sun."

Cumberland County Curmudgeon

By Susan W. Henderson

LISELOTTE OF THE PALATINATE:

A REPRESSED DYKE?

Yours Truly recently came upon an interesting character in her relentless quest for the Glorious Gay Past. This person was Elisabeth Charlotte, Princess of the Rhenish Palatinate (a principality of southwest Germany, capital Heidelberg), known as Liselotte. Liselotte married Philippe, Duke of Orléans, brother of Louis XIV. Philippe was one of the great fags of seventeenth-century Europe, so Liselotte had a front-row seat to observe the Gay doings at the court of Versailles.

In the days before feminism, we would have said that Liselotte was "butch." One of her favorite pastimes was hunting. She wore her riding habit all the time, except when she had to appear in full court dress. A woman's riding habit in those days was a man's coat, cravat and hat over a long skirt. Liselotte refused the appurtenances of Total Womanhood; she disliked makeup and frilly clothes and was bored by the conventional feminine pastimes of card-playing, churchgoing, and needlework. She did not get along at all with Louis's second wife, the Marquise de Maintenon, a pious hypocrite who played Total Woman to the hilt and got what she wanted by manipulation. Liselotte was very up-front, and a lot of people at Versailles couldn't deal with it.

Her relationship with Philippe, always referred to at Court simply as "Monsieur" (she was "Madame"), had its ups and downs. Neither of them seem to have cared for

heterosexual sex. Royalty in those days married in order to have heirs rather than because they necessarily wanted to; the marriages were arranged for political reasons. Having done their duty and produced three children, Monsieur and Liselotte agreed to have separate bedrooms. For a while they were on bad terms (not related to the separate bedrooms); Liselotte suspected Monsieur's lovers were turning him against her out of jealousy, and she may well have been right. Intrigue and factionalism were the order of the day at Royal courts. By the time Monsieur died in 1701, however, he and Liselotte were friends again.

Liselotte's attitude toward homosexuality seems equivocal. She professed to believe that any kind of sex outside of marriage was wrong, and she never engaged in it herself. She once told the story of how the Princesse de Monaco tried to make love to her, without success; then tried to fix her up with a man, also without success; and then gave up, declaring that she could not understand a woman who wanted neither women nor men. Perhaps Liselotte was a repressed dyke. I'd like to think she was one of us. She was a likeable character, open and honest, and loving to her friends.

Liselotte kept herself from being bored in the uncongenial atmosphere of Versailles by writing letters to her female (significant fact) relatives. These letters are an historian's gold mine, because Liselotte had a perfect vantage point for collecting stories and an entertaining style in telling them. For all her professed disapproval of sodomy, she avidly collected gossip about who was and wasn't Gay. Monsieur's inclinations, of course, she made no bones about, and she cheerfully passed on all the hot tips she had on his Gay sisters and brothers.

Coming in our next issue: Hot Gay Gossip from Liselotte.

POEMS BY BILL GORDON

For a Lover

Walking
through dark and mist shrouded
branches
the brief time must be spent
away from you
Remembering a life always dark
a solitude
changed all when we met
the love hurrys my journey
back to you
now is not the time to be alone
the past was
Tears begin when
walking down the road
and seeing you
coming in search
with good news
did you ever realize the smiles
were
only for you
Leaving friends and non-friends
(a past going nowhere)
all for you
an ocean was travelled
a country left behind
a life's environment completely
changed
because of you
now living in the country
my only
friend is you
yet now that is sufficient
Why do you love me?
"You're compassionate."
The feeling or emotion, when a

person is moved by the suffering
or distress of another, and by
the desire to relieve it; pity
that
inclines one to spare or to
succour.

? Dictionaries stink anyway
"All my time I wish only to be
with you. You bring such joy
to my

life. You're caring,
considerate, and warm. But
really, words can't
express how deep my love
is for you."

(That last one hurts a
writer's ego)
"And I want to spend the rest of
my life with you."

I love you
you love me
neither understands what that
means
yet now that is sufficient
If only the future could be
seen

and prepared for
when we look on the past
that now is present
it was done for our love
that steered our course
all for us

(July, 1977)

The Bars

What shall we do tonight?
The bars, the bars, the bars!

I'll leave my lover home tonight,
he'll be all right
And we'll have a very good tome.

We're all friends, of course we are
that's why all we do is stare, stare, stare
Sit at our secluded table
and talk only to ourselves.

Each finds his fantasy
and cruise, cruise, cruise
We're all friends, of course we are.
Yet, don't talk to your fantasy,
who sits alone. Too bad.

We'll dance and drink the night away
Then it becomes the next day.
Oh, but this splitting ache,
I didn't want to go to church, anyway,
Just wanted a one-night lay.

We're all thrown out
(It's after one)
Together we drive home
and boast, "What a fuckin' night."

This lovely young man, my lover
awaits me, asleep, in our bed.
Sometimes I wonder why he stays.

What shall we do tomorrow night?
The bars, the bars, the bars.

(March, 1976)

[Bill Gordon, a regular contributor to Mainely Gay, recently emigrated
to Canada from Portland.]

MEDICAL ADVISOR

By Paul Lindsay, R.N.

During recent tribulations over our sexuality, we have all greatly increased our awareness of ourselves and of our sexuality. One of the areas of particular concern to me, and one that I feel has been sorely neglected, is our health. As Gay people, we all find it hard to ask questions about our health, particularly when it is related in any way to our sexuality. I hope, with your help, to overcome this problem. Having discussed this with the staff of Mainly Gay, they have agreed to include a new section in the publication entitled "Medical Advisor." I plan to have this column in a question-and-answer format. Each month several questions will appear with answers. All letters published will be anonymous. I will, however, personally answer any and all letters that I receive.

How can you help? Send your letters and questions to:

Medical Advisor

c/o Mainly Gay

PO Box 4542

Portland, ME 04112

I think it is important that you know with whom you are communicating. I'm a Gay R.N. licensed in the state of Maine, currently employed by a Portland hospital. At the present time I'm conducting a survey to establish a referral list for Gay people in Maine. This will help in recommending non-homophobic treatment centers and physicians open to treating Gay people.

Please make this column a success. Write! Thank you.



GOVERNMENT RESPONSES TO "THE GAY QUESTION"

By Kim Burch

Following are two letters; the first one was forwarded to the White House, the second was sent to Sen. Edmund Muskie, Sen. William Hathaway, Rep. William Cohen and Rep. David Emery. Each letter had more than one hundred co-signers, Gay and straight. Responses follow each letter.

Dear President Carter:

We the undersigned would like to applaud your efforts on behalf of human rights on a global scale, a rather unpopular stand as far as other nations are concerned. We are, however, understandably confused at the apparent lack of concern in dealing with a basic human rights movement here in the United States.

The 21 million homosexuals in this country are now battling for the same basic rights as the rest of the populace now enjoys--the right to exist as a minority, to equal opportunities in housing and employment, and the most basic right of directing our own lives.

We are the only people to my knowledge that are actually losing civil rights; the Dade County Ordinance Repeal is but one incident.

We and our supporters are writing to request your support of the Koch Bill now before Congress. We are the last great minority in this country seeking equal status with the rest of our fellow citizens.

As a man who stands for basic human rights, we are confident of your support and look forward to your correspondence.

Sincerely,

FROM THE WHITE HOUSE:

On behalf of the President, I want to thank you for taking the time to share your concerns on the very important issue of human rights. Your views in this regard are most welcome.

At a time when great emphasis is being placed on human rights abroad, it would surely be contradictory not to place the same value on these rights here at home. In support of this, the President has clearly stated on many occasions that he favors the end of discrimination, harassment and abuse of all citizens, gay or otherwise.

As your thoughts allow us to better understand the wishes of the people, we do greatly appreciate hearing from you.

With all best wishes,
Margaret Costanza

* * * * *

Dear (Muskie, Hathaway, Cohen, Emery):

We the undersigned are writing to you on a matter we feel deserves your urgent attention.

We are members of this country's last great minority. We are 21 million strong and are integrated in every socio-economic stratum of this country; yet, we are possibly the least dealt-with minority left.

We are homosexuals, who, along with our supporters, are writing you to support the Koch Bill now before Congress.

We feel the time is right for a truly just and unbigoted approach to our demands for some of the basic rights the rest of our society now enjoys. Our demands are simple--We ask only the humane rights we need to end discrimination against us in employment, housing, education, and the most basic right of all--the right to direct our own lives as free and equal citizens.

As long as even a small fraction of our society is ostracized, we cannot be a truly free, humane people. We represent 10% of this country's population--21 million people! We are contributing to a society that ignores our fundamental rights and privileges.

To our knowledge, we are the only minority that is actually losing what rights we have gained. Dade County, Florida is just one example of this.

As was said during lengthy debate in the Maine House, "This problem is here to stay; a solution must be found." The time has come when we must stand up and be counted.

We and our supporters look forward to your support and correspondence.

Sincerely,

FROM SEN. WILLIAM HATHAWAY:

Thank you for your letter and petition with regard to homosexual rights. I appreciate having your comments and thoughts.

As you may be aware there are several measures which would prevent

discrimination due to sexual preference now pending before the House Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights. No immediate action has as yet been scheduled. Many misconceptions and much controversy surround these bills and I would expect that hearings will be conducted to gain some insight into the views of the various groups and people interested in the question.

At the present time there are no similar bills pending before the Senate. Should the Senate have the opportunity to give consideration to such measures you may be assured that I shall be mindful of your concerns.

It is good to hear from you.

FROM REP. WILLIAM COHEN:

Thank you for your letter expressing support for H.R. 2998, a bill to prohibit discrimination on the basis of affectional or sexual preference, introduced by Congressman Koch.

I believe the individual should be free from external constraint in his private life, as long as his activities do not affect others. Moreover, I believe that sexual preference per se does not imply impaired judgment, reliability or vocation capabilities which should lead to discrimination in employment or housing.

H.R. 2998 has been referred to the Judiciary and Education and Labor Committees, where, to date, no action has been taken. It is my understanding that this bill does not merely protect the rights of the individual against discrimination but would recognize by legislative declaration the quality of sexual practices contrary to the moral consensus of our society. Furthermore, according to some recent civil rights decisions, mere nondiscrimination is no longer adequate to meet Federal requirements and employers must actively recruit the minorities affected. Consequently, I intend to reserve judgement on this bill until its full impact is more thoroughly assessed in hearing.

I would appreciate your sharing this letter with the co-signers of your letter.

Best wishes,

FROM REP. DAVID EMERY:

Thank you for your recent letter and petition informing me of your views on Congressman Koch's bill to prohibit discrimination on the

basis of sexual preference.

I appreciate your taking the time to contact me on this issue, as I realize that it has importance and significance to any person who has been discriminated against, for any reason. Be assured that I will keep your views in mind if I should ever have the opportunity to vote on this piece of legislation.

Please do not hesitate to contact me again in the future on this or any other matter of mutual concern.

I have not as yet received a response from Senator Muskie. In closing I would like to say more letters to Washington can only lend credence to our cause.

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CRUISING ABOUT TOWN... Latest word from the Pasadena (CA) police department is that they have just taken delivery of 15 pale pink patrol cruisers which radiate "a pink aura, easily visible." A department spokesperson confirmed that the new cars are indeed pink, adding a message to Anita to "stick that in your orange juice."

The San Francisco Sentinel reports: "Here in the successpool of Gay rights, Vincent Price is performing as Oscar Wilde in 'Diversions and Delights,' a one-man show. Price told a press conference that the play is 'essentially about...the dignity of the individual. It's a relevant piece in view of the Gay rights issue. But homosexuality isn't the theme of the play. I think Wilde's fame is much greater than Anita Bryant's and always will be.' Price was not asked about persistent rumors that his next vampire film will be titled, 'Out of the Coffins.'"

Patricia Nell Warren, journalist for Reader's Digest cum Gay male pulp-novel writer, recently confirmed to The Body Politic that she is indeed a Lesbian. Though still married while writing The Front Runner, she said, writing it and handing it over to her agent was "almost my first act of coming out." Her next book will be about Lesbians.

MORE FROM THE SENTINEL: "Flight attendant Carol Rose accidentally spilled orange juice down the back of Illinois governor James Thompson aboard an American Airlines flight. Thompson was en route to the banks of the Potomac to confer with two of President Carter's top aides. Rose wrote Thompson a note to present to Carter, attesting to 'the fact that he is currently wearing orange juice in no way reflects his stance on any issues concerning human rights.' Those were energy aides, by the way, not orange aides."

Dick Shack, Anita Bryant's agent for 16 years, quit on July 6 after learning that Anita "has written a book exploiting the recent vicious, anti-human rights campaign that was filled with lies and myths." The book, entitled *Save Our Children: One Woman's Crusade Against the Sin of Homosexuality*, is due out late this summer or early fall. Shack said, "This type of exploitation is not in keeping with her career or my professional standards."

According to Gloria James, a Hingham (MA) psychic who appeared on the Good Day show recently, "Anita Bryant should stop [meddling] in other people's lives. Because of her activities, her husband will lose his job within the next half-year. And, although she doesn't

know it, one of her sons is bisexual." (Esplanade) Would you still rather have your "child be dead than be a homosexual," Anita?

IT'S (FINALLY) OUT! The long-awaited book of poems by our friend and regular contributor, Miriam Dyak has been published by New Victoria Publishing, Inc., and can be gotten by writing to them at 7 Bank Street, Lebanon, NH 03766. Cost is \$3.00. The book, *Fire Under Water*, contains almost 50 of Miriam's poems between the attractive cover, some of which have appeared initially in *Second Wave*, *The Boston Phoenix*, *Freewoman's Herald*, *Amazon Quarterly*, and *Contraband*, among others. In the dedication, Miriam tells us that the book is "for women -- my mother, my sisters in the Movement, for women who have not yet begun to move, for my father and a few male people who work for positive change." Watch for a review of *Fire Under Water* in an upcoming issue of *Mainly Gay*!

If you come across an item that you think should be shared with readers in this section, please send it to: Kitchen Sink, Box 4542, Portland, ME 04112. Our overworked, underpaid staff will joyously and enthusiastically edit.

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 Street, 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 are 8-9:30 PM, SUNDAYS.

SPECIAL EVENTS

AUGUST 18 (Thursday): Kay Gardner concert, Unitarian Church, Kennebunk, 8 PM, \$4.00.

AUGUST 20 (Saturday): Gay demonstration for human rights at the UN Building, New York. Meet at Washington Square at noon. Sponsored by Gay Activists Alliance, Lesbian Feminist Liberation, NOW, Socialist Workers Party.

AUGUST 20 (Saturday): Willie Tyson concert, Russell Hall, University of Maine at Gorham, 8 PM, \$3.00. Child care, overnite accommodations.

AUGUST 21 (Sunday): Kay Gardner concert, College of the Atlantic, Bar Harbor, 8 PM, \$4.00.

AUGUST 23 (Tuesday): Kay Gardner concert, Opera House, Rockland, 8 PM, \$4.00.

AUGUST 28 (Sunday): Maine Gay Men meeting, Bath. Business, rap, pot-luck meal, workshop, evening dance/get-together. For details, contact MGM, PO Box 303, Whitefield 04362.

SEPTEMBER 10 (Saturday): Hiking trip/mountain climb at Baldface Mt., Evans Notch, NH. Meet at 8 Water St., Norway, ME at 9:30 AM. Bring hiking shoes, liquid supply, food, sweater. Sponsored by MGM.

SEPTEMBER 17 (Saturday): Wilde-Stein dance, MCA Center, College Ave., Orono. 8 PM, \$1.00 donation. BYOB.

LESBIAN SEXUAL FANTASY SURVEY

By Linda Hamilton

If you are a Lesbian and ever had sexual fantasies, or wondered about sexual fantasies, or wanted to hear other Lesbians' fantasies, or just wanted a good Lesbian book to read, then I need your help. I am a Lesbian, writing a totally Lesbian sexual fantasy book, and wanting Lesbians' input. All replies are of course anonymous. The book will include basic factual information (including answers to the questionnaire and essays by Lesbians), sexual fantasies, and short sexual-fantasy stories. A sample questionnaire is reproduced below. Interested Lesbians should send their responses on a separate sheet of paper or send for a questionnaire. Lesbians interested in submitting short stories involving sexual fantasies are also invited to send in their work (with or without names). Reply to: Linda Hamilton, PO Box 5120, Santa Monica, CA 90405.

SEXUAL FANTASY SURVEY

- 1) I have sexual fantasies
*more than 1/day *1/week
*1/day *less than 1/week
- 2) I fantasize
*during masturbation
*when making love *other _____
- 3) I fantasize about
*myself only *someone I know
*imaginary persons *other _____
- 4) My fantasies make me feel
*excited *guilty *so-so
*other _____
- 5) I tell my fantasies to
*no one *my friend(s)
*my lover(s) *other _____
and they react
*supportive/excited *scared
*negative *other _____
- 6) I act out my fantasies with
*no one *my lover(s)
*myself only *other _____
- 7) Clearly, and with as much detail as possible, describe your sexual fantasies. If you have several fantasies, pick your three "favorites." (Use separate sheet of paper.)

SPRING SONG

Beware	when will they gather
the orange.	books
Underneath its vibrant sunny	and burn them?
mask	
lies a core	when will they organize
of rancid,	the Youth Corps?
putrefying flesh	
its poison	when will their deadly
slowly seeping out	plague
mixing freely with its juices	annihilate
	Blacks?
decay reigns in paradise	Socialists?
	Musicians?
harbingers of health and	Jews?
goodness	
in reality bring deceit and	When will they hire their
deception	exterminators?
repression	
oppression	SIEG HEIL!
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proletariat	ANITA ÜBER ALLES!

--J.C. Beaulieu

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ONEW FREE NEWSLETTER printed by and for Maine Gay Men. Articles and letters welcome. Write MGM, PO Box 303, Whitefield, ME 04362.

OWANTED: Year-round cabin or house-sitting situation in Maine wanted by quiet, responsible writer, 30. Will also consider sharing, leasing. Scrupulously careful, reliable; references supplied. Send particulars to Erik Bergström, 1631 'S' St NW #703, Washington, DC 20009.

OWOMEN'S WEEKEND WORKSHOP IN THE WOODS, Oct. 7 thru 9. Objectives of the weekend are exploring roles as women, experience re-lexed living in a natural environment, develop understanding of ourselves and our bodies. For info call Julie Bobrow, 873-2171, Ext. 258 or write Sarah P. Cloudy, 11 Libby Court, Waterville, 04901.

O(WOMEN'S WEEKEND cont.) Fee: \$50.00 for the weekend, meals and transportation from Waterville included. September 26 deadline. Limited enrollment.

OBISEXUAL MALE, 23, would like to meet and correspond with other Gay people. I have a wide variety of interests, especially music and nature. Write PO Box 1062, Rockland, ME 04841.

OBISEXUAL WOMAN, 22, and 2 cats seek inexpensive year-round rent, furnished or partly furnished in natural setting in or near the Kennebunk-Kennebunkport area. Quiet and responsible. Also seek another woman to share rent with me. Call 985-7598.

OANCIENT MAINIAC, guaranteed impossible to live with, wants to move from monastic YMCA cell to a shared Portland apartment for a month. Parking required. Write Alan, c/o Box 4542, Portland, 04112.

OBITS ARE FREE for two consecutive months unless requested otherwise.

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USP, MacNeil Island, WA

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