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# MAINE GAY TASK FORCE

## NEWSLETTER

VOL. 2, NO. 11 ----- DECEMBER, 1975

### LILY TOMLIN, WE LOVE YOU

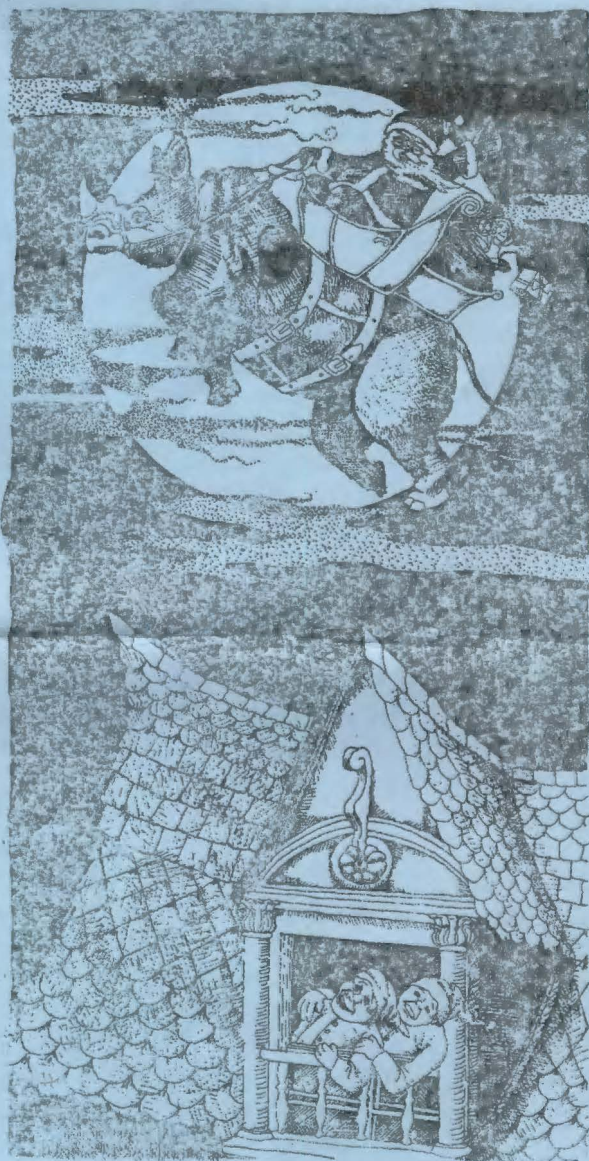
Lily Tomlin got a standing ovation for her multi-media comedy show in Portland on 13 November, and a well-deserved one at that. The show got off to an hour-late start, due to a faulty sound system, but that was the only negative factor. She played to a full house, a large proportion of which was Gay.

What do so many people like about Lily Tomlin's act? It appears to this reviewer that her appeal lies in the reality of her material. She takes the things we all experience -- teenage crushes, housewives' frustrations, the Great American Beauty Cult, etc. -- and makes them seem funny. Sometimes, in fact, she is a little too real to be funny, but most of us can easily identify with her material.

A lot of social comment got into the act. "Have you noticed that bread crumbs cost more than bread?" "Good air is almost as hard to get as good grass." "Why is it that when we talk to God we're said to be praying, but when God talks to us we're schizophrenic?" "Do you know that FDS kills cockroaches?"

Gay people flock to see Tomlin for a good reason -- she does Gay humor. Real Gay humor, not fag jokes. "No one was Gay then," she muses, speaking of the Fifties, "just shy." In doing an interview with Dierdre, the Hollywood gossip columnist (played by Tomlin, projected on a large TV screen via videotape while Tomlin responded live from the stage) Dierdre drools, "How do you feel about playing in a (insinuating smirk) heterosexual movie?" "Well," replies Tomlin, "I got a lot of flack from straight liberation groups. My family said, 'how can you do a thing like this?' I told them you don't have to be one to play one."

"Sit on your instrument, turn your head, and say 'Aaah,'" Ernestine tells the caller from the AMA. The bits about addictions, "The Impulse Buyer" and "The Rubber Freak" strike a chord with anyone who has ever been threatened with aversion therapy or other forms of brainwashing. "I finally went berserk in a Playtex girdle factory ... That psychiatrist saved my life. He said, 'This woman isn't a criminal - just twisted.' I got down on my knees - and ate his crepe soles... Now I'm a socially acceptable alcoholic." (Con't P-10)





CHICAGO (Chicago Gaylife) Nancy Davis and Toby Schneider, two avowed Chicago Lesbian activists, have been jailed as a result of their repeated attempts to receive an affidavit in lieu of a marriage license from the Cook County clerk. Davis and Schneider entered the Marriage Bureau office on 20 Oct. to request the license. When denied by the clerk on duty, they began a sit-in and announced their hunger strike, which was to continue indefinitely even if jailed. They were arrested later in the day.

CONCORD, N.H. (GCN) Gay dances and meetings may soon be taking place once again in the previously hostile terrain of the University of New Hampshire after a two year lapse. The New Hampshire Supreme Court ruled in early Nov. that the University had absolutely no legal right to limit the activities of the campus Gay Student Organization (GSO). The court's decision ended almost two years of legal maneuvering in which the University attempted to block the student group from functioning.

PORTLAND, ORE. (GCN) A Gay New Zealander has completed a successful four-year challenge to the archaic and anti-homosexual immigration and naturalization laws of the U.S. The man, 29 year old Paul Brodie, won his fight recently when a District Court judge ruled in Portland that Brodie's homosexuality should not stand in the way of his being naturalized as an American citizen. Traditionally, one had to be of good moral character to become naturalized, and phrases such as this have been used against openly Gay people who have wanted to become U.S. citizens.

LOS ANGELES (Advocate) Approval of new Civil Service guidelines which provide that Gay people may serve as police officers apparently pushed Police Chief Edward M. Davis over the brink. At one point, the Chief said publicly, "The liaisons that homosexuals spontaneously engage in public theatres and back alleys and that sort of thing and the high percentage of germs and so forth pose a real health threat to people who work with them."

NEW YORK CITY (IT'S TIME, NCTF) As of Oct. 1, thirteen states have repealed their so-called sodomy laws, laws against particular sex acts between consenting adults. They are: Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, and Washington.

SAN FRANCISCO (S.F. Sentinel) A Ber-

keley professor who is familiar with radical movements has observed that Gay liberation people are the most "together" part of the American Left today. An Oakland rally for Joan Little was estimated to be 25% Gay, a demonstration at the Federal Building here the next day was thought to be about 40% Gay, and Gay activists have also been seen and heard vis a vis the San Quentin 6.

MONTPELIER, VT. (SexualLawReporter) The Vermont House passed the General Criminal Code Revision that would decriminalize private sexual acts. It will be considered by the Senate in January.

NEW YORK CITY (S.F. Sentinel) The Veteran's Committee of the National Gay Task Force needs assistance in helping with the Matlovich case. Those who have been in the service and want to help can write to William Brown, NCTF, 80 Fifth Avenue, Room 506, New York 10011

PHILADELPHIA (Portland Press Herald) Delegates to the eighth annual conference of the National Organization for Women voted overwhelmingly to work toward guaranteeing equal rights for Lesbians. The nearly unanimous vote preceded the keynote address of Karen DeCrow in which she publicly apologized to Gay women and men concerning NOW's previous disassociation with Lesbian rights prior to 1971.

PEMBERTON, N.J. (work of mouth) New Jersey Men's Conference - "Changing Men: A Conference for Men in Transition" will be held January 23 - 25, 1976, at Burlington County College, Pemberton, N.J. Besides workshops on the usual men's liberation topics, this conference will have 5 workshops focusing on Gay men. For information write: Office of Community Services, Burlington County College, Pemberton, New Jersey 08068

PHILADELPHIA (public Interest Media Project) WXPB-FM, the Philadelphia station that airs two hours a week of Lesbian and Gay programs, plus other Feminist shows, has been threatened by license revocation. The issue is "obscenity" and obviously Gay-oriented shows are very vulnerable on this score. The WXPB staff ask that people contact the FCC immediately to support the concept of Gay radio, underscoring its public-service nature. Address letters or telegrams to Ashton Hardy, Chief Counsel, Federal Communications Commission, 1919 M St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20554 (Keep this name handy in case of complaints about local stations.)



By Steve Bull

First, I commend the MGTFN for including Dave Johnson's *The Homosexual Legend* in the last issue. His thoughts raise a great number of questions.

The system will accept and support us, only if we are willing to accept and support the system. So, if you want to become an integral part of America the Beautiful -- if your goal in life is to be accepted by those in power, here are some helpful hints: Faggots, practice your sexism (remember, you are supposed to hate women); Anglos, polish the finer points of your racism; Everyone, drive long and hard to attain material wealth and social status -- give your classism a greater subtlety. Be aware that there are *good* Gays and *bad* Gays. Act like you want acceptance. Change the way you walk, talk, and look so that you blend in better. Distort yourself so much that you cannot even recognize your own personhood. Destroy any radical convictions that the system is wrong, just so the sexual acts you practice are given the legal blessing of the system.

In this struggle, the system has had a great advantage. They have considerable skills which we must overcome. In the past (and present), the powerless people have fought each other rather than those in power. The archetype of this behavior rears its ugly head in Archie Bunker. Upon whom does he vent his anger and frustrations? At Rockefeller? At General Motors? NO! Rather, at Third World People, Women and Gays. He attacks those who, like him, are without power in this system. It just does not make sense. Where is solidarity?

that system? Think about it.

And yet, we rarely question the rightness of the system -- rarely does our anger have a constructive effect on the makeup of the present system.

We are not alone. We have allies which we must cultivate.

The system gloats when Gays strive to buy the best clothes -- live in the best neighborhoods. Those in power eat it up when a gang of Blacks rape and kill a faggot -- they reach orgasm when dykes play a secondary role in the Gay movement. Let us not play into their hands. Let us create a patchwork majority and bring about a new order.

## WOMEN'S COUNSELING SERVICE

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# SEXUALITY AND THE LOVING RELATIONSHIP

By Steve Irving

If two people are in love, classify themselves as lovers and are having difficulty in dealing with sexual relations outside of their relationship, the following are some ideas I wish they would consider.

First of all, it is unrealistic to expect that one person can totally satisfy all the emotional and physical needs of another. That is a romantic notion that has been drilled into people over the years. The religious institution of marriage in the Christian world allows morally for only one sex partner, thereby creating in the minds of most people a sort of "knight in shining armor" myth. Many people spend the majority of their lives looking for that total person and are terribly disillusioned and hurt when they don't find her or him. They cannot find that person because that person does not exist in the real world. None of us are without faults and shortcomings: therefore how can any one of us be so totally perfect?

All of us should try to realize that sex can be divided into many different areas. One is sex with strangers, which is for pleasure only. We should all recognize that sex is fun and should not be looked on so seriously all the time. What a high premium we place on our bodies and who gets the supreme honor of enjoying them! How conceited we must be to truly believe that what we have is worthy of being enjoyed only by a select few. This is not to say we should not be pleased with ourselves, but rather that we should not place our physical being on some untouchable shelf. Sex in the proper place is a wonderful sharing of human warmth, not some animal act or great significant experience!

A second type of sex is sex between friends: people who know each other and have some sort of emotional bond. This type of sex is enjoyable because the people involved can relate to each other more than just physically. People can use that physical closeness as one of the best forms of communicating care and happiness I know. I sleep with my friends and I find it a rather shallow comment when some people say they cannot. Do they not care for their friends? And is not sex a nice way of saying that you can respond not only to someone's mind but also to what houses it? We constantly see people who cannot see past the body to the mind. Should we not be able to look in the opposite direction?

The last type of sex (I would define) is by far the most satisfying and rewarding: sex between people who are involved in a deeply emotional relationship, where the sex act is the highest and most basic form of loving expression and, indeed, is the only type of sex that I would call making love. Just because we are involved in this last type of relationship, however, should not limit us from appreciating the other types of sex I have described if we so desire. Most of us from time to time find other people attractive and desirable. We should deal with this honestly and realize that that desire is a valid human feeling. We should not feel guilty or ashamed because of it, or fearful that our relationship is not what it should be because we find other people sexually stimulating. It is unfortunate and tragic when two lovers are so insecure in their relationship that they cannot have sex with anyone else. Perhaps it is fear that causes this. The fear that they will find someone they like better is ridiculous because what they are saying then is that the only thing that their lover has to offer is sex, and that he or she could easily be replaced. Is their relationship primarily held together by sex? If it is not, as most people will insist when they are asked, why are they so worried about going to bed with someone else? Is Gay sex something you still do in the dark? Behind closed doors? Instead of lying to straights about your sexual relations, now you're lying to your lover!

If two people are really in love, with both mind and heart, then they should be secure enough to know that no third or fourth person could ever break that apart. But if their relationship is unstable and riddled with guilt and fear, their relationship will break up, but not because of the outsider. It will break up because of their inability to deal with each other honestly and, I guess, their inability to love each other. Is it not a weak and superficial love that can be torn asunder by another person? If today's lovers would put more stock in the heart than in the bedroom they'd have a much better relationship.

This strong type of relationship is not to say that either lover will ever participate in sex on the "outside," but rather to say that they COULD without it ruining their relationship. True love is not just a feeling; it is a decision, an attitude, and a promise. Were it just feeling, there would be no basis for the statement of loving someone forever; it has to be more than that. People change, and if two people are going to make it a loving relationship,

(Continued on page ten)



RED: YOU'RE NOT ALONE, RURAL FAGGOT DREAMER

By Tom Hurley

Come away, O human child!  
To the waters and the wild  
With a faery, hand in hand,  
For the world's more full of weeping than you can understand.

\*\*\*\*\*

W. B. Yeats

I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately,  
to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could  
not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die,  
discover that I had not lived.

H. D. Thoreau

A Boston friend wrote me last week: "Your new home sounds like pure unadulterated Bergman. An island--how self-contained and soul-searching, no *voulez-vous coucher avec moi*, no Sylvia Sidney, no Herbie's Ramrod Room." His understatement reminds me of how urban-oriented male gay life seems. What does the phrase "male gay lifestyle" make you think of? Bars, bar music, and drag shows, to be sure; baths, gay restaurants, boutiques, porno moviehouses--institutions dependent on a large population. If *After Dark*, that closety, glossy, "national magazine of entertainment," speaks for us, add movies, musicals, theater and spectacle onstage and in the audience. Life for gay men seems to be a *très chic* and rather expensive cabaret.

I'm talking only about what's most visible, of course. Gay men do as many dull everyday things or interesting, everyday things as the other folks. But the existence of large gay ghettos in New York, Boston, Los Angeles, and San Francisco creates a market for exciting things to see and do. The excitement attracts: a large number of gays leave families and friends, hometowns, small cities and farms in search of support, comfort, maybe even love and certainly excitement in the city. Not all are as well-off as the image suggests, of course. Piss-elegance in the bar often conceals a shabby little room and a wretched job. But even for poor gays, gay freaks, gay activists, being gay usually means being around lots of other gay people. And who can deny feeling just plain good when you walk down Charles Street knowing that you are, finally, on your own turf?

Why, then, would anyone leave the support, the sheer excitement of the urban community for the isolation of country life? Probably for as many reasons as there are people who do so. Some go to grow their own food, some to live the simple life, some to find a quiet place to write or paint, some to avoid pollution and violence, some to get back to their roots. Some don't even have to go--they just stay where they've always been, having made a satisfactory rural life for themselves.

To be gay and live in the country means, however, creating your own gay life--in particular, using your ingenuity and your car to contact others. You don't have to become a hermit, but your life is certainly less intense than it would be on Beacon Hill. Chances are you want it that way if you freely choose to live in Zion Crossroads or Bacon Hollow.

Enter the media. *Country Women*, a feminist journal, has published articles by and for lesbians for several years. For the last year, rural gay men have had *RED*. In its own words, *RED* is a "Raving Flamer's Diary," "Reckless Fruit Delight;" "*RED* is the faggot dreams and fairy delights of country men." Put together four times a year by gay men around the country, *RED* has its central headquarters in Grinnell, Iowa (named after the young man whom Horace Greeley told to go west). As of this summer, *RED* had 500 subscribers. A little map showed dots for each reader in every state except Wyoming. I counted seven dots in Maine.

The first number came out in Fall '74 and I missed it, but I've been a faithful reader since then. Each issue is a collection of articles, poems, songs, photos, graphics, and letters. The topics are delightfully unpredictable: sexual tension in collectives, tarot cards, paper cutting for fun and profit, how to find psychedelic mushrooms, dance liberation, running an orchard, gay men and children, creating our own holidays, living in the wilderness, recipes, raising goats, building shelters, migrating from city to country and back, the language of flowers, how to dispose of shit (as in feces, not marijuana). Many articles and letters tell about where people live and how they make a living or at least keep the soybeans

(Continued next page)



coming in. I enjoyed very much two articles on dancing for your own amusement (Summer '75) and "Things That Go Bump In the Night" (Spring '75), Arthur Evan's funny tale of how one city faggot came to terms with the sounds of the wilderness. Problem is, most of the articles are informative, not lively. An interview with two men operating a greenhouse, for example, rambles on about everything and nothing; it badly needs editing. Maybe I'm not interested in many of these topics but the general stodginess of the writing does little to capture my interest.

I can't say much in favor of the poetry, either. I looked for words that would wake me out of my usual response to experience but rarely found them. Instead were convictions, strong feelings and statements long on sincerity but short on the shaping power of the imagination. Sincerity is the flattest form of poetry, I'm afraid. Greg Fillar's "Ode to Aubergine, or Vegeverses" (Spring '75) however, is an unpretentious bit of doggerel in praise of eggplant and other vegetables:

Potatoes may be lacking  
In passion spunk of verve  
Yet with parsley salt and butter  
They are a joy to serve

\*\*\*\*\*

Oh Aubergine my Chatsilim  
Solanum Melongina  
My love for thee has given me  
A purple-green patina

F Fillar deserves credit for having invented the vegetable equivalent of the bestiary.

What deserves praise in *RFD* is the artwork. Every issue is filled with eye-catching, comic, strange, erotic photos and drawings. One great photo essay is about a "seventy-six year old black faggot beekeeper." The centerfold of Winter '74 is a black and white flower wreath surrounding the poetic names of flowers. There's little here one would call pornographic, but many of the drawings are erotic, and the visual impression is sensuous: the shapes of nature, the human body, and flowers, streams, and trees are celebrated here. Even the layout is graceful. I don't know how they produce such beautiful work with such low subscription rates (\$3/year) and few ads.

The cover of Fall '75 gives us one rural fairy dream: a meat cottage with a rocker on the porch, two sets of longjohns on the clothesline. Behind the house, a garden, outhouse, and what looks like an ostrich, though I think it's supposed to be a chicken. In the upper-left corner, a barn with two phallic silos. Between the barn and house, two hairy-fairies in cutoffs with their arms around each other. Behind all, the setting sun. Bordering the picture, vegetables, faggot faces and other emblems of country life. Anti-monogamists may carp, but judging from the writing, many *RFD* staffers and readers share this image of the gay good life.

So many letters roll in that each issue contains several sections of correspondence. In fact, the great degree to which *RFD* is a continuing dialogue between readers and contributors is one of its best features. Many readers are men living alone or at least without much gay contact; they look for friends in their area or correspondents. Many letters praise *RFD* for just being there. The articles provoke lots of feedback: one reader has had enough of autobiographies; another finds the whole format out of touch with the needs of rural gay men; a third wonders about the absence of politics.

You could from the contents put together a picture of the typical *RFD* subscriber. He would be a longhaired fuzzy faced fairy turned good ole faggot farmer, a former hippy anti-war activist moved to the country, now raising pansies. He has just finished chopping wood and is sitting in the late afternoon sun on his small Oregon farm, reading about mucous-free diets. He is dressed in workboots and coveralls, flannel shirt and a huge brass earring. He has been living alone for half a year after several frenetic years in San Francisco. In a few months he will go back to California in search of a lover. And in a few more months, he will be back on the farm.

Now this is as much a cartoon as a character from *The Boys in The Band*. Some *RFD* subscribers live in cities and have little contact with farming. *RFD* readers may be found living in collectives or with

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lovers. But the cartoon is based on parts of reality. There's lots of anguish in these pages about choosing between urban gay life and the mountains one loves. And *RFD* is more in touch with the remnants of the counter-culture than with other American lifestyles. Men who discovered their gayness in East Millinocket or Caratunk and whose contact with gay people comes in the form of an occasional trip to Roland's or an *Advocate* subscription may not find much to interest them here. An occasional letter complains about this focus, but the focus has not yet shifted.

The staff is trying to find out who the readers are by means of a questionnaire. Some of the questions are hilarious: do you use deodorants? Do you wear underpants? How often do you masturbate? What did you eat yesterday? Do you find a meaningful connection between your faggotry and the witch cults of Europe? I hope the results reveal as much about the readers as the questions do about the interests of the staff, but I for one, have had enough of questionnaires, especially now, when the CIA is looking through the woodpile and Mastercharge will print out free of charge a list of everyone I've ever slept with. I doubt I will fill out this questionnaire (but I'm curious about everyone else's answers).

*RFD* contains very little political writing. I get the impression that the contributors, like many straight people, went off to the woods out of frustration at not being able to stop America, Inc. from programming our lives. This apolitical stance bothers me. In our lifetime we'll always feel tension between struggling for change and just wanting to live and enjoy right now. I don't think going off to the woods is necessarily escapist--you can be revolutionary by doing without a lot society thinks is necessary. But a little paranoia restores one's sense of reality. Right now, in the bowels of a Washington D.C. office building, some bureaucrat is trying to figure out what to do with all those queers and dykes. When they come to get us, it won't make much difference if they're the city cops or state troopers. *RFD* would do well to show that gay men continue to be involved in various struggles like prison reform, welfare rights, the rights of women, and other local and national battles. Let us lie under the greenwood tree by all means, but let us not fall asleep there.

*RFD* contains little of direct interest to lesbians, but little that would turn them off. I doubt the magazine would turn down articles by and for women, but they haven't yet published any.

It's refreshing to note the low-keyed approach to sex here. No lurid bar ads, no hyped-up sex personals, no masseurs with LA phone numbers. I have nothing against sex, but one can have too much of a good thing. Clearly, sexuality is as much a part of the rural faggot's life as the city faggot's, but *RFD* assumes this--it doesn't ooze sperm and sweat. What I like most about *RFD* is the fact that it extends the boundaries of gay culture, reminding gays as well as straights that our interests are not limited to genitalia--they're as wide as all of life. We have a right to be gay in whatever way we please, wherever we please; *RFD* celebrates that right. *GCN*, *After Dark*, *The Advocate* cover other aspects of gay life from other points of view. *RFD* reminds us that gay men can be as interested in raising livestock or listening to the sound of a waterfall as in the opening of a new bar. *RFD* is ultimately about our freedom to be more than cartoon characters--to be ourselves. But one article could serve as well to remind us. If *RFD* is to survive as a periodical, it must solicit articles that are sincere and lively. And it would be good too, to hear from men outside the counter-culture. The counter-culture image can be as much a trap as the city faggot stereotype.

On my wall I've taped the packet of pansy seeds *RFD* mailed out with the Spring issue. I got them too late for planting, but I rather like them on my wall, a reminder that gayness can grow in the country. It's good to know that other gay men enjoy life without an army of people bumping and hustling around them.

So my Boston friend is right: the gay life he and I shared in the city has little to do with life in rural Maine. My friend finds what he needs in urban life; myself, I'm glad to get some distance on *voulez-vous coucher avec moi*, Sylvia Sidney, and Herbie's Ramrod Room. I only wish I could escape as easily the Great American Nightmare Machine. But I'm reminded each time I watch the sunset that the America that cheerfully produces homophobia, racism, sexism, inflation-reces-



## LETTERS

Dear MGTF Newsletter Readers:

We at Maine State Prison with the help of MGTF members Susan Henderson and Peter Prizer are trying to organize the Gays at M.S.P. We are running into problems with the administration. Being, of course, homophobic, the administration sees no need for a Gay organization and feels that such an organization would be a threat to the institution.

Tom Hurley, a co-ordinator of the MGTF Newsletter, has asked me to write an editorial for the Newsletter on the discrimination and harassments toward Gay residents at M.S.P.

The established organizations inside the prison, ie: S.C.A.R., Jaycees, Inmate Advisory Council and the Para-legal office seem to take no interest in our legitimate complaints. Complaints ranging from harassment and discrimination to out and out physical attack.

If our homosexuality is known to the administration we are forced to remain in a single cell and not afforded the privilege of a dormitory life-style as offered the rest of the prison population. We, as homosexuals, are not allowed the general freedom as offered most of the other residents. We are also not allowed to work in the kitchen (for what reason I have never been able to ascertain). Nor are we permitted to be night runners (on out count from 4:30 to 9:30) a job whereby everyone except 10 or 12 residents is locked securely in his cell.

We, as homosexuals, at Maine State Prison are denied our basic constitutional guarantee of association. We believe that with some organization and leadership our complaints will become fewer and hopefully keep the administration off our backs.

We would appreciate any support which the readers of MGTF Newsletter could give. Please send your letters of support to the Warden, Maine State Prison or to me directly:

Thos. J.A. Fuller

P.O. Box A

Thomaston, Maine 04861

Thank you Mgtf Newsletter for your time, space and support.

In Gay Struggle,  
Tom Fuller.

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DEAR MGTF:

ENCLOSED PLEASE FIND A DONATION FOR THE MGTF NEWSLETTER.

YOU ALL ARE DOING A REALLY GREAT JOB. I READ THE NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER AND AGREE WITH ONE  
cont'd. next column

LETTER WRITER ABOUT FOCUSING MORE ATTENTION ON OVER 30 PEOPLE.

I AM A STUDENT AT UNF. IS THERE ANY POSSIBILITY OF GETTING A SMALL GROUP STARTED IN FARMINGTON? I KNOW OF THREE DEFINITE GAYS BUT THAT'S IT. DO YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS?

REALLY ENJOY THE NEWSLETTER EVERY MONTH.

THANKS,  
A UNF STUDENT

Note: Anyone interested in getting together to form a small group in the Farmington area, please write c/o MGTF, Attn. Farmington Group.  
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The following letter was sent by our friends at SCAR.

To the Maine Congressional Delegation and Senators:

As active and concerned members of the Portland community the members of SCAR, an organization of prisoners, ex-prisoners, and community people dedicated to social change, we strongly urge you to support H.R. 5452, which would prohibit discrimination on the basis of affectional preference. This is a small but necessary step which needs to be taken in the struggle against sexism and sexual oppression. There can be no question that without the basic right of free sexual expression and expression of love, we can not hope to build a society of equality, sensitivity, freedom, and love. We actively support the efforts of the Maine Gay Task Force, and we and our supporters will be concerned about your vote on this matter.

We further urge that you strongly oppose S-1. S-1 would open the doors to police-state control in the United States. S-1 would effectively remove citizens' rights to free speech and assembly. The National Committee Against Repressive Legislation (NCARL) calls the bill openly "fascist". S-1 will seriously limit political freedom of expression if passed and further limit and threaten virtually all forms of protest, demonstrations, and similar expressions of dissent. Needless to say, these and other clauses of this legislation indicate the seriously repressive nature of this bill. Again, we are seriously concerned about your vote on this bill.

We request that you briefly respond to us outlining your position on these bills.

Sincerely,  
SCAR

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## THE LINCOLN COUNTY NEWS & BUMMER SCENE BLUES

(as advertised in Reader's Digest)

The following appeal to sanity was written on Veteran's Day as a salute to that occasion. As with all signed or unsigned articles, it should be noted that the following does not necessarily distort the opinions - real or imagined - the views, strange whims, idle speculation, or uninformed guesses of either the Task Force people or the Newsletter. In fact, this article is certifiably insulting to 73.4% of the population, to name a few.

For those readers who feel insulted, we apologize. For the few who are not, we suggest that a more careful rereading may render ideas - as they used to say - "perfectly clear."

### A REPORT ON THE RELATIVITY OF NEWSLETTER HUMOR

or,

Laugh, and the whole world laughs with you,  
Laugh too much, and they'll lock you up!

Recently some perfidious malcontent complained to one of the *Newsletter* staff that it would be welcomed if the Voice of MGTf included more articles of humor amongst its radical-chic, up-against-the-lavender-wall copy that manages despite all odds to hit the streets each month. As the Staff person to whom this plainly revisionist demand was addressed, I replied "Sure, you het-loving running dog, you want to see more humor in the Rag, well, you can damn well write it yourself. Now fuck off and leave me alone."

Later, when a large Portion of the Maine Mall had disappeared into the ooze upon which it was assembled and the grim sight of store window Christmas wreaths in September had faded, clear minds prevailed, and I was able to explain the situation. Unfortunately, I began, many of the writers for the *Newsletter* understand that humor manufacturing is often more elusive than merely repeating a racist limerick down at the local VFW or Elks club. I also explained that the *Newsletter*, unlike the political newsletters from Washington, does not have readily disposable (and easily renewable) resources such as cash, prestige, or Paraguayan cocaine to bribe a whole civil service class of humor writers at whim. (Incidentally, the kinky jive from DC is sent out postage free.) And the MGTf, unlike our friends at Maine Civil Liberties, cannot hope to maintain a virtual stable of highly paid writers chafing to scribble copy at the snap of a finger.

Suddenly I noticed a drop of clear liquid form in the right eye of my friend, followed immediately by a rivulet of tears down his smooth cheek. I understood that this poor person was either a Pisces or Jaycee (or both) and that I had been too harsh with him.

"Now, now," I said, "please don't cry," as I dabbed at his cheeks with a small piece of emery cloth. Certainly there was something we could do to make the *Newsletter* more humorous.

Sobbing softly, he smothered his face with trembling hands. For the first time since it occurred to me that Rocky is only a banana peel away from the #1 slot, I felt like a helpless ass. "Look," I said, putting my hand on his shoulder, "You gotta see the positive side to everything. And sometimes, you have to read between the lines, even." He stopped crying and looked at me. Encouraged, I continued "Yeah, quite often the *Newsletter* is loaded with humor, but you've got to search for it. Take the November issue, for example. Right on the first page there was this hostile noise from Rep. Emery saying, in effect, that the new federal Gay rights bill can (Gasp) rot in Heck! Then he closes his remarks with a generous and sincere offer to "be of assistance on the Federal level." Now that's the stuff smiles are made of, but like I said, you've got to search for them. And then you have all those pleas for donations of time, energy, money, writing, etc. -- that's all a joke, too. No sane *Newsletter* readers, which is to say the number of people you can squeeze into Deering Oaks on a rainy December night, ever takes them seriously. I could see that I was making headway; his face was now almost dry. "Hev," I continued, "just attend one of the monthly MGTf meetings and read about the account of same in the next *Newsletter*. The dry wit and wry shit is guaranteed to lay a giggle on Jerry Furd's droll puss; even as he learns from a whispering aide during a televised press conference that Steven is shackled up with a boyfriend on a mountain in Idaho.

The face of my friend brightened. Cheeks now smiling and pink eyes blinking, he profusely thanked me for illuminating the funny bone stimuli available to readers if they only make the effort to scrape, dig, or in many cases dredge for it. But the Christmas wreaths in September still worried him. "No problem there," I said, "they'll be brown by December 15."



MGTF,

The most stupid thing that any Gay person could do is ... running yourselves down, of course. If you are at work and for some reason the word Gay or queer is mentioned, do you try to put them down harder than anyone else? After all, you sure don't want them getting suspicious of being like you, do you? Well, brothers and sisters, your little tricks aren't going to do a tinker's damn to save you. If they suspect it now they will suspect you then. They might have a little more respect for you though, if you will just shut up and do your work.

At one time I did the same thing to try to cover up but one day I looked in the mirror and I said behold, there was a man there, not a fag. At work, they don't know and I'm not going to tell them, but I don't run them down. It's going to be a long time before we are really accepted as humans, but if you are not giving a hand for the cause, at least don't raise that hand against us. Most people think that we are all sissy. Is that because of the drags only? I don't think so. I think it is because we let ourselves hide under just the handful of people and let them do everything for us !!! There is no pride or dignity in cowardice.

Your brother.

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(Continued from Page 1)

LILY TOMLIN So much for "cures!"

Tomlin is one of the few show-business people who come across as being genuine. At a meeting after the show, she slipped into the backstage room at City Hall Auditorium, and before anyone knew it, she was there. She seemed genuinely incredulous when Wendy Ashley of MGTF and Maine Freewoman's Herald told her that her autograph may be worth \$800 at an auction to raise money for a woman's center in Washington, D.C. Wendy, in exchange for the donation of the autograph, is going to do Tomlin's chart on the air (on Channel 5) and send her a tape of it. Both were pleased at the exchange. It was another side of Tomlin's genuineness that came across on the stage.

(The above review was written by Susan W. Anderson, who is also known as the Cumberland County Curmudgeon.)

SION, AND POLLUTION IS NEVER FAR AWAY. TO THE SOUTH AND WEST THE GOLD LIGHT OUTLINES THE PINE TOPS AND ROCKY SHORE, AND THE GULLS DIP AND SOAR OVER THE WAVES. UP THE COAST TO THE NORTH, THE MAINE YANKEE ATOMIC POWER STATION SQUATS, THE DARK SATANIC MILL OF UNPREDICTABLE TECHNOLOGY, THREATENING ALL OUR DREAMS. AT ITS BEST, RFD HELPS US KEEP FAITH IN THESE DREAMS.

COPIES OF RFD ARE AVAILABLE IN THE MGTF OFFICE, FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS WRITE RFD, BOX 161, GRINNELL, IOWA 50112.

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## NOW! RESOLUTION ON LESBIAN RIGHTS

WHEREAS The National Organization for Women is committed to the principle that all women have an absolute right to full equality under the law, and

WHEREAS Lesbians in our society are not protected under existing laws, or against unequal access to employment, housing and public accommodations, and

WHEREAS abridgement of the basic rights of any woman diminishes the freedom for all of us.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the accomplishment of civil rights for Lesbians be designated as a national priority of the National Organization for Women, and further that annual funding for the N.O.W. National Task Force on Sexuality/Lesbianism shall be at a level appropriate for a N.O.W. national priority, and this shall be not less than 1% of N.O.W.'s national annual dues.

Further, that implementation will include coordination of legislative strategies for use on local, state, and national levels in order to secure the passage of HR 5452 (the Abzug bill) and appropriate action on other relevant civil and criminal legislation. Under guidelines provided by the National Task Force on Sexuality/Lesbianism efforts to implement this resolution will be undertaken at all levels. Further, that a full report on the national activities and accomplishments of the National Organization for Women on the implementation of this resolution shall be presented by the President of N.O.W. during a regular plenary session of the next N.O.W. National Conference.

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## MGTF MINUTES

November 2, 1975  
Susan Henderson, Chair  
Peter Prizer, Scribe

The meeting was convened at 1pm at the MGTF office. The next meeting will be December 6 at 1pm, in the office. Tom Hurley will chair and Burt Ordway will take notes.

**FINANCES:** The Task Force has \$61.95 in its account, and the Newsletter has \$35.36. It is hoped that people who have made monthly pledges will remember on their own to send the pledge in; this helps the Task Force save money, rather than having to mail out reminders.

**POGO GAY GROUP:** The new Gay People's Alliance at the University of Maine has weekly meetings at 7:30pm, Thursday in the Student Union, 92 Bedford St. Portland. The group is not entirely made up of students, and interested people from outside the university are invited to attend.

**INCORPORATION OF MGTF:** Peter Prizer reported that the incorporation committee is still hard at work. People interested in the question of incorporation should attend the next MGTF meeting.

**WBLM RADIO SHOW:** Stan Fortuna reported that the proposed weekly Gay radio show has been delayed until Spring, when people working on this project will have more time and energy.

**NEWSLETTER:** We are having Newsletter meetings on a regular basis. This month's meetings (December) will be the first and third Fridays, at 7:30, at the office.

**PRISON GROUP:** Susan Henderson reported that Tom Fuller, a Gay person at Thomaston State Prison, has written the warden requesting authority to form a Gay group there. The warden should make his report soon. The consensus of our meeting was that the Thomaston group should be formed independently, rather than as a local MGTF. If the Gay prisoners are refused, we will check with MCLU about a court test.

**DANCES:** The dances in Brunswick are suspended pending the discovery of persons with the energy to put them on.

**RAP GROUP:** Persons interested in attending these sessions should call the office (773-5530) for details.

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THIS SPACE AVAILABLE (AND MORE) FOR  
YOUR IDEAS, VIEWS, CRITICISMS, ETC.

## PORTLAND WOMEN'S CENTER

193 Middle Street  
Portland  
774-6071

The center is open on Monday, from 11:30am to 3:30pm, and from 5:30 to 7:30 for divorce counseling; on Tuesday from 11am to 2pm and from 7pm to 9 (7:30 to 9pm the steering committee meets); on Wednesday from 7:30pm to 9pm; on Thursday from 7:30 to 9pm. Self-defense classes meet on Thursday evenings.

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## MGTF CO-ORDINATORS

**MEDIA:** Stan Fortuna and Deborah Johnson.

**POLITICAL:** Anne Garland and Peter Prizer.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** Stephen Leo and Wendy Ashley.

**NEWSLETTER:** Karen Bye and Tom Hurley.

**SPEAKER'S BUREAU:** Tim Bouffard and Susan Breeding.

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THIS ISSUE OF THE NEWSLETTER IS VOLUME 2, NO. 11, FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 1975. SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM THE ENTIRE NEWSLETTER STAFF.

MGTF: 193 MIDDLE STREET, PORTLAND  
773-5530

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## SEXUALITY AND THE LOVING RELATIONSHIP

(Cont. from page Four)

that relationship must be flexible enough to allow both partners to act honestly on their feelings and desires, or to grow and expand with the experiences life offers us all. Any love is doomed to die if it is crammed into too tight a hallway. To live, love must be given room to roam and find its own bounds. Given this, I can assure you that that love will be the most fulfilling and rewarding experience of your life. To stifle a dream or a feeling is to rob the human race of our individuality.

End of Part I. Part II will appear in the January Newsletter. We regret that Steve's entire article was unable to be printed in this issue, due to a stencil dislocation. The Newsletter apologizes to Steve and readers.

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## ARSON IN PORTLAND

During the night of Dec- 7-8, arsonists set fire to a former church on Oak St. which was to be converted into a Gay restaurant by Roland Labbe. It is hoped the police will fully investigate this matter.



BITS BITS

BITS BITS

THE MGTFN INVITES readers to use its pages for brief notices and ads. Ads are free. The newsletter reserves the right to reject or edit ads and notices. We do not accept sex ads.

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GAY FEMINIST psychiatric social worker starting private practice. Interested in seeing people individually and/or in groups. Fee on a sliding scale. Located in the Kennebunk Beach area. Call 967-3032 after 5 30 p.m. on weekdays. All day Saturday and Sunday. Ask for Marjorie.

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#### ROOMS & ROOMATES

--A 23 year old Gay male is looking for someone 18 to 25 who likes country life and the out of doors and needs a place to stay this winter. Contact Donald Cash, RFD 1, New Vineyard, Maine.

--Gay man looking for place to live with other Gay people. If you're looking for a roommate contact Richard Thibeault, Pegasus Farm, Litchfield, Maine (737-2985).

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#### WOMEN'S COUNSELLING SERVICE---

Offers counselling, referrals and library loans from a pleasant office at 13 Main St., Topsham. Open Mon. and Wed. 7-10 p.m.; Thurs., 4-7 p.m.; and Sat. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call 729-4561. Fees are according to what you can pay.

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#### SUBSCRIBE: Gay Community News-

Nonsexist, non exploitive news, features and Opinion. \$2.50 (10 wks), \$6.00 (25 wks), \$12.00 (52 wks). Sent in no-peek envelope. Make check payable to GCN, 22 Bromfield St. Boston, Mass. 02108.

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BANGOR AREA PEOPLE who want to reactivate Gay Support and Action write to GSA, P.O. Box 110. Bangor, Maine 04401. We need a group in this area.

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ATTENTION: The following prisoner needs outside support. Write to him with news and strength.

Willie James Warren #016770  
P.O. Box 747 I-1-N-16  
Starke Florida 32091

GAY DANCE GAY DANCE GAY DANCE

PORTLAND: The Gay People's Alliance of the University of Maine, Portland-Gorham is sponsoring gay dances on a monthly basis. Dances are scheduled for SATURDAYS, January 17th, February 28th and March 20th. From 8 p.m. to 12 p.m. in the cafeteria on the Portland campus (Payson-Smith Hall). Use side entrance. A \$1.00 donation is requested. Bring your friends.

GAY DANCE GAY DANCE GAY DANCE

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THE PORTLAND WOMEN'S CENTER is located at 193 Middle Street, Portland. Telephone: 774-6071.

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#### WE NEED GAY LAWYERS

The People's College of Law is a new 4-year law school oriented toward those usually excluded from the legal educational process.

Gay people, especially lesbians and third world gays are definitely welcome. Entrance requirements are 2 years of college leading toward a Bachelor's degree, or you must take the college equivalency test. Tuition is low. Graduates receive a Juris Doctor degree and are eligible to take the California Bar Exam. All applicants should be committed to use the law as a tool for social change.

Classes enter each Jan. and Sept. For more information write Gay Caucus, c/o PCL/NLG, 2228 West 7th St., Los Angeles, Ca. 90057.

A man (gay) would like to correspond, to meet with gay people in and around northern Maine (both males and females). Contact: J.C., Box 37, Smyrna Mills, Maine 04780.

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SUBSCRIBE TO THE MGTF NEWSLETTER, P.O. Box 4542 ds, Portland, Me. 04112. One year (12 issues), \$4.00. Sent first class in a plain, sealed envelope.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
STREET \_\_\_\_\_  
TOWN \_\_\_\_\_  
STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PEACE ON EARTH, GOOD WILL TO PEOPLE  
from MGTF, Dec. 1975