

River Queen, PO Box 173, Guerneville Park, CA 95446

# sonoma county lesbian & gay alliance



FREE

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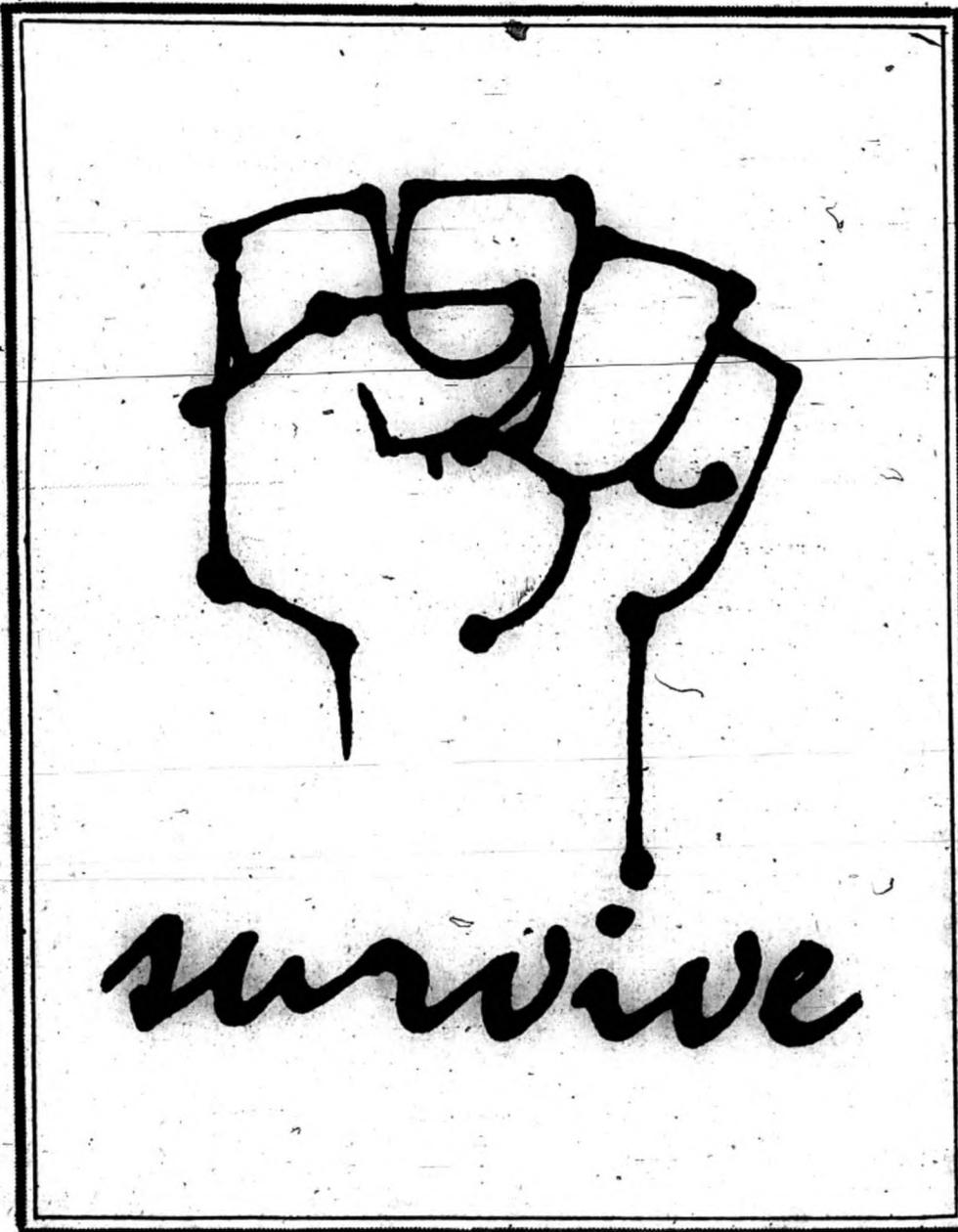
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# Briggs Files Anti-Gay Petitions

State Senator John Briggs, choosing his words and his locale with great care, on May 1 filed his initiative measure that could remove homosexual teachers from public schools in California.

Although most of the 500,000 signatures were filed in Los Angeles, Briggs chose San Francisco as the place to file the first 1,000 names because, he said, "it is the moral garbage dump of homosexuality in this country."

John Briggs is the invisible man in the Republican race for the governor's nomination, but the fact that he's a distant fifth in a five-man race doesn't bother him one bit.

The ultra-conservative senator from Orange County believes that like the famous come-from-behind horse Silky Sullivan, he can go from last to first by election day on June 6.

Even though it's hard to find anyone who thinks Briggs has a chance, he claims to have a big pot of money and a campaign strategy that will turn the race around.

"Our plan is to come in late with a big radio and television campaign," he explained in a recent interview. "When those other guys start to run out of money, we'll be going strong."

Briggs, who boasted that "we haven't spent a penny yet," said he expects to spend \$500,000 in the last few weeks to go from two percent, his position in the most recent California Poll, to

the 30 percent he believes will be needed to win the nomination.

At the same time, Briggs will attempt to tie his candidacy to the three issues he has promoted for months—tougher death penalty law, an anti-homosexual teacher law and Proposition 13, the Jarvis-Gann tax limitation initiative.

"I'm the guy leading the fight on those gut issues," he said. "What we're going to try to do is convert the support for those issues into support for me. Can we do it? I don't really know, but we're going to try."

Briggs' secret weapon is a computer tape containing the names, he claims, of 700,000 California households where the residents support one, two or all three of his pet issues.

Using direct mail, as well as television, he hopes to turn supporters of those issues into supporters of John Briggs.

Only one of Briggs' key issues, Proposition 13, is on the June ballot, but he expects to qualify the other two as initiatives in November. Nothing would please him more, he said, than to run against Jerry Brown with the death penalty and an anti-gay teacher measure on the same ballot.

Briggs recognizes the fact that the gay issue, and his much-publicized journey to Miami last year to campaign alongside Anita Bryant in her anti-gay teacher crusade, changed him from a little-known legislator from Fullerton into a well-known, if not

exactly universally admired, personality.

Briggs' controversial views bring him a substantial amount of unfriendly mail, although he says it is a dribble compared to the flood of mail he gets supporting him.

The state senator, a born-again Christian at the age of eight and a Catholic since his wife encouraged him to convert, also says he is wrongly accused of being intolerant.

"I'm actually a tolerant person," he said. "You can disagree with me and I won't hate you. This incorrect image of intolerance just because I'm not willing to let this wave that says that homosexuality is normal roll over me."

Briggs said he considers it "morally degenerate" for society to accept homosexuality, but has nothing against what people do in private.

"As long as they don't bring it into the classroom, I don't care what they do," he said about his initiative aimed at gay teachers and other school workers. "Homosexuality shouldn't be taught as an acceptable alternative life style."

Briggs also said he has never had a homosexual experience, although "I sure saw enough of that sort of thing during four years in the Air Force. But I figure it was their business, not mine."

Despite his self-described tolerance, however, he added that homosexuals "don't belong in the military."

—S.F. Chronicle

## BACABI Rally and Conference May 12 & 13

BACABI, the Bay Area Committee Against the Briggs Initiative, has announced plans for a rally and conference, May 12 and 13.

The rally, to be held

The rally, May 12 at 7:30 PM at the First Congregational Church at Post and Mason Streets in San Francisco, will feature speakers from local trade unions, school and college instructors and workers and others. Speakers will include: Sally Gerhart, professor at San Francisco State University (and featured in the film WORD IS OUT); James Ballard, president of American Federation of Teachers, Local 61; Stan Smith, president of the Building and Trades Council, AFL-CIO; as well as speakers from Native American and Third World groups.

The conference, set for 10 AM, Saturday, May 13 at Galileo High School (at 1055 Bay Street, between Van Ness and Polk); will have as its purpose to organize and form a broad-based, state-wide coalition of groups and individuals to defeat the Briggs Initiative, and plan for the election of a co-sexual and multi-racial Northern California Coordinating Committee. The conference will consist of plenary sessions and task-oriented workshops.

The Briggs Initiative affects the rights

### THE BRIGGS INITIATIVE

The Attorney General of California has prepared the following title and summary of the chief purpose and points of the proposed measure. This will appear on petitions now being circulated by the "California Defend Our Children" organization.

#### SCHOOL EMPLOYEES - HOMOSEXUALITY INITIATIVE STATUTE

Provides for filing charges against school teachers, teacher's aides, school administrators or counselors who advocate, solicit, impose, encourage or promote private or public sexual acts defined in section 286(a) and 288(a) of the penal code between persons of the same sex in a manner likely to come to the attention of other employees or students; or publicly and indiscreetly engages in said acts. Prohibits hiring and requires dismissal of such persons if School Board determines unfitness of service after considering enumerated guidelines. In dismissal cases only, provides for two stage hearings, written findings, judicial review. Financial impact: UNKNOWN, but potentially substantial local cost to school districts depending on the number of cases which receive an administrative hearing.

of all people, for any school worker—homosexual or heterosexual—could be fired for expressing an opinion in support of gay rights, in or outside the classroom. Indeed, the Briggs Initiative is a serious threat to the civil liberties of all Californians. Women, minorities, and organized labor especially must unite with the gay movement to protect the freedom of speech and right of employment.

The Sonoma County Lesbian and Gay Alliance is one of many groups and individuals endorsing or co-sponsoring this conference and all interested groups and individuals are urged to attend.

Housing and/or childcare assistance can be provided on advance notice by calling (415) 752-0507 or (415) 863-4665.

### Locals To Fight Briggs

The Coalition Against the Briggs Initiative of Sonoma County will meet at 7:30 PM, Tuesday, May 23, at the California Teachers Association Headquarters, 2490 Guerneville Road, (Near Fulton Road), Santa Rosa.

Both individuals and organizational representatives are urged to attend. For further information call 433-5693

## Dykes & Tykes Demonstrate May 14

New York Dykes & Tykes and the Seattle-based Lesbian Mothers National Defense Fund (LMNDF) are jointly calling on women throughout the country to hold demonstrations around Mother's Day, May 14, 1978, demanding an end to the judicial attacks on lesbian mothers. The demonstrations will focus on custody battles and on the difficulties lesbian mothers face in supporting their families.

Dykes & Tykes and LMNDF will coordinate the nationwide demonstrations by distributing an information packet that will share some of their experience in such things as: ideas for leaflets, how to publicize and gather support for the demonstration, how to insure good security, etc.

Contact LMNDF, 2446 Lorentz Pl. North, Seattle, WA 98109 or (206) 282-5798. —LN

## "Lady of the Lamp" Revealed As Lesbian

In a new book, *THE PRIVATE LIFE OF FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE*, Dr. Richard Gordon claims that the famous "Lady of the Lamp" was a lesbian. "Her letters say she shared the beds of countesses and cowgirls. One says 'no woman could excite passion in other women' like her. Her whole mentality was a lesbian one which is part of the reason she was so successful" claims Gordon.

The Royal College of Nursing has reacted with outrage and could not understand why Gordon would "rake up this sort of material." Elspeth Huxley, a Nightingale biographer, claims the letters show only "emotional attachments," manifestations of "Dotage on her part and hero worship on theirs." —BP

## Moonrise Cafe Schedule of Events

Moonrise Cafe/250 Sebastopol Rd. Santa Rosa  
MAY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- Every Thursday/Astrology Class 8-10 PM
- 5/12-- Bingo 7-10 PM  
Benefit Gay School Teachers
- 5/13-- Betty Kaplowitz/Blues-rock-folk guitar and singing 8 PM \$1.50-\$2.00
- 5/14-- Meditation & Massage for Children 10 AM-12 Noon  
Open Poetry Readings 7-9 PM
- 5/16-- Feminist Lecture Series 4-6 PM  
Fun & Frolic Celebration
- 5/19-- Terese Edell \$2.00 8 PM
- 5/26-- Bingo 7-10 PM  
Disco Dance 10:30-12:30 PM

## Lesbian Mother Source List Available

Finally, a very valuable "Lesbian Mother's Resource List" is available for \$1.50 from Iris Films, Box 26463, Los Angeles, CA 90026. It lists sources of legal counseling, emotional support, expert witnesses, research assistance, and case histories; classes; hotlines; and videotapes, films and books on the subject. The list was prepared by Mary K. Blackmon and supplements Iris Films' *IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILDREN*. —NGTF

## Lesbian Organization Establishes Class Policy

A National Lesbian Feminist Organization was founded in March of 1978. It is the first national organization to adopt the following policy concerning race and class: "Be it resolved that this national lesbian organization be committed to fighting racism and classism both inside and outside this organization. Therefore we will have a minimum of 50% of all the women involved in the level of planning and decision making be women of color of various class backgrounds, and 50% be white women of various class backgrounds." (Note: The NEWS will have more on this organization in the next issue.)

## Lesbians Meet in Arcata May 12-14

There will be a Lesbian Conference held in Arcata May 12, 13 & 14. Friday evening, May 12, there will be a women's dance. Saturday's schedule will consist of workshops and Sunday will be an outdoor celebration and picnic. For further information contact: The Lesbian Conference Collective PO Box 5142 Eureka, CA 951101

## River Queen Benefit May 27

There will be a benefit for the River Queen Women's Center, presented by and for women, May 27 at the Center at 17140 River Rd., Guerneville.

## Women of Color Organizing Statewide

The Organization For Women of Color in Los Angeles is now in the process of organizing statewide. For further information please contact Kwambe Om Dah-Dah, 199 South Commonwealth, Los Angeles 90004 or by calling (213) 388-2708 or (213) 389-8863

## Lesbian Bureau Gains Tax Free Status

CINCINNATI, OH—The Lesbian Activist Bureau, Inc., is the third homosexual group nationally to receive Internal Revenue Service tax exempt status.

The granting of the status is a turn-about in IRS attitudes towards homosexual groups. Previously, the IRS denied this exemption to any gay charitable cause unless that particular cause voiced in its articles of incorporation amendments or bylaws stating that homosexuality "is a sickness, disturbance, or diseased pathology." This is no longer the case and in recent months that status was also granted to the Howard Brown Memorial Fund, New York City, and Lambda Services, Denver.

The Lesbian Activist Bureau of Ohio was granted status on the basis of its purposes as a nonprofit corporation to educate the public on homosexuality and foster community acceptance and promote civil, social and economic equality for homosexuals.

## Lesbian Mothers Sought In Study

Lesbian mothers with custody of their children who live in the greater Bay Area are being sought as interviewees for a study of how single mothers (both gay and non-gay) cope with their childrearing responsibilities. The purpose of the study is to identify the special needs of families headed by women and to suggest services to meet those needs. All information will be held in strict confidence and no names will appear in published reports. To volunteer, or for more information, please call Ellen Lewin, Ph.D. (anthropology), at (415) 524-7951, or Terrie Lyons, M.S.W., at (415) 666-3193; or write them c/o the Medical Anthropology Program, the University of California at San Francisco, 1320 Thrid Ave., San Francisco, CA 94143. —NGTF

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## Elaine Noble to Seek US Senate Post

Massachusetts State Representative Elaine Noble has announced her candidacy for the U.S. Senate.

Noble, the first openly gay person elected to office, has served for four years in the Massachusetts legislature. Her first objective in the upcoming campaign will be to win the Democratic nomination in a statewide primary election scheduled for September 19. Her opponent in that race will be State Rep. Michael J. Connolly.

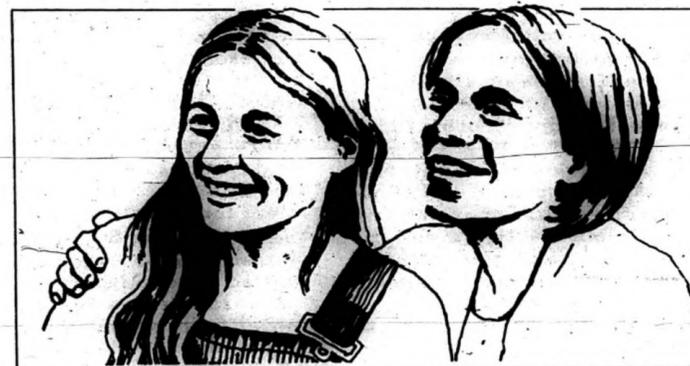
Noble is well known throughout the state and has the backing of Thomas (Tip) O'Neill, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, as well as Gov. Michael Dukakis.

After winning the primary election she will face incumbent Republican Edward Brooke, who was first elected to the Senate in 1966. It will be an interesting race on many levels. Brooke, who is the first and only black person to reach the Senate in the 20th century, will face an opponent who is the first open Lesbian to seek national office. Noble has a great deal of credibility in the black community because of her leadership in the struggle

to desegregate Boston's schools. Brooke, on the other hand, is known as a Washington-centered politician, rather than a state/community focused representative.

When asked if lesbianism will be a campaign issue, Noble stated that her sexual preference is relevant only to her private life, and not to her ability to represent and fight for the interests of the people. In her previous campaigns, her lesbianism was used against her, to the point of "lezzie" being spray-painted on her car several times. But she still was elected. People voted for her in spite of her gayness, not because of it.

Noble expects to have a broad base of support from the gay community, but she will not center her campaign on gay rights. (She led the fight for gay rights legislation in the State House. Her bills were narrowly defeated last year in the aftermath of the Dade County defeat.) Noble says she will campaign for quality of life issues, including gay, women's and minority rights. —Blazing Star via LN



## U.N. Drafts Pro-Women Paper

The last General Assembly of the United Nations began drafting a Convention on the Elimination of

Discrimination Against Women.

Completion of the document is not expected until the next session which begins in September 1978.

It is the first legally binding instrument that aims at eliminating discriminatory practices against women throughout the world. Built into the document will be enforcement procedures. —Advocate

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## County Supervisors Join Pro-ERA Boycott

Sonoma County Supervisors have launched a boycott against states that have not adopted the Equal Rights Amendment.

On a split 3-2 vote, the board Tuesday passed a resolution stating the county will not pay the expenses of county employees who request to go to conferences or other functions in states that have not adopted the amendment.

The resolution also called for the extension of the deadline for ratification. Thirty-eight states must adopt the amendment for it to be ratified, and thus far 32 states have adopted it. Three others adopted it, then rescinded.

Supervisors George DeLong and William Johnson opposed the resolution.

The resolution was introduced by Supervisor Eric Koenigshofer and Board Chairman Brian Kahn called a quick vote. Supervisor Helen Rudee joined the two in passing it.

Koenigshofer said later the economic boycott is endorsed by a coalition of supervisors formed at meetings of the County Supervisors Association of California, called the County Supervisors network.

He said the group is closely aligned on a number of issues, such as housing, health problems and civil rights. —P.D.

## Artificial Insemination Furor Grows

LONDON, England—Published reports that lesbian couples are having babies by artificial insemination stirred a rash of outrage among persons concerned with child welfare and the family.

Conservative lawmaker, Dr. Rhodes Boyson charged, "To bring children into this world without a natural father is evil and selfish. This evil must stop for the sake of the potential children and society, which both have enough problems without the extension of this horrific practice."

Two dozen men and women defenders of lesbian births staged a sit-in and threw stink bombs at the offices of the London Evening News which carried the lesbian birth story on its front page.

The Evening News editor met with the demonstrators and agreed to publish the protestor's reply to the news series but refused to discontinue its investigation of the births.

Conservative British lawmakers have charged that the practice of artificially inseminating lesbians is an unnatural and immoral practice. —GW

## Polaroid Marks \$3,000 For Lesbian Mothers

The Polaroid Foundation has given a \$3,000 grant for "service to Lesbian mothers" to the Janus Counseling Association of Boston/Cambridge (Massachusetts). Polaroid, the only company to respond favorably to a solicitation for funds, said it was "pleased to be able to participate with you in your efforts to provide a wide range of services for Lesbian women."

## Eugene Defends Rights May 23

A crucial West Coast challenge to gay rights will take place in Eugene, Oregon on May 23 when the citizens of that city will be asked to vote on a referendum to repeal an amendment to the city's civil rights ordinance which protects gay people against discrimination in housing, employment and public accommodations. After the repeal of a similar ordinance in St. Paul, Minnesota on April 25, and what promises to be another gay defeat in a Wichita election on May 9, the Eugene vote will generate considerable publicity and directly affect California thinking on the subject of gay rights.

It is generally believed that chances for a gay victory in Eugene are greater. Eugene has a record of consistently voting for liberal causes. It is also the home of the University of Oregon, a traditional source of liberal support.

The estimated cost of the campaign is \$55,000 which must be raised quickly. Some Oregon Gays have pledged 1-2% of their annual incomes for the effort. The anti-gay campaign is being financed by ultra-conservative elements of the Christian Church.

The Eugene Citizens for Human Rights, a coalition of local activists, has agreed on a three-part approach to the campaign. First, they believe that a tactic which failed in Miami was to emphasize the "human rights" or civil rights aspect of the campaign, when the anti-choice group was continually stressing the homosexuality aspect and manipulating the ignorance of most voters. Eugene wants to present a campaign which manages both to connect with the civil rights struggles of other people, AND to present a clear defense of the civil rights of gay people as being at stake in THIS particular election. If Miami taught us only one thing, it is that appealing to the democratic traditions of the United States is not a sufficient defense of gay people.

Second, as part of the effort to honestly deal with voters' lack of information about gay people, the coalition wants to wage an educational campaign which specifically raises the issues on which the New Right continuously slanders us.

Talking to people is the third point of the Eugene campaign. The coalition feels that a personal campaign, as opposed to a media campaign, both makes more sense theoretically, and is more possible in Eugene than it might have been in Miami. This means that the coalition wants to put speakers in favor of Gay civil rights before every group in the city, and at local get-togethers in people's homes. They want voters to actually meet and have a chance to talk to gay people before the election. They want Gay speakers to have a chance to talk to individual voters, too, to be able to connect with the issues in those individuals' lives.

—GCN



## St. Paul Denies Gay Rights In Overwhelming Defeat

ST. PAUL, Minn.—On April 25, the people of St. Paul voted to repeal the city's gay rights law by nearly a 2-1 margin in the first major election test since residents of Dade County, Fla., threw out a similar ordinance last June.

"For this we thank God," the Rev. Richard A. Angwin, pastor of Temple Baptist Church and leader of the repeal crusade, said election night. He said the repeal shows that, North or South, the majority of people are against homosexuality.

Homosexual leaders said they were "outraged." They said they "won't go back into the closet" and predicted a "new coming-out nationwide." Democratic Mayor George Latimer, who supported the gay rights ordinance, said he still feels "every human being deserves equal protection under law." He said, "I will abide by the voter's decision."

In complete unofficial returns, the vote was 54,090 to repeal and 31,690 to keep the 4-year-old ordinance. In addition, Tom Burke, a homosexual and Vietnam veteran, was defeated by a large margin in a bid for one of seven city council seats.

It was the first major challenge of

## Cops Oppose Gay Hiring

The International Association of Chiefs of Police has adopted a resolution opposing the hiring of "admitted" homosexuals as police. The resolution was accepted without debate at the meeting in Los Angeles.

L.A.'s ex-Chief Ed Davis declared that police positions should exclude "someone who is an open, obvious, ostentatious homosexual" because it was important that people should be able to relate to police officers.

—GCN via LN

a homosexual rights law since entertainer Anita Bryant and her "Save Our Children" crusade successfully pushed repeal of a similar law in Dade County (Miami) by a vote of 3-1.

The unusually big turnout for St. Paul's gay rights vote on a mild, sunny day climaxed a heated campaign in which the Baptist-led Citizens Alert for Morality fought to repeal the law and the St. Paul Citizens for Human Rights, including some clergy, battled to keep it.

Repeal forces said the issue was morality; opponents said it was human rights.

Robert Kuns of Miami, a gay rights supporter, called the repeal "unconstitutional, immoral, illegal and un-American."

The gay Activists Alliance of New York called the repeal "a warning to all minority people that the democratic process is not the road to gay liberation."

Jean O'Leary and Bruce Voeller, co-executive directors of the National Gay Task Force, said they were "outraged that a majority of misinformed voters have once again denied civic rights to a group of American citizens."—UP

## Staff Box

The NEWS is published monthly by the Sonoma County Lesbian and Gay Alliance, a personal support, information and community action group of gay people.

This issue was assembled by Larry Berner, Deborah Kelley, Sandy Lowe, Pat McCloskey and Robert (Melvin) Muller.

Masthead designed by Pat Urquhart

# SCLGA Conference Seeks Recruits

Recruiting is continuing for the lesbian and gay experience and your direct participation is urgently needed.

Nearly thirty gay men and women who are residents of Sonoma County have already joined together in planning a one day conference entitled "The Lesbian and Gay Experience" aimed at educating professional human service workers around the homosexual lifestyle.

The conference, which is being prepared and presented by the Sonoma County Lesbian and Gay Alliance, is being sponsored by the Academy for the Helping Professions through the auspices of the Sonoma County Department of Mental Health. Invitations will be sent to school counselors, public and private therapists, probation and correctional officers, physicians and clergy. The planners are hoping that more than 120 professional people will attend.

The event presents the gay people of Sonoma County with a unique opportunity to speak out of our own experiences and needs to a large group of professional people who historically have neither understood nor been sympathetic to, our existence but who often exercise great power over our lives. The Alliance is trying to recruit gay people of all ages, races and walks of life to participate in the planning and the presentation of the conference in order to challenge the myths and prejudices about the lifestyles of gay people. We seek to show that our lives are varied and that we are everywhere. We know better than anyone that there is no stereotype for a lesbian or a gay man and this is why you and what you have to say are needed to make our collective statement effective. Whatever you can contribute, whether ideas, techniques, experiences, art, labor or time, will help to formulate a power-

ful and truthful statement of who we are. Even if you cannot be at the Conference, your input now is vital to expressing the realities of the gay people who live and work in this county.

Most of the difficult and tedious work of the conference planning has already been done. In the first two meetings of the Planning Group a format was drawn up which includes lecture presentations and workshops; and co-ordinators volunteered to assume responsibility for various parts of the program. But more people are urgently needed!

### CONFERENCE FORMAT

The Conference will begin in the morning at a general assembly with presentations concerning the Lesbian Experience; the Gay Male Experience; Homophobia and Gay Oppression; Counseling and Health Care Experience. Informal discussion will follow these presentations. In the afternoon the professional people will be able to attend the following workshops:

**YOUTH**—Growing Up Gay. The experience of discovering and affirming gayness in a world that won't allow it. **COMING OUT**—The process of self acceptance and self disclosure and experiences with rejection.

**RELATIONSHIPS**—The development and variations of patterns in Lesbian and Gay Male relationships.

**SUBSTANCE ABUSE**—The unique patterns of alcoholism and drug abuse in the gay community.

**ADULT & CHILD RELATIONSHIPS**—Experiences of Lesbian and Gay parenting, being a Lesbian or Gay teacher and other adult-child relationships.

**SCHOOL & WORK**—Being in the closet vs. coming out in school and at work.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT: GAYS & INSTITUTIONS**—The additional difficulties experienced by Lesbians and Gay men in courts, prisons, hospitals and

### CONFERENCE PLANNING GROUP MEETINGS—Thursdays at 7 PM

May 4—SRJC Library Room 1  
May 11—Benton Street Clubhouse, Benton and North Streets, S.R.  
May 18—SRJC Library  
May 25—SRJC Library

other institutions. **LESBIAN CUSTODY**—A film and discussion concerning Lesbian mothers and their families. **THIRD WORLD EXPERIENCE**—A special consideration of the problems faced by Gay people in Black, Latin, Oriental, as well as Native American, cultures.

**RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY**—Spiritual expression in an exclusively heterosexual, patriarchal society.

**HEALTH CARE & COUNSELING**—The problems of obtaining adequate health care and counseling as Lesbians and Gay men.

A brief assembly will summarize and conclude the conference. In addition, book and literature tables will be available throughout the day, together with an exhibit of the works of local Lesbian and Gay artists. The luncheon will be catered by women from Moonrise Cafe.

The morning presentations will be made by a committee of eight people. The afternoon workshops will be coordinated by at least two people but will include six or more gay people as participants and facilitators. All presentations and workshops will be co-sexual.

We urge all gay people to take advantage of this rare opportunity to share your experiences and talents in the preparation and presentation of this conference.

The Planning Group will be meeting each Thursday evening in May. People who wish to participate in a workshop on May 31 are being asked to participate in at least two of these meetings starting no later than May 11. If you cannot make these meetings but still want to participate, or if you have any other questions, call the steering committee contacts:

Sandy 838-4237 (before 9:30am)  
Lee 527-5854 (after 5pm)

## SRJC Men's Conference Features Gay Workshops

The Second Annual Men's Conference will be held at the Santa Rosa Junior College on Wednesday, May 17. Dozens of workshops and other events will fill the day's schedule. Of particular interest to gay people are the following workshops:

**VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN SONOMA COUNTY**—a panel discussion with people from the Battered Women's Shelter, and the Sonoma County Rape Crisis Center 9-10:30 AM

**RAPE CULTURE: WOMEN'S STRUGGLE AND GAY MEN'S OPPRESSION**—a film and panel discussion on the relationship between Male Supremacy, Woman-hating, Gay Men's Oppression and Rape. This workshop will be presented by

members of the Anti-Male Supremacy Committee of B.A.G.L. (Bay Area Gay Liberation) 10:30—Noon

**ANDROGYNY-WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF MALE CONSCIOUSNESS**—An open-ended discussion if the problems, fears, curiosities and creative joys of men opening what has been called their female side. Pat Pacheco Noon-2 PM

**COMING OUT AND BEING OUT**—A panel discussion by openly gay men on the process of self acceptance and self disclosure in a hostile and homophobic world. Sandy Lowe and Vaughn Austin 2-3:30 PM

An evening symposium featuring three noted speakers will conclude the conference in Burbank Auditorium. All events are open to the public.



# Immigration Drops Gay Bias

BOSTON—After a meeting with members of the National Gay Task Force, the US Public Health Service has adopted the position of the American Psychiatric Association and will no longer define homosexuals as either "sex deviants" or "psychopathic personalities." The Public Health Service stated on April 4 that it will inform all its officers at border crossings, and all Immigration officials and State Dept. visa officers of the policy change.

Bruce Voeller, Co-Executive Director of the National Gay Task Force told GCN that the "far-reaching policy change will go a long way toward ending this country's exclusion of gay visitors and immigrants." GCN

## Dear Abby



Abigail Van Buren

DEAR ABBY: I am a 19-year old male college student who has recently accepted the fact that I am a homosexual. Heretofore, I had tried to convince myself that I was bisexual, but I'm realizing that I was wrong.

I never "chose" to be a homosexual. It's just what I happened to be. I was raised with (and found appealing) the idea of marrying, raising a family and living a normal life. Believe me, Abby, I wanted that more than anything. I doubt if "straight" people know of the heartache felt by those homosexuals who truly want but never can achieve this lifestyle.

Why anyone would "choose" to be gay is beyond me. I have been attracted to males ever since the fifth grade, and nowhere in my sexual development do I recall "choosing" to like men instead of women. It was just a spontaneous, uncontrollable inclination I had. I wasn't "taught," I wasn't "molested," I've always felt this way. I have two older brothers who had the same parents and same environment, and they are "straight."

In no way do I blame myself for this. I had no control over it. Mine is a life of shame, loneliness, depression and frustration, and believe me, Abby, I did not choose it.—ACCIDENTALLY GAY

DEAR GAY: I believe you, and I know that you speak for many, but you need not continue in a life of loneliness, depression and frustration. Homosexual counseling is available, and I recommend it. You desperately need to accept yourself and respect yourself. And you are as entitled to happiness and a full life as any other human being. God bless.

# World News Briefs

A gay liberation organization has been formed in the Spanish Basque provinces. Their magazine, GAY HOTSA recently published a manifesto in Basque and Spanish which declared "There is no longer any rationale justifying the continuing oppression of homosexuals. The sole cause of our oppression is the need to conserve the system of the nuclear family and patriarchy in order to maintain the rigid authoritarian social relations which suit the ruling class."

The group is calling for an amnesty for imprisoned gays and the immediate repeal of the Social Outrages Law used to imprison homosexuals. —BP

An Australian Jesuit theologian has proposed that homosexuals should have their own patron saint—a 12th century abbot known for his homosexual tendencies.

Father Desmond O'Connor, 68, a senior tutor in law at Melbourne University's Newman College and a former superior of a Sydney Jesuit seminary, presented his proposal in a pamphlet on homosexuality. Roman Catholic homosexuals trying to resist temptation would benefit from having a special saint to whom they could pray, he suggested.

The 12th century abbot, Saint Rievrux in Northern England, was "one of those clean-cut, handsome blue-eyed, blonde youths whom novelists like to portray and exemplify as portraying the perfect Englishman," Father O'Connor said. However, his homosexual friendships and love affairs were never consummated because of the saint's courageous resistance—a trait that could give great strength to people today, the Jesuit father pointed out.

The European Commission on Human Rights at Strasbourg is to examine Northern Ireland's law on homosexuality to determine whether or not it breaks the European Convention of Human Rights.

A gay man in Northern Ireland has submitted a case to the Commission claiming that the present law outlawing homosexuality contravenes two articles of the Convention guaranteeing the right to privacy and protection from discrimination. The Commission will make a ruling later in the year which may force the government to change the law as a member of the European Economic Community.

The Northern Ireland Gay Rights Association has been pressing for speedy implementation of proposals made by the Province's Human Rights Commission. That organization has called for reform of Ulster's anti-gay laws. However, the government is still refusing to fix a date to consider such changes.

The Evangelical Protestant Society has joined the outcry against reform claiming that any change "will give people license to destroy the sanctity of marriage and pollute our provinces with unclean and immoral acts." —BP

LONDON—The National Association of Local Government Officers, Britain's fourth largest union, is planning to take its 1981 conference away from Scarborough because of the town's alleged bias against homosexuals. The 700,000-strong union had booked into Scarborough, but its organizers decided not to patronize a town that last year refused civic hospitality to the Campaign for Homosexual Equality (C.H.E.). The NALGO conference with about 2,000 delegates and 1,000 guests, is the largest of any union, and would provide about 500,000 pounds (about \$900,000) in revenue for the host town.

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# Oklahoma Legislature Passes Anti-Gay Teacher Bill

OKLAHOMA CITY, Ok.—Both the house and the senate have passed John Birch Society member Sen. Mary Helm's bill permitting the firing of a teacher who engages publicly in "the detestable and abominable crime against nature" with another person of the same sex. The conference committee of the house has amended the bill and it will go before the house for final consideration before the governor must decide whether or not to veto it. Passage in the house was 88-2; in the senate the vote was unanimous. Sen. Helm said the bill is necessary to curb the gay movement from spreading inland from San Francisco and other coastal cities. The Oklahoma Education Association has termed the bill dangerous. It is not known whether Gov. David Boren would

sign the bill. Another bill introduced in the Oklahoma House, designed to prevent people who publicly advocate homosexuality from holding office, has been killed. —ADV

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# Gay Man Wins Child Custody

On January 18 Ottawa County Court Judge Elmer Smith awarded a gay man custody of his 8 year-old daughter and 13 year-old son. The court decision marked the first time in Canada that a known gay father has won a child custody battle.

The 13-page written decision by Judge Smith dealt at length with the question of the man's sexuality and concluded that "on all counts the homosexual factor should not deter the court in its view that the father ought to be preferred (as custodian)."

While the judge's decision is important in that it recognizes that homosexuality should not automatically disqualify a father from child custody, it nonetheless places severe limitations on the kind of homosexual behaviour acceptable. Judge Smith noted that the father's homosexuality did not prevent his gaining custody only because he was also bisexual, closeted and non-militant.

From the written decision it is clear that the judge felt the man to be an excellent parent, certainly far superior to the mother (who has been having psychiatric problems), and that if it weren't for the father's sexuality custody would be automatic.

The gay man's wife has since indicated her intention to appeal the decision on the sole basis that the children will be harmed psychologically by living with the father and his lover. According to newspaper reports, the woman has assembled over 50 witnesses to testify to that effect. The outcome of her appeal will clearly define just how acceptable a parent's homosexuality is to the Canadian judiciary.—BP

# Jarvis Endorses Briggs

Howard Jarvis, co-author of the Jarvis-Gann Tax Initiative slated for the June ballot in California, endorsed State Senator John Briggs in his bid for the governorship of California.

According to Jarvis, he is endorsing the anti-gay senator from Fullerton only because he was the first candidate for governor to issue support for Proposition 13, the Jarvis-Gann Initiative.

A spokesperson from Jarvis' Los Angeles-based headquarters explained: "We felt honor-bound to support Senator Briggs even though (former L.A. Police Chief) Ed Davis has recently endorsed Proposition 13. Briggs was the first one aboard."

The aide continued, "Howard's not familiar with the other issues. He feels John Briggs is a good man because of Proposition 13, period." —SEN

# Task Force Begins Work With Federal Prisons

A group of representatives from gay organizations met in Washington recently with Norman A. Carlson, director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons; Midge Costanza, assistant to President Carter; and Assistant Attorney General Patricia Wald. This was one of several meetings scheduled by the National Gay Task Force (NGTF) with government officials. The results of the meeting were "significant concessions," according to one member of the group.

A basis for the agreements emerging from the meeting was Carlson's emphasis on the fact that the Bureau of Prisons and representatives of the gay groups have "a mutual goal, to eliminate violence in prisons." To that end, Carlson pledged that representatives of the national gay community will be included among those conducting sensitivity-training sessions for prison staff at upcoming seminars in Atlanta, Dallas and Denver. He also offered representatives of the gay community the opportunity to go through these staff-training sessions as full participants and men-

tioned the possibility that additional sessions on the concerns of gay inmates might eventually be held at the 38 Federal prisons as well.

Carlson promised to appoint a member of his staff to deal directly with complaints from gay inmates, especially those who fear or have experienced sexual assaults, and to act as liaison with the gay community. A promise was given to supply NGTF with details of bureau guidelines on classification of prisoners, parole recommendations, statistics on segregation of prisoners and related matters such as denial of educational and recreational facilities.

No discussion took place on the bureau's position that dissemination of gay-oriented materials in the prisons and visitations by gay ministers might contribute to violence by identifying prisoners as gay, since these issues are currently in litigation, in JACKSON vs. BELL, and will be dealt with in court.

Jean O'Leary, co-director of NGTF, called the meeting "a most important and encouraging first step in our relationship with the Bureau of Prisons, and we count it among the most productive sessions we've had with Federal agencies to date."

NGTF has established a prison project, to be headed by Carolyn Handy, a co-founder of the National Organization of Black Women. —AD

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## Key to Sources

Most of the non-county news published in this newspaper comes from various lesbian and gay news sources around the continent. The following is a list of sources and abbreviations.

- GCN—Gay Community News, Boston
- TBP—The Body Politic, Toronto
- ADV—The Advocate, San Mateo
- SEN—The Sentinel, San Francisco
- BAR—Bay Area Reporter, San Francisco
- LN—The Lesbian News, Los Angeles
- NGTFN—National Gay Task Force Newsletter, New York