

sonoma county lesbian & gay alliance NEWS FREE

Vol. 1 No. 7

August 1978

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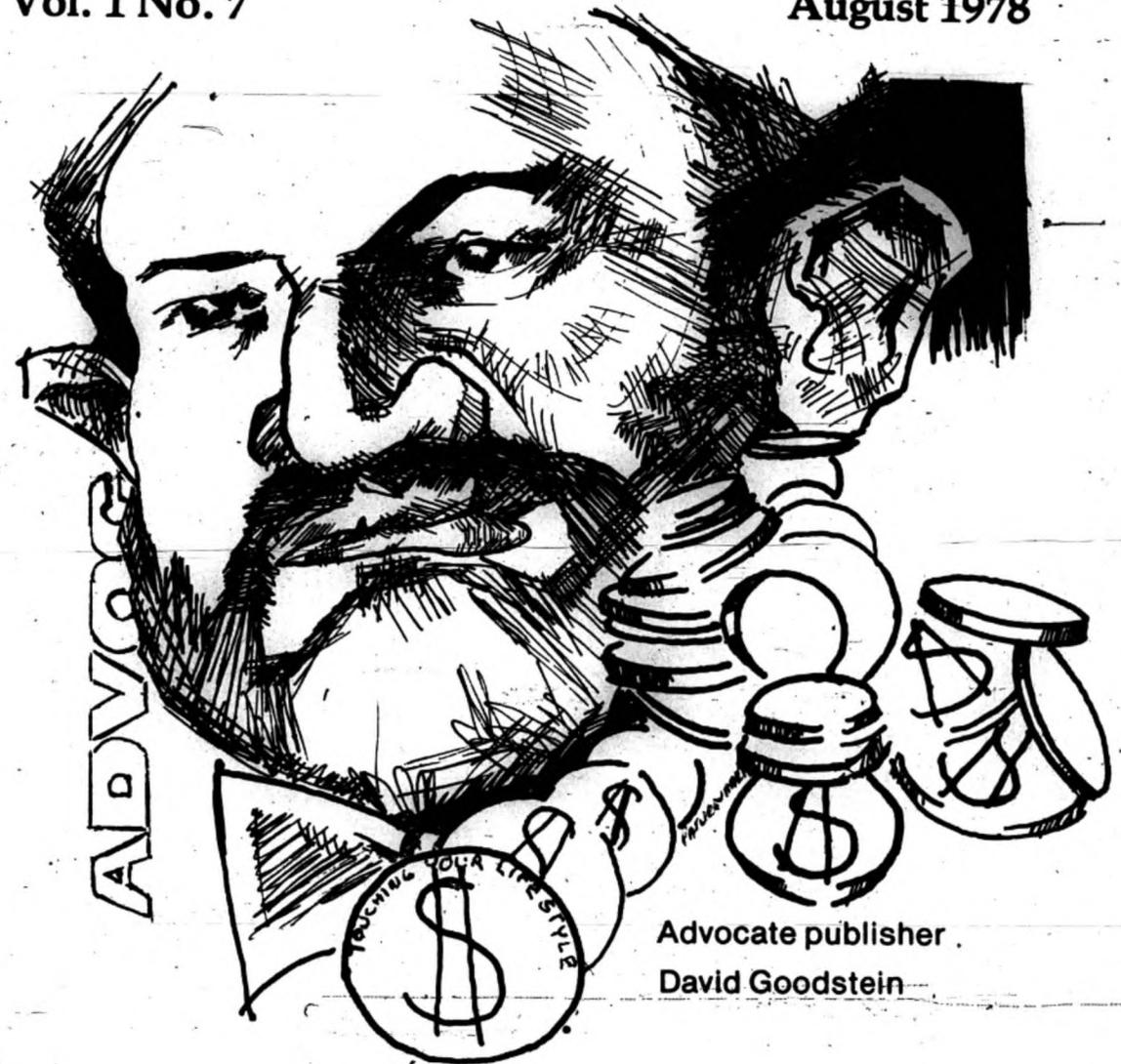
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Advocate publisher
David Goodstein

Inside : A response to Goodstein
Letters ● Analysis of Initiative

Door-to-door campaign workshop

The door-to-door campaign in Sonoma County against the Briggs Initiative has actively begun. Between twenty and thirty people signed up to canvass approximately 15 Santa Rosa precincts at a July 15 workshop that prepared people for door to door work. The workshop gave participants specific information about the ramifications of the Briggs Initiative, should it pass, general guidelines for canvassing, and an opportunity to role play a conversation with a voter.

Another workshop will be held on Saturday, August 12, at the California Teachers Association Building, 2490 Guerneville Road, Santa Rosa, at 10:45 A.M. until 3:00 P.M., for all people who want to work on the door to door campaign. Men and women, both gay and nongay, are working as canvassers.

A cultural and informational presentation on canvassing, including a recounting of personal experiences, will be part of the August 15 general meeting of SCRAP 6, Sonoma County Residents Against Proposition 6. The meeting, which will also be held at the CTA Building, at 7:30 P.M., is open to everyone, and particularly to individuals who want to hear about the canvassing experience.

An evening workshop has been scheduled for Wednesday, August 23, at 6:45 P.M. sharp until 10 P.M., also at the CTA Building.

The door to door committee is also sponsoring support groups for those people who are already canvassing, and want feedback and encouragement about their work, or for those people who want to canvass but are having trouble getting started. The first group will meet at the CTA Building on Friday, August 11, from 7:30-9:00 p.m.

Child care will be provided for all scheduled programs.

Please call the SCRAP 6 office for more information, at 526-1240.

First Gay service agency funded

SAN FRANCISCO The United Way of the Bay Area has agreed to fund a gay-oriented service group by allotting \$36,000 from this year's crusade to the Pacific Center of Berkeley. The grant ends a long-standing feud between the gay community and the giant fund-raising organization.

The Pacific Center for Human Growth is the first gay-oriented social service agency to receive funds from the United Way and its predecessor organization, the United Bay Area Crusade. The organization applied for funding from the United Way in 1973 but was refused, as it has been every year since then.

For more than a decade gay leaders have attacked United Way for its refusal to fund any gay group. In the late 1960s gay leaders here unsuccessfully tried to encourage gay persons to protest United Way's discriminatory policy by refusing to allow their employees to deduct donations from their paychecks to United Way.

Gay youth group formed

A rap group for Gay women and men under the age of 21 is forming in Sonoma County.

The main goals of the group include sharing of problems and experiences of being young and homosexual, coming out at school and with families with emphasis on peer group support.

For information, call Casey Corley at 527-7662.

SCRAP 6 opens office

Sonoma County Residents Against Proposition 6 are gearing up their campaign with the opening of their office at the California Teachers Association building at 2490 Guerneville Road, Santa Rosa, the hiring of an office manager and the establishment of regular office hours.

The office will be open Monday thru Fridays 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. through November. The office number is 526-1240.

S.C.R.A.P. 6 is comprised of nine committees, each with specialized tasks and goals. They are:

Fundraising: Meets Thursdays at 8 p.m. Contact numbers are 527-7657 or 544-8551.

Literature: Meets Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. Contact number 544-4109.

Media: Meets Thursdays at 8 p.m. Contact number 528-2232.

Door-to-Door: Two workshops are scheduled for this month. Contact number is 544-3587.

All the above listed meetings are held at S.C.R.A.P. headquarters. In addition, to the above are Teacher's Caucus, Outreach, Vote Getting Strategy, Liaison and Finance. Any questions regarding the latter committees may be directed to 526-1240.

Teachers caucus joins SCRAP 6

A Teachers' Caucus, comprised of Sonoma County teachers, is the newest committee of Sonoma County Residents Against Proposition 6 (S.C.R.A.P. 6).

The caucus was formed to rally teachers against the proposition and establish a lobbying body within teachers organizations for support in defeating the initiative measure which will be on the statewide ballot on November 7.

Teachers interested in joining the caucus are asked to call S.C.R.A.P. 6 headquarters at 526-1240 or, before noon weekdays, 544-4109.

Press invades local beach

Recent press coverage of nude swimming and sunbathing in Sonoma County has rallied local pro-nude forces to fight for the right of citizens to sunbathe nude in private.

Both Santa Rosa and San Francisco press have been running articles casting together the problems of Alice Hinton of Healdsburg and public use of her riverfront home property and those of swimmers at a beach 10 miles down river where swimmers must hike one to two miles from public view to bathe in the nude.

A petition has been circulated in the area by Pro forces asking the Board of Supervisors to consider the rights of citizens to sunbathe and swim in the nude in private.

The disputed bathing area, owned by film star Fred MacMurray, is one of gently sloping beaches and thick Dogwood trees and would seem not useful to any other purpose.

Concerned citizens are urged to write the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors asking them to not attempt to institute a law prohibiting nude bathing and point out the cost and difficulty of enforcing such a law.

The area has been used for years by nude bathers with a few bad incidents, and the area is well known for being one of the cleanest beaches along the river.

Gay parents support group

A gay parents group, which has been meeting weekly in the Sonoma area, is seeking added input and participation by Lesbian and Gay male parents in Sonoma County.

The group provides support for Gay parents and is planning to do work in the community against Proposition 6.

For further information, interested individuals and couples may call 996-7661 or 938-2322.

Second women's art festival

Everyone is invited to attend the "Second Annual Women's Art Festival" to be held Saturday, August 12th and Sunday, August 13th, at the Veteran's Memorial Building—1st and Church St. in Guerneville, Ca.

Hours for the festival are from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.

Art work from the two day event will be on sale as well as on display and there is an admission charge for the festival.

The event is sponsored by the River Queen Women's Center.

SCRAP 6 on the air

The local campaign to defeat Proposition 6 (the anti-Gay school worker bill) on November 7 has made more inroads into the public consciousness with three recent interviews on local radio.

Interviews by members of the Media Committee on the Sonoma County Residents Against Proposition 6 (SCRAP 6) on KBBF and KZST, both FM stations, were the first of many such appearances planned to inform and educate the public concerning the implications of Proposition 6.

Bilingual station KBBF in Santa Rosa, was the first station to include a SCRAP 6 interview July 13, on the afternoon program El Progreso.

During the two hour program, three members of the media committee discussed the magnitude of Proposition 6 and its affect on schoolworkers and students should it pass in November. Important points of the interview were translated by the interviewer into Spanish. Similarities were drawn between the struggles to defeat Proposition 6 and the universal struggle of all oppressed people.

KBBF again hosted members of SCRAP 6 on the program *Woman Space*, July 16.

On Sunday, July 23, SCRAP 6 appeared on a 3-hour talk show on KZST. Participants received calls from both pro and anti-Proposition 6 listeners.

The recurring issue seemed to be homosexuality itself and pointed out the need for community education since many of the callers related stereotypical impressions or prejudices as reasons to support Proposition 6.

SCRAP 6 plans more radio interviews and since advance notice for these appearances is difficult to advertise, people are urged to contact the SCRAP 6 office at 526-1240 or drop by at the California Teacher's Association building, 2490 Guerneville Road, Santa Rosa to keep up on the campaign.

Cassette recordings of the two earliest SCRAP 6 interviews are available at the SCRAP 6 office.



FORUM

The SCLGA NEWS invites letters from the readers on all subjects regarding the lives of Lesbians and Gay men in Sonoma County: needs, hopes, ambitions. There is no limit to the length of

letters but consideration by the writer of the limited space of the paper is appreciated.

Letters may be sent to: SCLGA, P.O. Box 4801, Santa Rosa, CA 95402.

A reader writes

Gay/Lesbian Alliance Folks:

This publication is very important and informative. Thank you for your efforts and work—Your product helps me out a whole lot.

I am a student working for her secondary credential and am appalled by Proposition 6. As soon as I can I plan to work HARD for the death of this obnoxious piece of judicial fascism.

Thank you again. I support you in every way. Sincerely,
R.

Thank you

The Sonoma County Residents Against Proposition 6 would like to thank the many women and men who supported the July 20 Disco Dance at B.J.'s Pub. Your attendance enabled us to raise 300 badly needed dollars to pay printing costs for campaign literature and office needs such as phone, supplies, etc.

Our special thanks to Carla Longo and her staff at B.J.'s for their encouragement and support during our planning stages, as well as their assistance the night of the dance and for Carla's delicious buffet.

We would also like to thank Kathleen Wagner for donating two massages, Greg for donating two haircuts and B.J.'s Pub for donating the wine used as contest prizes.

Sincerely,
The Fundraising Committee,
Sonoma County Residents
Against Proposition 6

Getting involved

Dear SCLGA NEWS:

I am a Gay man who has lived in Sonoma County all of my life. Since my first stirrings of "coming out" in 1972 I have been fortunate enough

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

Mailing Address: SCLGA NEWS / P.O. Box 4801 / Santa Rosa, CA 95402

This issue was assembled by Deborah Kelley, Pat McCloskey, Robert (Melvin) Muller and Pat Urquhart.

Typesetting: Von W. Wall.
labor Donated

As you probably have noticed, the SCLGA NEWS has gone over to computerized typesetting equipment from our reliable, but tired, 40-year old IBM typewriter. Because of this, we must place a deadline on copy for stories for next month's issue of the paper.

Deadline for the September issue is August 25.

to find support, first with a small number of personal-support Gay men's rap groups, and later from wider elements in the community.

Over the last five years I have grown from a reticent man-with little assertiveness to one with a new confidence and pride in who I am and the direction our community is taking. This year is a year of much stress and personal turmoil for many Gay people, both men and women, because of Proposition Six. The polls tell us that the straight people who are most "for" us, those who are most comfortable with who we are as real human beings with something to offer as purposeful individuals, are those who have met, and especially, know gay people.

It is not easy coming out but it is the most effective way to show people that they have been deluded by The Big Lie; the lie that says we are drooling, insatiable sexual deviants with nothing on our minds, or in our lives, but where to get that next sexual fix.



WE are the best evidence in dispelling The Big Lie. In coming out to our families and our close friends, we can open the way to dialogue with the straight community and serve to help defeat Proposition 6 (the anti-homosexual school worker bill) on November 7. The Big Lie perpetuates the fear the straight community holds for Lesbians and Gay men who do not hold to the rigid patterns set out for them by society. Attacks on Gay men seem more frequent than those on Lesbians because Gay men are, after all, homosexual and therefore woman-like, and thus less than a Man.

It seems to me that many men in the gay community strive for a straight image of manhood to dispell the idea that they might in any way be like women. This fear of woman identification is at the heart of sexism. Many Gay men cling to the straight image of what a Man is in fear that if they let go of that image they will be less than a whole individual with power and the dignity of self. Women are not men and so, men who are not Men (i.e. straight

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 - 19 / Gwen Avery, \$3, 9 p.m.
 - 25 / A Rose Is A Rose, \$1.00, 9:30 p.m.
- Jessa Jone & Debbie, Rachel & Tina

identified) are "women" with all the powerlessness and lack of self esteem Men have ascribed to the role of "woman".

When gay men free themselves from the stigmata of straight male society they will be able to free themselves from the bondage of the closet that is straight male identification. This is why Gay men need to work to fight Proposition 6. When Gay men learn to come to terms with their sexuality in an open, relaxed way, straight society can never again force them back into the closet.

Gay men need not work "out front," but can work in many meaningful ways in the S.C.R.A.P. 6 (Sonoma County Residents Against Proposition Six) by working in the background. People are needed, especially Gay men, for many tasks. Included among these are: canvassing with leaflets or, if you have the skill, the possible donated or low cost printing of those leaflets, volunteer staffing of the S.C.R.A.P. 6 headquarters, seeking out donors of office supplies and money to maintain an office and develop a campaign, staffing information tables in front of supermarkets and in shopping centers, and going door-to-door with one or two people (who might be Lesbian, Gay male or straight) informing people of the danger of Proposition 6 (rights of privacy, free speech) and educating them about the lives of the Lesbians and Gay men in their own community. There are, after all, probably 25,000 of us in Sonoma County.

Work for justice, work for freedom; it is everything.
Robert (Melvin) Muller

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Which side are you on?

by Judy Freespirit

After having spoken against Proposition 6 at a class recently, I was approached by a dignified grey-haired man who said thoughtfully, "You know, I think your leader made a serious tactical error when he conceded defeat at the outset of the campaign." I didn't need to ask who he meant, I had been hearing the defeatist drivel being put out in the newspapers and on radio and TV by David Goodstein for months now.

"He's not my leader," I growled, "and furthermore he's wrong. We fully intend to win this battle."

The perplexed gentleman walked off mumbling under his breath something about angry dykes, and I went home determined to write a response to all the obstructionist garbage ourself-appointed millionaire messiah has been spewing over our land. Well, here goes.

The Black Movement had it's "Uncle Tom's," the Chicano Movement it's "Tio Tacos," and now it looks like the Gay Movement has finally made it as a full fledged movement, since we now have our "Uncle Davie."

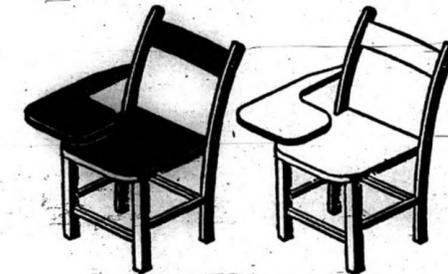
An article in the *San Francisco Chronicle* on July 16th, bearing the headline "Lack of Unity Clouds Anti-Briggs Campaign" stated "David Goodstein, influential publisher of the gay newspaper, *The Advocate*, believes it is "unlikely" the Briggs Initiative, Proposition 6 on the November ballot can be defeated. He thinks gays would be well advised to keep a low profile, and run a professional educational campaign."

Uncle Davie's line

The article goes on to state that the organization founded by Goodstein, Concerned Voters of California (CVC) has hired an "old pro", Don Bradley to manage the statewide campaign. Bradley is attempting to raise \$1.5 million to do a slick media educational campaign. Nowhere in the article does it mention that Bradley will receive a whopping \$10,000 per month of the donors contributions for his efforts, nor that the kind of campaign he's talking about is exactly the kind that caused us to lose so resoundingly in Dade County last year where the impetus for this whole mess began.

Why anyone would want to give money to a group of people who have decided in advance that they can't win is beyond me. What makes me even madder is that Uncle Davie and his shuffling, tap dancing crew are spouting all over the media that

they are the leaders of the statewide campaign, and that they hope all those embarrassing undesirable types (political activists never bathe you know) should stay off the streets and remain "low profile" or we will mess things up. Thus, in one swell foop, the public is told that all is lost and Uncle Davie covers his own multimillion dollar ass by implying that when (if) we do lose it will be because those radicals messed it all up by refusing to stay in our dark little closets. He would prefer that movie stars and ministers and other straight folks try to convince the California voters with genteel 60 second TV spots explaining that we're really not such bad people, and they ought not to pick on us, cause after all we're really citizens and deserve rights even if we're just a wee bit different.



Aside from being arrogant and politically unsophisticated to say the least, the worst thing about Uncle Davie's line is that it discourages Gays from getting active to fight by conceding defeat before we've really begun. It also discourages people who would back us financially from doing so. Who wants to invest in losers? If I believed the pap being put out by CVC I'd have to go home and hide under my covers until I was carted away by the stormtroopers and gassed like my relatives were in Europe during the Second World War.

I don't know about you, but I have no intention of going, and if I have to I'm not going without a fight. If we don't do everything possible to stop this reactionary right wing attack on Lesbian and Gay schoolworkers, we will all live to regret it. This is clearly only the beginning, and one has only to look at the whole anti-civil rights backlash that is happening all over in this country to get the picture.

With the repeal of abortion rights for poor women, the Supreme Court pro-Bakke decision virtually eliminating affirmative action, the failure of passage of the ERA, attacks on the welfare system, gay rights and with spiralling inflation and increasing unemployment, we can see clearly how the economic failure of this government is causing a pre World War II condition for the rise of a Fascist system in this country. We cannot afford to be blind as were the German people in the 1930's. We have to get out into the streets, into the media, on people's doorsteps, into our schools and churches and everywhere else we can find people to talk to and educate them on the dangers of supporting this trend.

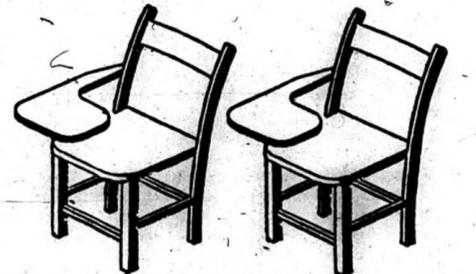
What we need to show people is that we are all vulnerable, not just gays but anyone who is anyway different can be used for scapegoating. If they can get gays this year, next year it could be non-Christians, and the year after that anyone who is unmarried (therefore not supporting the basic family unit which Briggs Initiative says it is the duty of the State to uphold). People of color know the danger first hand. They also know that they never won any gains in their battle for civil rights by sitting quietly in closets—with their hands folded while some white liberal tried to convince the racists to give them the basic civil and human rights accorded to white citizens.

Anti-civil rights backlash

We must also remember that the beginning of our own movement was not a nice peaceful one. It was the angry, tired-of-being-pushed-against-the-wall Lesbians and faggots at the Stonewall who gave us the first raging impetus to turn around the trend of negativity and self hatred that had been the rule up to that time.

Well, now we all have to make a decision about what we are going to do, because the bigots are on a rampage and we can either fight or be passively picked off one by one. I say we join together with other oppressed minorities and as for the Uncle Davies of our movement, let's hope they are educable. Let's give them the biggest damned battle they ever imagined. The war has begun.

Which side are you on?



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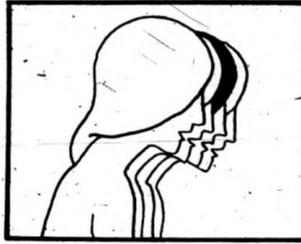
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History repeating itself?

Does history move in cycles? Sometimes a social phenomenon appears on the scene that looks totally new. A little digging, however, usually reveals past precedents, and digging them up often helps us understand common causes and courses of development.

Everyday gay people read in the newspaper of some new action taken against our rights, some new outrageous shock or expression of hate made against us. Shocked and bewildered, we may ask "Why now? We've never been liked or understood by straights, but why should we be attacked like we never have been before?"

The answer is, of course, it has happened before. Most gay people are now aware, for instance, that our brothers and sisters were murdered en masse in Nazi concentration camps. But that episode in history was only recently "rediscovered" and is still trivialized or ignored by most non-gays. Even today gays in Germany are unable to collect compensation for crimes suffered at the hands of the fascists. Official policy holds that since there were laws in Nazi Germany against homosexuality, committing genocide against gay people was not an illegal act!



But many gay people are surprised to learn that the witch hunters of the McCarthy era went after homosexuals as well as Communists. A purge in 1950 ran 4380 lesbians and gay men out of the military and 574 out of Federal civilian employment on suspicion of homosexuality. The hysteria spread from government to small towns, notably Boise, Idaho. There a scandal invented as a pretext for overturning a progressive city government ended with several innocent men serving prison terms, hundreds leaving their jobs and fleeing the city, and thousands being questioned.

How can it be that all this suffering was forgotten, somehow erased from history? It certainly can't be blamed on a conspiracy of historians. Homosexuality has always been a taboo subject, embarrassing to mention in public. But to be too embarrassed to denounce criminal injustice such as wholesale persecution and genocide can only point to one cause—a general attitude that somehow homosexuals, even if they are innocent of other charges, are guilty of homosexuality and it is just that they suffer. To totally erase our past sufferings is in itself a criminal injustice. But it is also dangerous, for when past episodes of militant homophobia are not exposed and remembered and denounced, then those episodes can be repeated.



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Prop 6: a special threat to women

All women heterosexual, bisexual, and lesbian, need to unite in opposition to the latest threat to human rights for lesbians and gay men: the Briggs Initiative. If enacted, it would prohibit the hiring and require the dismissal by school district boards of any teacher or public school employees who engaged in "The advocating, soliciting, imposing, encouraging, or promoting of private or public homosexual acts directed at or likely to come to the attention of school children and/or other employees." Not only would this result in the launching of a witchhunt against gay teachers and school employees and those suspected of being gay, but it would threaten the jobs and livelihoods of any school employee who openly supported gay rights.

The Briggs Initiative poses a special threat to women—both gay and non-gay—and to the fight for Women's Rights. Under the Briggs Women by calling it 90% lesbian". He has stated who steps out of her or his traditional sex role, could be accused of being a homosexual and given a thirty day suspension without a hearing. Divorced women, single mothers, women living alone or with another woman, could be viewed as "abnormal" and become suspect. Women teachers who are feminists or who attempt to teach Women's History or other feminist subject matter to their students, could be labelled "dykes" and fired. Briggs himself has tried to discredit the National Organization for Women by calling it 90 1/2 lesbian". He has stated that he opposed the Equal Rights Amendment which he sees as an attempt by lesbians and "women's libbers" to destroy the family.

Our enemies understand the deep links between the fight for women's equality and the fight for gay rights. The forces behind the Briggs Initiative intend not only to push gays back into the closet, but also seek to deprive women of the gains we have won and return us to our "normal" subordinate roles; barefoot, pregnant and in the kitchen.

The International Women's Year Conference in Houston last November set an inspiring example of the kind of unity that is needed among women in the fight against the Briggs Initiative. The conference's 2000 delegates voted overwhelmingly to support lesbian rights. The response to the lesbian rights victory topped all others. Eleanor Smeal of NOW and Betty Friedan who has long opposed including lesbian-feminists in the Women's Movement urged all women to back their lesbian sisters.

The Women's Movement must stand clearly for lesbian and gay rights against the Briggs Initiative. Women must answer the lies of the Briggs and the Bryants, e.g., that gay people are child molesters (nearly every reputable study shows that heterosexual men are responsible for 90 1/2 of child molestation incidents), and that gays are incapable of having, raising or teaching children. Briggs has stated that gay people need to "recruit" because they cannot reproduce, yet there are thousands of lesbian mothers in this state and they, along with gay teachers, need the active support of the Women's Movement.

THE LABEL "LESBIAN" HAS BEEN USED TOO LONG TO DIVIDE WOMEN. NO WOMAN CAN BE FREE UNTIL THE STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION THAT GAY PEOPLE SUFFER IS ELIMINATED. (BACABI)

If we compare two past histories with the present anti-gay offensive, some striking parallels emerge. In all three periods a reactionary group is making a bid for power. All are times of increasing economic hardship. And all are times of increasing right-wing terror, when angry people are prevented from demanding what they need to live by a general climate of fear.

Lesbians and gay men offer a perfect target for that fear. Anyone can be accused of homosexuality. The only way to prove you aren't homosexual is by your own anti-gayness, by the loudness with which you accuse your neighbors of homosexual subversion. Any person defending homosexuals is immediately suspect. Actual "guilt" is hard to prove—but a mere accusation is usually enough to destroy someone's life.

This atmosphere keeps people quiet, afraid to speak up for other or for themselves, hoping they will be passed over in the witchhunt. This atmosphere is necessary for reactionaries because it keeps the real issues distorted and keeps the reactionaries themselves safe from political criticism. Briggs fits this pattern. With one breath, he campaigns for the Jarvis-Gann Initiative, which will severely damage our schools, but with the next he says that the real problem in schools is homosexuals. Obviously, it is Briggs himself who is the real enemy of (ours, too!) schoolchildren.

The vicious and irrational charges that lesbians and gay teachers are a threat to children may be infuriating to us, but it should also be expected. Neo-fascists never argue rationally. The same false, emotional issue of child molestation has been central to all the recent anti-gay attacks—Anita Bryant, the gay civil rights repeal campaigns, the recent sweeps in Boston, the busting of the Body Politic. The signs are clear. Passage of the Briggs Initiative in November will guarantee another witchhunt. That danger goes far beyond the immediate threat to lesbian and gay schoolworkers. We can fight these new attacks successfully only if we understand from the first, the true nature of the enemy—a neo-fascist movement that means political, economic and social repression for the vast majority of people in this country.

Stonewall Committee, Bay Area Gay Liberation

How Briggs' Proposition 6 affects everyone

Senator John V. Briggs, (R.-Fullerton), has authored an initiative measure which he calls "The California Save Our Children Initiative" and which he says "would have the effect of repealing that portion of the Consenting Adults Act and make it possible once again for local school boards to refuse employment to known homosexuals."

"On May 2nd, the Briggs forces submitted over 500,000 signatures to the Secretary of State's office. This will qualify the initiative for this November ballot.

The initiative attempts to define "public homosexual activity" and "public homosexual conduct" and makes such "activity" or "conduct" the basis for local school board hearings to determine if persons accused of such activity or conduct are unfit for service in the schools.

According to the Chief Counsel for the California Department of Education, Thomas M. Guffin, "It is the position of the Department of Education that the current law is sufficient to protect students from sexual advances by teachers, whether homosexual or heterosexual and to prevent teachers from promoting their sexual lifestyle or preference in the classroom." This portion of the initiative is there, at best, redundant.

However the measure goes on to define "public homosexual conduct" as "advocating, soliciting, encouraging or promoting of private or public homosexual activity directed at, or likely to come to the attention of school children and/or other employees." Note that the school employee does not have to be homosexual to be guilty of "public homosexual conduct." The definition of the term includes within its scope any school employee's private discussion with another school employee which could be interpreted as advocating or encouraging homosexual activity.

If the initiative becomes law, any person, a disgruntled neighbor, parent, or student can write to a school board accusing a school employee of being a homosexual and that board will be required to set a probable cause hearing at which the employee must defend him or herself against the charge that he or she is a homosexual.

If a teacher includes homosexuality as a possible topic for a term paper in a psychology, sociology or sex education class, that could be interpreted as "public homosexual conduct."

If a teacher includes homosexuals in a discussion of oppressed minorities seeking civil rights, that could be interpreted as "public homosexual conduct."

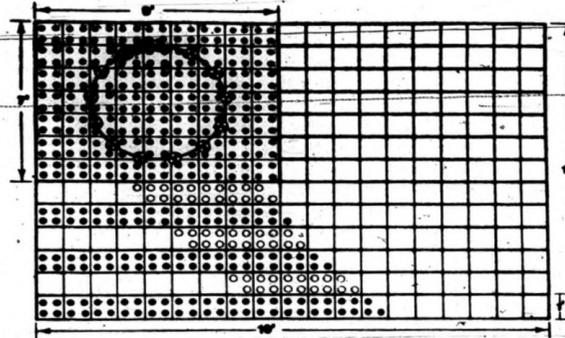
If a counselor tells a frightened youngster that many gay people lead happy, productive lives, that could be interpreted as "public homosexual conduct."

If an administrator allows a teacher to provide a speaker on homosexuality for a class, the administrator and teacher's actions could be interpreted as "public homosexual conduct."

The membership of any school employee in any organization or group which advocates, lobbies for, or educates the public about the rights of Lesbians and Gay men to live and work with the same legal protections as any other citizen could be interpreted as "public homosexual conduct."

The proposed definition of "public homosexual activity" is the commission of an act of sodomy or oral copulation upon any person of the same sex, which is not discreet and not practiced in private, whether or not such act, at the time of its

commission, constituted a crime." Clearly, the commission of these sexual acts publicly is already a crime in California and grounds for dismissal of any school employee for unfitness whether they be performed by persons of the same sex or of opposite sexes.



In fact, if the Chief Counsel of the Department of Education applied for a position with a public school, the school board could refuse to hire him because of his statement: "... teachers do not have rights as homosexuals or as heterosexuals. They have rights as citizens to live their lives as they see fit so long as they do not interfere with the right of others, including the children who are in their charge." That statement could be interpreted as "public homosexual conduct" according to the Briggs initiative.

One school board hearing costs approximately \$5,000 of the taxpayer's money. This initiative will add enormous cost to each school district as their boards convene to investigate crank charges of homosexual conduct against its heterosexual and homosexual employees.

School board hearings will be required to investigate the "public homosexual conduct" of hundreds of California high school teachers who teach women's studies, psychology, sociology, physical education, sex education, history and biology classes which studies and classes include either positive or non-judgmental references to homosexuality or to the women's and/or gay movements.

The effects of the initiative, if it qualifies for the ballot and is voted into law by the public will be:

- 1 - Heavy financial outlay by school board districts to investigate charges of "public

In Sacramento: Gay bills killed

Sacramento (California): Two bills affecting gay people have been effectively killed by the California Legislature. SB 2192, introduced by Sen. Alan Sieroty (D.-Los Angeles), a bill that would have removed the registration requirement from solicitation laws used to entrap gay men, was defeated by a vote of 13-22 on June 23. Sieroty, who introduced the bill at the request of Los Angeles City Attorney Burt Pines, says he plans reintroduce the bill next year.

State Senator Milton Marks (R.-San Francisco) has withdrawn SB 2053 from the Senate Finance Committee. The bill would have prohibited employment discrimination based on sexual preference and would have provided protection against sexual harassment on the job. The bill was not heard by the committee due to a lack of votes.

homosexual activity" and "public homosexual conduct" filed against heterosexual and homosexual employees.

2 - Harassment of heterosexual and homosexual school employees who demonstrate an enlightened attitude toward homosexuality as one expression of human sexuality.

3 - Additional mental and emotional anguish for homosexual school employees.

4 - Abridgement of the first amendment right to free speech of school employees by making public advocacy of lesbian and gay rights grounds for dismissal.

Briggs' literature states, "Politicians Do Nothing / Decent Citizens Must Act! Start by signing up to SAVE OUR CHILDREN from Homosexual Teachers." If teachers are the "start", who will be next? The next likely victims will be the professionals, doctors, lawyers, therapists, etc., who must be licensed by the state. It is obvious that Briggs and his supporters want homosexuals and heterosexual supporters of Lesbian and Gay rights to stay in the closet and to be unemployed as well.

New Age

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Gifts for this campaign are tax deductible and deeply appreciated! Dr. Jerry Falwell The Old Time Gospel Hour P.O. Box 1111, Lynchburg, Va. 24505 157

"Moral issues," born again Christians and Anita Bryant are not new to readers of the NEWS. The attached coupon appeared in a recent issue of TV Guide and is representative of the slick media image "Christians" are taking in order to promote their ideology.

Reportedly, some readers of these ads are depleting the coffers of these Christian groups by sending away for their free offers, such as the one shown, thus boosting the groups postage bills and leaving less money for other of their work.

Some truly sincere persons are even saying they have found Him and make every effort to keep these groups sending out more of their material.

Film review

Beware "A Stupid Story"

by Robert Muller

Filmgoers who want their money's worth are advised to steer clear of *A Different Story*, playing August 17 & 18 at the Plaza Theatre in Petaluma.

The film is the story of a beautiful Gay houseboy (Perry King) who is kicked out by his sugar daddy (Peter Donat), a hot shot symphony conductor, and taken in by the conductor's real estate agent, a beautiful Lesbian (Meg Foster).

It turns out she can't pour a bowl of Rice Krispies out of the box without spilling it all over the Formica and he knows the difference between Basil and Rosemary. So, while she slaves at the office, he cooks and cleans and rearranges the furniture.

It turns out he is an illegal alien. She asks: "Why don't you have an accent?" He: "I didn't want one." To reconcile his illegal status, they get married; just for legal reasons, mind.

Air Force, the true story of a career man who, after 12 years in the Ari Force, came out to his superior officer and was given a general discharge. The film, premiered at the American Film Institute in Washington, D.C. on June 19 of this year and already scheduled for foreign distribution, has yet to make it to the home screens.

That *A Different Story* depicts us in such a ludicrous light is no mistake. The movie plays on many heterosexual assumptions on what it is to be homosexual. If you are a man, you know everything about decorating, cooking and dress design and if you are a woman, you can't cook, keep house, pick up after yourself or keep your life in very much order.

And, man or woman, if you're Gay, what you really want is that hot person of the opposite sex who can take you away from all this and make you right with the world.



"Sit down and read. Educate yourself for the coming conflicts."
—Mary Harris "Mother" Jones (1830-1930)



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He gets a job in a dress factory, cutting patterns; he's a dress designer, you see. On his birthday, after they have been out with the "gang"; her lover and his buddies; she surprises him with a cake of her own making. Naturally an, uh, icing fight ensues and well, what do you know; a baby.

That a Lesbian and Gay man should fall in love or have sex is not, of course, outside the realm of possibilities but the film turns ugly(er) when he gets promoted and she quits her job to take care of the baby. Meanwhile, her rejected lover can't stand all this (needless to say) and seems to be hysterical or on the verge of tears throughout most of the movie. It, too, is more than implied that the rejected lover is hysterical because her sexual orientation is not working out, while her and her husband end up rolling in the bushes happily at the fadeout.

It is certainly true that we as homosexuals have been given short shrift in even the most positive screen depictions of our lives; though, on reflection, I can't think of any positive screen depictions. The time has come for some reflection in films of what our lives are really about.

Even as this is written, NBC-TV is holding back on the broadcast of a made-for-TV movie called "Sergeant Matlovich Versus the United States

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National Gay switchboard opens

The Gay National Educational Switchboard is seeking to staff its 24 hour "800" WATS-line service (to open October 1, 1978) with 75 volunteers. The Switchboard will be the first major national effort to provide free, accurate and confidential information about Gay sexuality and Gay lifestyles.

The volunteers, once accepted into the program, will participate in an extensive training program in human sexuality in general and Gay sexuality in particular. Additionally there will be training in the areas of basic listening skills, problem identification and the process of appropriate referrals.

The Gay National Educational Switchboard will be highly publicized in the non-Gay media to attract callers who are either geographically or socially isolated from existing sources of support. Callers from throughout the 48 states will be able to have their questions answered about homosexuality, and receive assistance in finding sources of ongoing information and support in their local communities.

According to David Palmer, Project Director of the Switchboard, the project will serve those people who are having difficulty in dealing with their Gay feelings as well as those who are having difficulty dealing with someone else's Gay feelings.

The Switchboard is seeking volunteers who are 18 years of age or older, and are comfortable with and knowledgeable about gay lifestyles. Women and men both are needed and ethnic minority people are particularly sought by the Gay National Educational Switchboard. Volunteers will be asked to make a minimum of 6 months time commitment to the Switchboard after training.

Initial training for the Switchboard begins in August, 1978, and periodically thereafter.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please call (415) 957-8777 during business hours, or

(415) 543-4574. Please leave your telephone number and name and the best hours for reaching you, and your call will be returned.

Battered wives win case

NEW YORK CITY—The New York City Police Department has agreed in an out-of-court settlement to arrest wife beaters. Seventy-one women, who said they had been beaten by their husbands, had filed a suit in 1976 accusing the police and the administrative department of the city's family court of unlawfully denying them assistance after they reported beatings. The standing practice, is contained in a 1000-word consent judgment signed by the city's corporation counsel, for the Police Department and by lawyers for the women. Laurie Woods, a lawyer for the women, said, "This is the first official recognition by any law enforcement agency in New York that wife assault is serious and pervasive."

ERA extension update

The House Judiciary Committee recommended extending the Equal Rights Amendment ratification deadline by 3 years and 3 months. It is now in the full house, and will then go to the Senate.

Thirty-five states have ratified the amendment, which would guarantee equal protection under the law regardless of sex. At least three more states must approve the amendment by March 22, 1979, for it to become part of the Constitution.

The house proposal would give proponents another 3 years and 3 months to get the needed 3 states.

On Sunday July 9th pro ERA supporters marched in Washington in a massive show of support for the ERA. Crowd size was estimated at 100,000 women, men and children. This was the largest rally for women's rights in U.S. history.

One way to show your support of the ERA extension is to write your senators.

S.I. Hayakawa
U.S. Senate
Washington D.C. 20510

Alan Cranston
U.S. Senate
Washington D.C. 20510



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