

sonoma county lesbian & gay alliance NEWS

Free

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March 1979

Washington March Set For October 14

by Pat Urquhart

Regional representatives from across the country met February 23 in Philadelphia for a three day conference to discuss and coordinate activities for the proposed March On Washington.

Two hundred and twenty-five Lesbian and Gay delegates representing 20 states overwhelmingly agreed upon October 14, 1979 as the march date.

July 4, a march date called for by the late Harvey Milk, was rejected because of fear for limited media coverage and absent legislators over the holiday weekend.

"We came away with a full majority for the march," said Brandy Moore (a delegate representing San Francisco), in a February 28 press conference announcing the results of the national conference.

There had been considerable conflict among Philadelphia groups.

"The Washington, D.C. community was totally opposed to the march," said Moore. But, referring to the Washington, D.C. community he added, "There was a complete turn-around."

Although position papers were presented by numerous groups attending the conference expressing diverse points of view, the political goals of the march were narrowed down to five "Central Political Demands."

A "call" has been put out to march for "the end of all social, economic, legislative and judicial oppression of Lesbian and Gay people."

The five demands are:

- (1) Repeal all Lesbian and Gay laws.
- (2) Comprehensive legislation con-



Delegates at the Washington March conference C 1979 by Cookie

cerning Lesbian and Gay rights in Congress.

(3) Issuance of a Presidential executive order banning discrimination based on sexual orientation and/or affectional preference in federal government and federally contracted private employment in housing and in the military.

(4) Non-discrimination in Lesbian mother and Gay father custody cases.

(5) To protect Lesbian and Gay youth

from any laws which are used to discriminate against, oppress and/or harass them in their homes, schools or social environments.

The 5th demand was not announced to the media in the Feb. 28 press conference because "The exact wording had not been worked out."

THE NEWS learned in a telephone interview with Moore a few days after the press conference.

There was fear among march or-

ganizers that it might be misconstrued that all Gay people want is to lower the age of consent. The demand to protect Lesbian and Gay youth was presented by "a militant youth caucus," Moore said.

"It was the most important and controversial issue discussed at the conference."

As well as a youth caucus there was a women's caucus and a large Third

(Continued on Page 10)

Gays Speak Out At County Health Conference

by Sandy Lowe

The Sonoma County Mental Health Department hosted a public meeting on February 22 to discuss "the mental health needs of the County and whether the present mental health system is meeting those needs."

Three representatives of the Community Health Committee of the Lesbian and Gay Alliance attended the meeting, raising issues of concern to Gay people and otherwise making our presence known to the mental health establishment.

The scenario seemed to be: community interest groups would express their needs; Mental Health would agree and then plead poverty. The workshops were informal.

Mental health officials listened having openly Gay counselors available through Mental Health Services for people who need a positive identification with openly Gay therapists.

Members of the Lesbian and Gay Alliance raised a number of questions and for those who chose not to in these workshops and specifically consult straight counselors. An Alliance spokesperson asked: "What services can we tell the Gay community are available to them through Mental Health?"

Marty Gerber, Division Chief of Adults, responded by acknowledging that there was "no policy for Gay youth and children of Gay people," no specific program of assistance, no literature and no openly Gay or Lesbian counselors available. But he was quick to claim that Gay people could get sensitive and adequate counseling through the existing programs or through

referrals.

In a workshop on Children and Adolescent Services, another Alliance spokesperson asked what programs were available to assist young Lesbian and Gay people in the coming out process; and what help was available to children of Gay parents.

Mel Maine, Division Chief of Children, replied that "no specific services for Gay issues existed," adding that he nevertheless "believed that his staff was 'competent' and sensitive to the needs of clients." When asked if the staff was aware of the most current literature and attitudes toward healthy homosexuality, Haine said he thought they were. (Continued on Page 10)

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The SCLGA NEWS is searching for a name and would like your help. Please submit your suggestion(s) by March 21, 1979 to:

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Senate Committee Defeats SB1, Gay Rights

by Donna Canall

Although it was Valentine's Day, the Senators in the Industrial Relations Committee showed no heart when they defeated SB 3 by a vote of 3 to 2. Voting against the measure that would ban job discrimination against homosexuals or those refusing to grant sexual favors were: John Schmitz, R-Corona-Del Mar, Ray Johnson, R-Chico and Joseph Montoya, D-Whittier.

Chairperson Bill Greene, stated "We will not hear any other bill on this subject unless the votes change." Senate Bill 18, identical to SB 3 has been taken off the Senate calendar indefinitely.

Witnesses arguing against SB 3 presented testimony on a broad range of topics including: psychosis, the

Bible, child molesting, rape, incest, affirmative action, and "recruitment" by homosexual teachers.

The attack on the bill was led by that famous homophobe, John Briggs, who pointed out that homosexuals could not be legally married in California, serve in the military or be ordained by some churches. Yet, he hissed, "We're being asked to force upon employees of California, homosexuals!"

Schmitz's reason for opposing the bill was because it would be "discriminating against an employer's right to discriminate." He also expresses his opinion that "not all people who discriminate are bigots. Discrimination used to be a nice word." Schmitz gave the Marine Corps policy of refusing to admit homosexuals as an example of discrimination that was "all right."

In explaining his vote Montoya said he couldn't equate the rights of Gays with those of Blacks or Browns. Sen. Milton Marks, R-S.F., author of the bill, explained that it would not affect an employer's refusal to hire based upon ability and qualifications and stated it would end "what I consider that last legal vestige of discrimination that exists under California law."

Harry Britt, San Francisco supervisor, cautioned the committee to be skeptical about arguments using the Bible to justify bigotry, stating it "has been used against women...used to burn people." He also reiterated that this was not an affirmative action measure.

Other witnesses in favor of the bill included a Catholic nun and a Lesbian mother of five who was accompanied by her 16 year old daughter. Speakers for the National Lawyers Guild at the national convention held

in San Francisco in mid-February, called the defeat of Senate Bill 3 a "concerted effort by the right wing" and an example of the "general rise in anti-Gay and anti-women attitudes" which the Guild is pledging to combat this year. The theme of the convention was "Attacks From the Right on Women and Gays."

Assemblyperson Art Agnos, D-S.F., author of an almost identical measure, AB 1, which is pending in the Assembly, stated "It's important to start the battle...the first shot has been fired."

If you have not yet contacted your Senator and Assemblyperson to urge their support of AB 1 and the Senate bills it is not too late but ACT NOW! Without our voices and votes Proposition 6 would never have been defeated. Without flexing our constituent power, bills to protect our rights will continue to die in committees.

Alliance Continues Meeting, Task Forces Upcoming

The Sonoma County Lesbian and Gay Alliance is meeting every other week on Wednesday evenings from 7:30 PM to 10 PM upstairs at the Northern California Savings building on the corner of Santa Rosa Ave. and 3rd Street in Santa Rosa. The next meeting will be held on March 14th.

The agenda for the upcoming March 14 meeting includes: discussion/establishment of various task forces; women and men's priority groups; and discussion of strategy to involve more people in the Alliance.

Functioning task forces at present are: fundraising, site exploration, March On Washington, (members will be attending organizing meetings), and a mental health group that is exploring the possibility of working with county mental health to provide competent services for Lesbians and Gay men. Also in the planning is a gala Spring Fest.

Energy is needed and all interested are encouraged to attend. For child care needs or other information please call Jacqua at 523-2949.

Parents of Gays Starts

Coming out to parents is usually a powerful event in the life of most Gay people. Generally it is an important step in building a healthy and integrated life.

But what happens to the parents? While their children may be experiencing love and liberation, many parents may be experiencing perplexity, guilt and isolation. Combating the misinformation and prejudices can often be as difficult for parents as for their Gay children. And "coming out" as parents of Gays can also be as liberating and rewarding.

For local parents and friends of Gays, help is on the way. A group of Sonoma County parents is in the process of establishing a local chapter of Parents and Friends

of Gays. The organization began three years ago in Los Angeles and has since spread throughout the country providing parents and friends of Lesbians and Gay men local support groups for discussion and understanding.

An attractive booklet prepared by the organization announces: "We are parents of Gays. New windows of understanding have opened to us. We are committed to help change attitudes and create an environment of understanding so that our Gay children can live with dignity and respect."

For more information on time and place of meetings in Sonoma County call 526-6344.

Support the ERA. Join the economic boycott of Nevada.

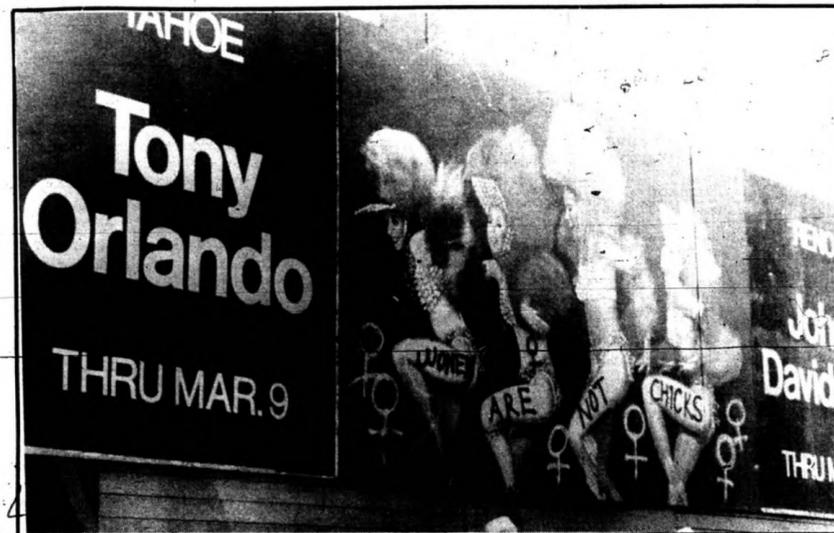


Photo by Adria-Ann McMurray

Parade Ends Celebration

The conclusion of Women's History Week was celebrated with a parade and community fair on Saturday, March 10 in Santa Rosa and an ERA rally and Women's Day in the Park in San Francisco.

"Women's History on Parade," featuring such diverse groups as the Women's Shelter, the Girls Scouts and the Grandmother's Club, and the Lesbian and Gay Alliance, planned to make visible the multitude of Sonoma County women's current and historic contributions.

The Commission on the Status of Women, sponsor of the event, sent invitations out to 120 different women's groups in the county. Many set up information tables in Courthouse Square, where a multi-cultural program of entertainment and speakers was presented after the parade.

The Women's Support Network, a newly-formed feminist group, provided free balloons, posters and T-shirts with the logo of the Women of Color Task Force of the Commission on the Status of Women. The group plans to put the proceeds of the T-shirts toward providing "extras" for future feminist events.

In San Francisco, Bella Abzug addressed thousands of ERA supporters in what organizers called the largest ERA rally ever in San Francisco. An economic boycott of the state of Nevada was announced by a coalition of Bay Area organizations led by the San Francisco Chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW). The boycott will express California's outrage at Nevada's consistent refusal to recognize equality for women, supporters said.

Arson Hits Wolf Creek

By Crow

The children, Jordan, Ari-Ben and Willie, were the first to notice the huge flames. Their cabin was only yards away from the burning farmhouse. The oldest, 7, ran to awaken an adult.

Soon the Gay men, Jamal, Soula and David, the children and a guest were gathered in the full moon of January 12, watching their common kitchen-living room burn to the ground. The flames lit up that mountain valley in Wolf Creek, Southern Oregon.

Shock, fascination and acceptance turned to anger when a number of unexploded Molotov cocktails were found on the site.

A meeting of over 30 friends and neighbors was soon called. A letter was drafted condemning the firebombing and asking for relief support. The let-

ter was sent to every mailbox in Wolf Creek. There was a fair amount of positive response and only two hate letters.

Open Gay women and men have lived in Wolf Creek for over 8 years. Although there have been occasional tense times in the past, Lesbians and Faggots have co-existed with the diverse straight community fairly amicably and, on occasion, joyfully.

But the seapegoating homophobia Anita Bryant has helped stir up has emboldened the fearful reactionaries. It's quite clear that a Prop 6 victory doesn't mean peace.

The farm is well known in the community. RFD, a country journal for Gay men, was published there for two years. And now, one of the boys living with the men is going to the public school.

Some people do not approve of

Faggots, raising boy children. Additionally one of the men living at the farm is black and, in almost lily-white southern Oregon, that is noticed.

The folks at the farm have been harassed over the past couple of months. The mailbox has been knocked down, a VW was rammed in the rear and severely damaged, and people were threatened by a guntoting driver of a pick-up.

The license number of the pick-up was given to the police. They have been very unconcerned.

The night of the fire the deputy practically tripped over a Molotov cocktail and still didn't notice it.

A neighboring Lesbian went into the highway patrol office to complain of the police inaction. The cops said, "Oh, probably the fire was set by a jealous boyfriend."

There are a number of suspects but undoubtedly no one will be charged.

The fire sure makes the winter harder, but life goes forward. Already a small kitchen, convertible into a summer kitchen, has been built.

San Francisco Faggots and Lesbians have raised a thousand dollars. Reference books, a cassette player and tapes, musical instruments, a sewing machine and hot drag are needed.

Contributions can be sent to: Wolf Creek Fire Relief Fund, P.O. Box 98, Wolf Creek, OR 97497



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The MoonRise Cafe is alive and well and under new management. The Santa Rosa women's coffeehouse and community center which has been in operation for over a year, is going through some changes.

The MoonRise is attempting to create a space which will be inviting to all women whether they be Lesbian or heterosexual, smokers or non-smokers, vegetarian or meat eaters, capitalists or Marxists. As always children of either gender are welcome.

Some visible changes that have occurred are the allowance of smoking in the front room and the addition of more meat dishes to the menu. In the future a salad bar, submarines and cola will be added.

Although there is now a paid man-

ager of the cafe, all other workers are volunteering their time with tips being their only wages. One goal of the management is to pay workers minimum wage within the year.

The hard work, caring and dedication of the original MoonRise collective and the present management is not enough to successfully keep this women space functioning; it needs support of the women's community.

So give yourself a treat and enjoy women energy, good food and entertainment by dropping by 25 Sebastopol Road, 10-2 on Sundays, 11-11 on Tues. thru Thurs. and 11-1 AM on Friday and Saturdays.



TO OUR READERS:

We are providing this space every month for members of the community to express their ideas, opinions, criticisms, and feelings. Names and addresses must be submitted but will not be printed if so requested. When writing please keep in mind our limited space.

We encourage you all to use this forum.

The Northern California Gay Media Project Collective

The NEWS is published monthly by the Northern California Gay Media Project, Inc., a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation.

The NEWS is produced by a collective of three women and three men. The collective is: Donna Canall, Sandy Love, Adria-Ann McMurray, (Robert Melvin Muller, Karen Ryce and Pat Urquhart.

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We welcome contributions of articles from our readers. To insure return of articles enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelop.

Gays Speak At National Teacher Conference

by Larry Berner

The 17th Annual Conference on Human and Civil Rights Education sponsored by the National Education Association (NEA) was held in Wash-

ington D.C. on February 23-25. The theme of the conference was: **The Rise of the New Right: Human and Civil Rights in Jeopardy.** I was invited (with all travel, lodging, and meals paid for by the NEA) to participate in a workshop entitled:

Among Constitutional Rights: What Ever Happened to Privacy? Other participants on the work shop panel were Wylma King, NEA Human Relations Committee; Frank Kammeny, Gay activist; Bessie M. Lewis, Director of Women's Residence Halls, Delaware State College, recently fired and then reinstated after giving birth to a child out of wedlock; and Fred Wright, Chair of the Task Force Against Proposition 6, California Teachers Association. This was the first time the NEA has ever paid openly Gay people to come and talk to them.

gressive role in combatting homophobia within the teaching profession.

Throughout the days I spent at the conference, I was constantly amazed at the reception I received. A line I heard often was: "An attack on one is an attack on all." Another common approach to me was: "I've been reading a lot about Gay rights; but, I haven't been able to find anyone to answer my questions"; or: "There's this teacher in my school whom everyone knows is a Lesbian (Gay man); how do we let her (him) know we support them?"

"...This was the first time the NEA paid openly Gay people to come and talk to them..."

My main impression of the conference is that members in the top levels of the NEA are ready to accept our presence and fight for our right to teach and that they are eager to find out who we are and what we want. Staff members of the NEA Civil and Human Rights Department promised an article in their national magazine dealing with our presentations at the conference.

The NEA has taken a strong stand against racism (over half of the 600 participants were black) and against sexism (practically all positions becoming vacant in the management structure are reserved for women until a representational balance is achieved).

The times seems ripe for Lesbian and Gay teachers to get jobs with power to make changes within the organization. I might add, however, that it would require someone willing to dress "right", to do cocktail party politicking, to withstand the drain of petty power struggles and to be willing to work fulltime in a non-Gay world.

There are jobs waiting for you if you're willing to work within their system to bring about some changes in education.

Nazi Rally Set For March 24

by Melvin Muller

By a vote of 3 to 2, Santa Rosa's City Council voted to uphold a permit allowing Nazis to hold a rally in Santa Rosa's Franklin Park, March 24.

Despite requests from the Junior College Neighborhood Association, the Ad Hoc Committee Against the Nazis, Franklin Park area residents and other concerned citizens, council members Jerry Wilhelm, Bill Barone and Jack Healy voted to allow the Nazis the permit.

Each pro-permit council member stressed the point that those who had come to protest the permit were only serving to promote the notoriety of the Nazis.

Healy, who proposed at the end of the hearing that the council allow the Nazis the permit, was particularly concerned with the coverage the Nazis received from the media prior to their last rally, September 30 of last year. Healy named the *Press Democrat* and *KSRQ* as prime providers of publicity for the hate group. According to Healy, the Santa Rosa radio station announced on the half hour the time and place of the event during the three days prior to the September rally.

"We're the patsies in this whole issue," complained Healy. "We're playing right into their hands by providing them with publicity."

Council members Bill Barone and Jerry Wilhelm also stated that the brouhaha surrounding the event was part of the Nazi plan.

Bill Lunch, president of the Junior College Neighborhood Assoc. was first to speak to the council, before an audience that half-filled the council chambers.

The association's basic stand was that the Nazi rally should not be held in any park adjacent to residential neighborhoods. Lunch pointed out that

the park borders family homes, is bounded by fences with gates that have access to people's homes and yards and that parking in the area is insufficient and a traffic snarl would doubtless be caused by the Nazi presence.

The ad hoc Committee Against the Nazis read a statement to the council pointing out the cost of the prior Nazi rally in money and injuries, reminding the council that it took a Constitutional amendment to abolish slavery and that the Constitution was never intended to allow groups such as Nazis the right to preach genocide.

Mayor Donna Born, with C.G. "Ting" Guggiana, voting to repeal the permit, said she could not support the permit and stated she did not feel the permit issue a freedom of speech issue. She went on to conclude that had Republicans or Democrats had a rally that had produced results similar to the Nazi September 30 rally, she would refuse the permit on the same basis.

Realizing her point of view had failed, she asked that Santa Rosa "show alot of class" and not show up for the March 24 rally.

Jake Rubig, local ACLU lawyer, criticised by an earlier speaker for his defense of the Nazis, reminded the council just prior to their vote that "we must defend the right to speak to anyone no matter what he has to say."

An earlier speaker, Joe Rappaport, in a moving and brief speech said, "My statistics were collected on the fields of the Ukrain" and asked the council to consider the difference between the right of speech and the right to destroy.

For information concerning planning of possible events around the Nazi presence individuals may call the Ad Hoc Committee Against the Nazis at 545-4401.

He continued his talk with information about the present struggles of Gay teachers to retain their jobs. Even though he was hired to talk about the right of privacy for teachers, he also presented an eloquent picture of Gay liberation and a demand for personal freedom for all homosexuals.

"An attack on one is an attack on all."

Lewis then told about her firing and reinstatement after her decision to be a single parent, followed by a discussion of the freedom of all women to control their own bodies. (An interesting aspect of her case is that she received financial support both from the National Organization For Women and Right to Life!)

My presentation consisted of a brief run-down of my being made a focal point in the Proposition 6 campaign, of the need for Lesbian and Gay teachers to make their presence known within their teacher's associations, of the ways in which all teachers can support their Lesbian and Gay co-workers, and of the need for the National Education Association to take an ag-

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Chicago's "Dinner Party" Premieres

The San Francisco Museum of Modern Art is premiering, "The Dinner Party," Judy Chicago's major multimedia artwork, from March 16 through June 17. Conceived by Judy Chicago, "The Dinner Party" traces, explains and honors the culture and history of women in Western civilization. Through ceramic plates and tiles, intricate needlework and weavings, and accompanying photo-documentation, the project presents a symbolic history of the feminine. The exhibition culminates five years of cooperative work by a community of 200 people in Judy Chicago's studio. From San Francisco the exhibition will travel to the Seattle Art Museum and the Memorial Art Gallery in Rochester, New York.

The large-scale triangular table -- the focus of "The Dinner Party" -- is set for thirty-nine women, both mythological and historical, moving forward in time from the primordial goddess to Virginia Woolf and Georgia O'Keefe. Each woman is represented by the imagery of a delicately hued, china-painted plate set on a descriptive, richly embroidered runner. Each plate reflects through style, color and design the woman it honors: Emily Dickinson's plate rises up in fragile folds of rosy, clay-dipped lace; Peronilla de Meath, who was burned at the stake as a witch and symbolic of 14th century persecution of women, is represented by split images of candle and flame. These plates, placed on the fully-set table, each combine innovative ceramic techniques with traditional china-painting processes. A butterfly image, which Judy Chicago uses as a symbol of liberation and resurrection, originates as an abstract flat image in the earlier plates and becomes

progressively more three-dimensional, rising further off the plate as the women move forward in time.

The entryway to "The Dinner Party" is graced by six large woven banners. Designed by Judy Chicago and woven in the traditional French Aubusson tapestry style by the San Francisco Tapestry Workshop, the banners express the artist's vision of the feminine goddess in word and image.

Simultaneously with the premiere of the exhibition, Judy Chicago's most recent book, **The Dinner Party: A Symbol of Our Heritage**, will be available. Published by Anchor/Doubleday; the book, containing many color photographs and descriptions of china painting, gives the full story behind the project. Chicago plans an additional book dealing specifically with the needlework in the exhibition.

The opening of "The Dinner Party" will be celebrated by a weekend of activities in San Francisco. From March 16 through 18 there will be lectures by Lucy Lippard and Judy Chicago, poetry readings by Bay Area poets, a colloquium on women's history, tours of women artists' studios, a children's celebration and two concerts by Margie Adam.

"The Dinner Party" was partially funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, Washington, D.C., a federal agency, and the exhibition is being circulated by Through the Flower, a non-profit corporation dedicated to social change through art. The San Francisco Museum of Modern Art is partially supported by the San Francisco Hotel Tax Fund. For further information, contact Dorothy Bannies, 863-8800.

WORD IS OUT
stories of some of our lives

The lack of a positive media image is a problem that plagues all oppressed minorities, but is particularly critical in the case of homosexuals. Gay men and Lesbians are nearly as invisible to each other as they are to the population at large, a fact that compounds the feeling of isolation that imprisons so many.

"Word is Out," the first feature-length documentary on the lives of Lesbians and Gay men, was a major step toward establishing a feeling of national community. Its sensitive portraits of 26 diverse Gay men and Lesbians was beamed into millions of American homes by more than 200 public broadcasting stations in October.

In keeping with the spirit of dialog which helped form "Word is Out," Mariposa Film Group asked for reactions and comments from the audience by giving its address in the closing frames of the film. It has received more than 1,000 responses so far.

The letters have indicated in a clear and poignant way how important a validation of their lives and culture is to Gay people, especially those, as one viewer said, "buried in the heartland of homophobic America."

Excerpts from a few of the letters follow:

"Those who really need your show are not Gay communities in the big cities; it is we who have roots too deep in the Midwest and the South to have been swept off to California, those of us who remain in those supposedly unbearable little towns, leading lives that seem externally productive, but which are really filled with secrecy, hurt, and loneliness -- we are the ones your show really lifts up: we realize we are not alone and not vicious or even worthless freaks. I can't sign my name, but in the name of all the nameless, I thank you for a film that makes our lives more bearable."

"I left the theatre feeling that something in my childhood had been cleansed, redeemed, made whole. That I was no longer a foreigner in a straight world. That I am someone, from somewhere. That I have a people. That I have a culture. That I have a present."

"What a moving experience to

involve myself for a few hours with people with whom I simultaneously share nothing and everything. What a beautiful people we are, what renegades, replicates, revolutionaries, and retreads! How regular, how radical. Thanks for the looking glass, microscope and crystal ball."

"For the first time in my life I don't feel as though I have to hide. I am not sick. I am not alone."

"I have read many books and articles on Gay people and all I can gather from that is a freaky kind of person... Your film showed the Gays as people, not monsters. The sad parts brought a whole bunch of feelings back home, and I shed tears of understanding for those people. My lover gave up her children years ago and hasn't seen them for over three years that I know of... Thank you for presenting us as people. Please call on us the next time you do something like this film. We do not have much money, but we would be proud to share what we have for the educating of humanity about people like us."

"Word is Out," filmmaker Peter Adair notes, is one of the first reflections held up to the Gay community. "As cloudy and imperfect as was the reflection, there was evidence, after the very first screening, from the reactions of joy, enthusiasm, tears, support and criticism that what we were doing was indeed very important."

Mariposa Film Group rents 16 mm prints of "Word is Out" to colleges, groups and organizations. For rental information contact: Adair Films, P.O. Box 77043, S.F. CA, 94107.

Homosexuals In The Fifties

On Wednesday, March 14, at 6:45 PM, KPFA, FM 94, will present "The Homosexual in Our Society."

Elsa Knight Thompson will interview psychologists and politicians about homosexuality, showing that there just might not be anything "wrong" with such "deviant behaviour."

Tune in for a look at the life of homosexuals in the Fabulous Fifties.

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Prop 6 And Grassroots Resistance:

Amber Hollibaugh Discusses Sexual Politics In Rural California

by Sandy Lowe

Even the most jaded professionals agree that California's defeat of anti-Gay Proposition 6 was a triumph of grassroots organizing and enthusiasm. Yet very little description of that massive effort has found its way in to the Gay press. The pros would still have us believe that it was the high-salaried, straight political consultants who were the architects of victory.

Yet, early in the campaign, these same pundits also advised that only a civil liberties approach could be used to fight Briggs and that we would probably lose anyway. They suggested that we do nothing.

In the end, the campaign was won across the state by enthusiastic grassroots organizing and by a decidedly more radical analysis of the issues. People came to understand the repressive threat of Briggs and the New Right. Working people responded to the issue of job security and witchhunt. And many even began to see the connection between violence against women and Gay oppression.

The NO on 6 campaign was diversified and dispersed. Without a statewide coordinating group, the problem became: how to get information out and encourage people to fight back and believe that we can win?

California Outreach, a small group of Gay activists based in San Francisco, was one of the few urban organizations which devoted its political energies to making the resources of the city available to the Gay population of California's dispersed rural areas. The group consisted of Lesbians and Gay men and identified

themselves as progressives. According to Mark Freeman: "From the very beginning people in our group were among the few who believed we could win the campaign if we were able to shift the argument away from: Do you like homosexuals? to, What do you think of the New Right? . . . We felt that only by taking an aggressive approach could we win over most Californians."

California Outreach compiled comprehensive packets of information and distributed them to neighborhoods, professional groups and to small communities throughout the state. It also sent out two workers to the Northern and Southern parts of the state and to the Central Valley.

Amber Hollibaugh, another member of California Outreach, toured for six weeks last September and October through almost thirty small towns and cities in Northern California and the Central Valley.

Amber's travel experiences led to several important conclusions: **Political organizing can be done successfully in rural areas around sexual issues. The women's network was the backbone of rural organizing. Rural Gay organizing can take the lead in confronting sexism and racism where these issues have never been raised before. And much more.**

The following article is a transcription of a presentation Amber made before a workshop on Gay community organizing at a recent convention of the National Lawyers Guild in San Francisco on February 17. The theme of the conference was "Danger from the Right: Attack on Women and Gays."

go and talk about us?" So, I did interviews with local papers in Placerville and Auburn and Eureka and Ukiah . . .

You have to understand that there is San Francisco and then there is California. It is a regular state everywhere else and then there is this island of homosexuals. I was in the Northern and Central agricultural belt, Fresno, Stockton, Merced, Turlock, and then up North, didn't go as high up as Dunsuir and Shasta and up near the border.

I travelled in a van and it was real exciting. We didn't have contacts in each of those places so a lot of times I would get into town and have to find someone. It is interesting to try to find Gay people in small towns, especially when you know how hidden we are. We tend to not be "out there." So I would race after people who had a No On 6 bumper sticker, honk my horn and make them pull over to the side and I would say, "Hi, I'm Gay, you don't have to be, or anything, but I am doing No On 6 work." It really got hysterical, plus it meant I had to be enormously out myself, beyond saying that I was Gay to let other people find me; and when I started the trip I wasn't real out because I had come from a small town and I knew it was really dangerous to be out, and I really

wanted to come back alive.

People would say: "I have four friends, and why don't you come back to my house," or, "Yeah, I'm Gay, I'm not real out, but I have been trying to make contact and who else do you know?" and that was, we suspect, pretty much how the Gay community is organized. Everybody kind of knows everybody else who is Gay, and they are close with four other people who know six other people who know a friend in Anderson that they think might be. It was a very mobilized system through the campaign. Incredibly mobilized

any woman could be attacked as being a Lesbian. Scrutinized and continually baited: "You dyke!" Every time a woman goes and defends another woman at a hospital waiting room, she is accused of being a Lesbian. Frequently they are. Because many of the women who work in those places refused to be married and settle down. People quietly know that they are Gay.

The thing that is real threatening about California in rural areas are the absolutely divided towns, racially. In most places, I either talked to white audiences or I talked to Third World

"Everybody took enormous risks..."

system. That was the thing that was so exciting about it. In every part of the Gay community, no matter where someone was around their own Gayness or around their Gay consciousness, they'd move one step beyond where they were. Everybody took enormous risks depending on what their position was in their own communities. I think it was particularly significant in the Third World and Lesbian parts of our communities where the risks were so much heavier, particularly in rural areas, an enormous amount of the successful work was done against Prop. 6 because women in particular, and frequently Third World women,

audiences. Not mixed. Third World community, white community and that's it. Nobody meets nobody and nobody talks anywhere except in the Gay community and in the Gay bars, which are real mixtures of classes and races and seem to be one of the few places that I have found on the trip where there was interchange of struggle around a lot of different issues, including racism.

I guess I have a lot of strong feelings about it, the whole question in general, because I think that for us the real question is organizing around sexual questions, that is wider than the question of Gayness. I felt particularly confronted by



sometimes Gay, sometimes not, but always single, had organized an enormous network of rape crises centers and battered women's shelters throughout the state.

These groups didn't have formal connections to what would be considered the feminist movement. But they furthered the grassroots spread of feminist ideas into the community. So that things like the battered women's shelters are all over the state. And are also places where women are discussing sexual issues. So it is no accident that they would also be the places where

most people's assumption that Prop. 6 was a male issue. That's the image that people talked about, that is what Briggs spoke about. So when I walked into situations as a dyke, people didn't know what to do with it. Who? You know. Gee, you don't look like one of them. It was real frightening at times to try and deal with it. What that made me realize was also that, especially, as a Lesbian, Gay women doing work against things like Prop. 6 risk overwhelming consequences around things like child custody cases, especially in rural areas. Most every dyke that I met, or 3/4 of the dykes

that I met, had kids. They had been married at 16 or 17 or 18 and had kids, and now they were at my age in their 30s and had 11 or 12 year old kids and they had left their respective mates and were living with lovers raising their children.

Gay men and Gay women are very close in those towns and are helping to raise those children as their own. The question of children in our community is not an alienating question at all, since the consequences of being out, not only in terms of your job but also in terms of your kids, is real different in rural areas because the legal and social resources are limited.

Also, in those parts of the state that I was in, they are incredibly Christian. What can I say. And, um, it is scary because Christians ultimately formed the grassroots organization for Briggs. As he was more and more isolated from the more polished part of the conservative machine in the Republican Party and other aspects of the conservative movement, he more and more had to depend on the fundamentalist baptist ministers in the small towns to be the basis for his organizing attempts.

"We... know heterosexuality; we survived it!"

That is where he spoke, that is who did the debates with me on hotline shows. I ended up debating a lot of fundamentalist ministers like, Rev. Royal Blue, wonderful fellow. One guy, this short reverend, came with five enormous men. Wherever we ended up having debates he was walking in with these huge men and he wouldn't look at me and he would turn around and he would walk up to the microphone and he would scream about how we were all perverts and that I was a pervert and then these men would surround him again and they would walk out. Who did he think was coming? I wished that I was as threatening as he was.

But, the thing that really became clear to me was that what frequently got pegged as antihomosexuality was antisexuality. If you were not prepared to talk about sexuality, you couldn't talk about antihomosexuality.

People had no access to information on how to discuss sexual issues. I feel that this is real important and not said. For us to understand how to move beyond the democratic definition of who we are, and for people to begin to understand homosexuality, people have to be able to discuss sexuality. That is something that is not encouraged. I would be in a meeting place and people wouldn't know how to bring up issues. They wouldn't know how to even pose a question. It wasn't just that they were anti-Gay and wanted to call me pervert; it was that sexual discussion is not allowed. Sexuality is not encouraged in most of the communities as a pleasurable activity; homosexuality is definitely seen as a pleasure, so right there you

have a real big problem because you are just doing it for the fun of it. That was heavy.

The questions coming were sexual questions that people didn't know how to pose in their own lives. So a lot of times the kind of questions that were asked were questions that people didn't feel free to ask anywhere else. It wasn't just that they had never met a Gay person, but they knew that women had never

been allowed to discuss what it would mean to be sexual beings.

The question of children's sexuality was really a loaded question, especially when you combine it with things like incest and child battery. That was frequently what Briggs suggested about us. So, even though we were not responsible for it, these were the real questions we had to deal with. If you are not able to deal with questions about sexism, that deal with heterosexual men and violence, you can't answer the genuine questions that people have about children's relationships to sexuality. I know that is a big question and is just being broken openly in the Gay community but I think it is one that we have to look at real seriously because we are accused of every sexual crime that is not considered heterosexual.

We are accused of all severe sexual practices that people think are not correct. And, we are scapegoated because of it. I think people have a real and genuine right to be frightened about their children's relationship to sexual violence. That issue is just not discussed. Period. The question of children and child molestation and rape has got to be something that we are willing to discuss. My willingness to discuss that issue and confront where it came from, that it isn't homosexual, cut through a lot of the kind of anti-Gayness that was implicit in the question but didn't have to be there. I think you have to be able to divide the questions out between real questions, real anti-Gay questions, anti-sexual questions or legitimate sexual fears.



Photos by Pat Urquhart

Amber Hollibaugh of California Outreach

Also, I think it is real important for people to be able to confront the anti-Gayness right out. I think places where the work was the most successful were places where people in the community were most openly homosexual in the campaign. That was difficult for people to do in a lot of places. But the people in areas like Chico and Eureka, and the SCRAP 6 people in Sonoma County were very out with the issues around homosexuality.

Our being open allowed people to ask their real questions about homosexuality. Our potential for changing people's minds was enormously open. It wasn't that people overnight loved Gay people, but a lot of times, my own feeling was that, no one had ever been able to ask their questions about homosexuality. There had never been a way for people to find out what was true about homosexuality and what wasn't. Part of what was both frightening and painful about doing the work and very strengthening, was that people asked some of the most amazing questions that I ever heard in my life about homosexuality. I mean just pretty scary kinds of questions. But once the question was out there, you knew what you had to deal with. In my mind, I would much rather know the truth, what it is that

"When you play down homosexuality, you can't change people."

people think about me, so that I can confront it and begin to do the real work that I think has to be done.

I think that part of the problem in organizing around anti-Gay stuff is that when you play down homosexuality, you can't change people. You can't help people understand what the nature of homosexuality is. The clearest example I can give of that is one time I was doing this rap and I had the Lesbian School Workers Slide Show and I showed it and was talking about how we have children too and we have discrimination here and da da da da . . . This woman raised her hand and said: "You know, there is something that really

makes me uncomfortable in what you say. Isn't there something different between you and heterosexuality. I mean, don't you think, I mean, I think homosexuals are different than heterosexuals. Isn't there something different there?" And I just sat there. She said: "I am really offended by it." and she was real righteous and out there, and I sat there, and I thought, no shit! There is something different about it. There is something really different about relating to another woman or another man. That is a pretty vital difference. And, what am I doing not saying that. So I said, "Yeah, you are really right. What I am trying to do is explain to you that there are similarities in my life because I am female, or because I am raising children or because I'm in the job market. But there is something very specific and unique and beautiful about being a Lesbian. And I don't want to say that that it is just like heterosexuality. I don't think it is, and I don't know how to talk about it, but I will try." And I did. It was hot.

It made me really realize that people did know fucking well that there was something different in homosexual relationships than in heterosexual ones. For us to try and pretend different was a really major mistake and I think that we can see it

in the kind of campaigns that have tried to suggest that we are just like heterosexuals only a little different, suggesting that our homosexuality be kept private. I think that there is some way to talk about the beauty of homosexuality without making it a question of holding hands on the street. We have to develop ways to describe it, because in the description of it we also open up the whole question of what meaningful relationships are.

This is the first of a two part series.

The Nestle Boycott

Information From



INFACT

A whole generation of Third World mothers is virtually giving up breastfeeding and turning to powdered milk formula because of the cross marketing practices of profit-hungry companies like Nestle. A whole generation of their children will, if they live, grow up physically weak and mentally retarded.

It may be too late for them, but it's not too late for babies yet unborn. In the late sixties as the U.S. and European birthrates declined and breast feeding became more popular, infant-oriented businesses throughout the developed world sought out new markets.

Companies like Abbott Laboratories, Bristol Myers, American Home Products and -biggest of all- the Swiss-based Nestle Company, expanded rapidly in Asia, Africa and Latin American. The airways and billboards were filled with their advertising slogans.

The slogans and pamphlets gave women the idea that breastfeeding was "primitive," "unscientific," and "inconvenient."

Their next step was to give free samples, equipment and special services and conferences to hospitals, doctors and nurses.

Finally the promotional attack entered the homes of new mothers in the form of "milk nurses." This is a woman bired to look like a nurse and promote infant formula by convincing mothers it is what is best for their babies.

The mothers take the free samples. They open the tins. They try to reconstitute the formula. Without clean water. Without a suitable pot for sterilizing. Without enough fuel to boil their one bottle and nipple before each feeding. Without a refrigerator

to store even a single day's supply of formula.

Their free tin runs out. Their breast milk by now has dried up. Now they must use the formula. But when they discover that it costs nearly half of all the money their families earn, they try to stretch it. They thin it down with water, tea or cocoa, to make a three-day supply stretch out to a week, two weeks, or longer.



Their babies are burning with fever, dehydrated and suffering from acute diarrhea. They are weakened by lack of nourishment, infected by poisonous bacteria, susceptible to disease.

And when they die? Their mothers proudly place the formula cans on their graves, believing to the end that the product that killed them was their valuable possession.

What chance do these impoverished women have against the vast resources and subtle advertising techniques of

the Nestle Company and others?

The infant formula peddlers are protecting a billion dollars a year in sales to Third World countries; and there are no laws preventing them from doing irreparable harm to millions of babies.

We can save lives. Act today! We can save lives. Act today!

1. **BOYCOTT NESTLE!** Don't buy products of Nestle or its subsidiaries. See complete list in enclosed box. Tell your friends why. Tell your grocer why.

2. **MAKE NOISE!** Write to Mr. D. Guerrant, President, The Nestle Co., Inc., 100 Bloomingdale Rd., White Plains, N.Y. 10605 to let him know you've joined the Boycott. Write to Mr. A. Furer, Managing Director, Nestle S.A., Vevey, Switzerland; and let him know you won't buy Nestle products until the exploitation is halted.

(You can expect an elaborate reply. Read it with the information in this article in mind.)

Write to your Congressperson, Senator and to Ambassador Andrew Young at the United Nations, asking for further investigation of baby formula sales practices that might lead to new regulation.

3. **JOIN THE INFANT ACTION COALITION!** Every dollar contributed will help INFACT reach more people, to monitor developments in Third World countries, and to collect and present evidence.

Groups Protest FBI Harassment

NEW YORK —Radical feminist and Gay community groups along the US East Coast are protesting a new wave of FBI harassment.

The National Lawyers' Guild and dozens of other organizations have petitioned FBI director William Webster to call off a witch hunt in the Lesbian and Gay communities. Last summer the FBI began to subpoena the telephone toll records of people who were active in the 1975 defense of Susan Saxe, an antiwar activist and radical Lesbian presently imprisoned on bank robbery charges.

The phone records are allegedly being used by the FBI to fish for more people to interrogate and to gather information on anyone who has been critical of the establishment. TBP



The Infant Formula Action Coalition (INFACT), a project of the Newman Center, is an assembly of nutritionists, educators, church representatives and many other groups and individuals throughout America.

Its purpose is to halt the unethical and dangerous promotion of infant formula in Third World countries.

INFACT's most urgent project is a nationwide boycott of the products of the Nestle Company, the biggest food producer in the world and the infant formula's industry's biggest offender.

In the past year, public pressure has succeeded in forcing Bristol Myers, Abbott Laboratories and others to agree not to use mass media advertising campaigns in Third World countries, and to restrict their use of "milk nurses."

But Nestle's profit-hungry baby products division continues using all of its aggressive, unethical promotional stunts.

The Boycott's strength has already forced Nestle to claim they've halted mass media consumer advertising, but flagrant violations of this policy are reported to INFACT regularly.

INFACT demands that Nestle:

1. STOP the use of "milk nurse" sales personnel, in or out of starched white uniforms;
2. STOP distributing free supplies of formula to hospitals, clinics, and the homes of newborns.
3. STOP promoting these formulas to the health professions and through health care institutions;
4. STOP direct promotion and advertising of artificial baby formula to consumers, as recommended by the World Health Organization.

For further information or to contribute and join INFACT write The Newman Center, INFACT, 1701 University Ave., S.E., Minneapolis, Minnesota, 55414.

THE NESTLE BOYCOTT

Don't buy any of these products:

- Taster's Choice
- Mescalito
- DeCal
- Sunrise Coffee
- Pero
- QUIK
- Choco-Chill
- Nestle Chocolate
- CRUNCH
- Nesquik
- Soups
- Maggi products
- Swiss Knight cheese
- Stouffer products
- Stouffer restaurants & hotels
- Berringer Bros. wines
- Los Hermanos wines
- Libby, McNeill and Libby products
- Crosse & Blackwell products
- Deer Park Mountain Spring Water
- Lancome cosmetics
- L'oreal cosmetics

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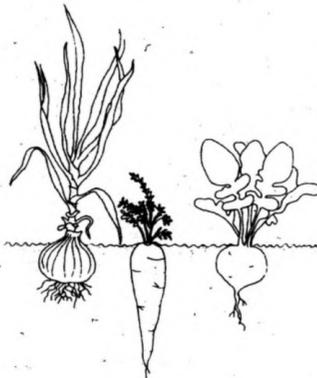
USDA "Punishes" Community Market

by Marsha Taylor-Ward

It was last spring and the place I work, Santa Rosa Community Market, was entering its third year of business. We were gradually growing as more and more people noticed our prices and our food-for-people-not-for-profit attitudes. It was amid an average flurry of customers that the mail carrier brought us a registered letter from the Department of Food and Agriculture — the Food Stamp Authorities. In my experience in the alternative food system I had heard tales of the wrath the USDA had brought co-ops and community markets.

I wasn't wrong. The letter stated that we had too much food stamp business. I guess the food stamp folks have theorized - from their data, I assume - that each market can/should only do a certain amount of business per dollar in food stamps. Somehow we were going against their standards, and, therefore, under scrutiny. The letter stated that we were in violation of Food Stamp Act Number . . . It listed five violations with each item labeled and priced exactly, and ended naming one worker specifically and describing two others.

Being a bureaucratic original copy it required a second reading. It then became clear that what we had done was to sell non-food items on food stamps. (I remember a woman, shawl on her shoulders, saying, "What do you mean I can't buy vitamins on food stamps. I could buy Coca-Cola. I need vitamins." Reading the five counts, I had to wonder if she was a government employee.) Their punishment was to suspend our acceptance status for six months!



At the very next store meeting we discussed the reality. We had to appeal. We had low prices so, of course, we had a high count of food stamp customers and this would hurt them. We also had a high turnover of workers due to low wages and, therefore, had volunteers and many new workers. Our decision was to pay a lawyer to write an appeal. The next registered letter said we could continue accepting food stamps until further notice while they considered the data.

We immediately reposted all food stamp signs in more obvious spots. We quizzed each other on eligible food items, stopped volunteers at the register, and openly talked to

customers, especially food stamp customers about their responsibilities. We fine tuned, continuing our struggle against flakiness and attempted to move closer to the viable business alternative we dreamed of.

Nearly nine months went by without even one registered letter. Then January 17th came. This one was four pages outlining our portfolio of crimes and the specifics of their reconsideration. In the end we were "only" suspended for sixty days, beginning in thirty days. There was nothing we could do except fight in court and probably lose, or just take it.

The week of February 17th a man who obviously wasn't a customer came and took our authorization card and Food Stamps-Accepted-Here signs. We hadn't heard from them in almost a year and they hit us through what I have learned is grocery's biggest time, February, March and April. It means we are losing an average of about \$300 of business a day until April 17th. We could pay many a creditor with that. However, things aren't drastic.

We won't fold over this; it is just slow and painful. Many of our workers wonder if we can hold up in the years ahead. We look to the community for support.

Toronto--In what is widely regarded as a landmark decision, **The Body Politic** has been acquitted of all charges of obscenity as filed by the Canadian government, against the newspaper and the Pink Triangle Press.

Provincial Judge Syd Harris in a 42 page decision, found the magazine and the three defendants, Edward Jackson, Gerald Hannon and Ken Poper not guilty of making use of the mails "for the purpose of transmitting or delivering obscene, indecent, immoral or scurrilous matter."

"There is insufficient evidence," Harris wrote, "to establish a community standard," and that the word "immoral," being undefined, doesn't establish an acceptable area of lawful actions.

Harris called the case "borderline," finding reasonable doubt that the newspaper and those charged had broken the law.

The government charges were filed following a police raid on **The Body Politic** offices on December 30, 1977.

The newspaper has spent approximately \$30,000 on legal fees, but fundraising rallies and direct mail appeals have covered most of the legal costs.

"The support has been overwhelming, and a lot of money has been raised," said Robin Hardy of TBP.

"A lot of the donations came from the United States."

NEW YORK CITY— The Gay and Lesbian Blind organization of New York is developing a lending library of Gay books and cassettes for those people who cannot see to read for themselves.

For further information, contact Paul Lugo, Gay and Lesbian Blind, 110 East 23rd St., Suite 502, New York, NY 10010. GCN

News In Brief

DETROIT, MI--In an 8 to 1 vote the Detroit City Council passed a new ordinance prohibiting discrimination against sexual minorities.

The passing of the broad-based 34 page Omnibus Human Rights Ordinance makes Detroit the fifth largest American city to single out and prohibit discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and preference.

Additionally, the ordinance gives the city of Detroit one of the most widespread lists of protections along with strong powers of enforcement.

Sentinel

VATICAN CITY—Just a week after he repeated a controversial condemnation of divorce and abortion, Pope Paul II stated that motherhood is the "eternal vocation" of all women.

Speaking to a crowd of about 12,000 at a weekly audience in St. Peter's Basilica, the Pope said motherhood was the center of Christian belief and should be protected and promoted.

"I want to remind young women that motherhood is the vocation of women," the Pope said. "It was that way in the past. It is that way now and it will always be that way. It is the women's eternal vocation. It is my prayer that the dignity of mothers is recognized and defended in the family and society of today." GCN

NEW YORK CITY—There is a new study which shows that most children, by the time they are in the fourth grade, have already adopted sexist attitudes.

The Educational Testing Service survey of fourth and fifth grade school children found that most have "stereotyped views" about the place of women in society.

Most of the students questioned felt that women do not belong in po-



sitions of leadership. The study found that most of the students think that "girls are as smart as boys," but that they don't think girls have what it takes to be leaders.

Sixty percent of the girl students questioned said that women and men are equally capable of wielding power. However, only 38 % said they could see themselves as class president.

GCN

NEW YORK CITY—The US Commission on Civil Rights has denounced continued dominance of the television industry by white males.

The independent agency has urged the government to correct sexism and racism in television programming and hiring.

In a 97-page report, the commission urged the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to examine network programming decisions that lead to stereotyped portrayals of women and minorities.

The report also urged the FCC to require the networks and all broadcast licensees to institute affirmative action hiring programs to correct imbalances. GCN

LONDON — Two Lesbian sanitation workers for the Borough of Lambeth in South London have succeeded in turning the tide against anti-Gay prejudice in their work-place.

The women out-traged a male overseer last month when he saw them leaving the Borough's Clapham depot holding hands. The supervisor threatened them with "dire consequences."

The "consequences" failed to materialize, however. After news of the threat became known, all 32 women working at the depot, straight and gay alike, pinned on "Gays Against Nazis" badges and marched out of the work-place holding hands.

The demonstration of solidarity impressed the male workers at the neighboring depot in Brixton. A streetcleaner and Gay activist in that depot, Terry Stewart, told London's Gay News that he hadn't been "finding it easy to come out at work," but after the demonstration "the other guys are quite sympathetic. They've even said they would back me if ever I needed it."

The third edition of **A Bibliography on Sexism** has been published by Lutherans Concerned, the caucus of Gay and non-Gay women and men on the Lutheran Church.

The annotated listing includes 89 books, pamphlets, tapes, films and collections of short works that deal with the potential of both women and Gay people of both genders, with an emphasis on religious works.

A free copy of the work is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed, business-size envelope to Lutherans Concerned, P.O. Box 19114A, Los Angeles, CA 90019.

PITTSBURGH, PA--A private school here says it has no regrets about having invited noted therapist Dr. William Masters to the school, even though his remarks on homosexuality caused an uproar among parents.

Ann P. Leibrick, director of counseling at the Shady Side Academy, said Masters "gave a marvelous presentation. I'm not sorry we had him or about anything he said."

In his keynote address at the high school, Masters said that homosexuality and whatever sexual behavior "a person is comfortable with is fine." GCN

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Plans Set For March On Washington

[Continued from Page 7]

World caucus. It was decided upon overwhelmingly that there would be gender and racial parity throughout all aspects of the march. This includes deaf and handicapped people. It was not learned if there were deaf people present at the conference.

Wendy Leven, also a delegate from San Francisco, noted, "We want to involve all Lesbian and Gay people and to 'put an end to the systematic oppression we suffer nationally.'"

When asked whether there was any feminist participation in the conference, Leven replied, "All Lesbians are feminist."

Although strong solidarity was reached in the conference, it did have its rough edges.

"There was a lot of divisiveness and conflict," Jeff Britton of the Walt Whitman Democratic Club said, especially among Philadelphia groups for the first two days of the conference. But as soon as a date for the march was decided upon, "People

really came together."

Britton's group, who planned and hosted the actual conference had strong criticisms toward the San Francisco ad hoc committee for the march on Washington who took a leadership role in the planning of the national conference referring to them frequently as "inefficient" and "bumbling idiots."

"What we need," said Britton, are "Troy Perrys and Leonard Matloviches if we're going to run a tight organization."

Britton also said that "Grass Root campaigns don't often happen" and is in favor of a more "professional" approach.

Britton discounted the S.F. committee and the Washington, D.C. community for its "Left orientation," saying they "get hung up on things like gender and racial parity."

Cost for the operational supplies for the march not including the march itself is estimated at between \$150 and \$200,000.

The San Francisco committee recently received a \$4,000 check from the Harvey Milk United Fund.

Donations to help finance the March On Washington can be sent to San Francisco Committee for the March On Washington, 44 Lurmont Terrace, San Francisco, CA 94133. (415) 431-1522.

There will be a fundraiser March 18 at Baker Beach in San Francisco. A champagne brunch will be served with live chamber music. \$6 in advance. Tickets can be purchased at businesses and bars throughout the City.

River Queen Closes Doors

The River Queen Women's Center in Guerneville closed its doors for everyone on February 10th. The Center which has served the women of the River area and beyond, for the past four years, has apparently come to a natural end.

The Board of Directors of the River Queen felt there were a few primary reasons for the center's closing. These reasons included the operational difficulties imminent in the coming year and a feeling that River Queen services were available elsewhere or no longer reflected community needs.

A heartfelt thanks to all those women who made the River Queen possible.

This multi-faceted agency not only provided much needed services but also touched and enriched the lives of many hundreds of Sonoma County Women throughout its existence.



No Divorce For Gay

A district court jury has refused to grant a divorce to a Dallas physician who wants to end his marriage because he's a homosexual.

The divorce was contested by the physician's wife, who was described as a deeply religious woman who considers her husband's homosexuality a sin.

"To her, it's a sin just like adultery, stealing or lying," the woman's attorney, Dennis Brewer, said last week. "Just because he elected to live the gay life, he cannot reject his wife and family...he cannot get sanction of the jury."

Brewer said the jury's decision, disregarding the physician's contention that homosexuality is a ground for divorce.

The woman decided to contest the divorce and try to persuade her husband to renounce his homosexual life-style and help him make a total "surrender of his life to the Lord," Brewer said.

"The legitimate ends of the marriage relationship have not been destroyed," Brewer said. "Some are impaired but not destroyed."

United Press



Delegates at Washington March conference

Mental Health Conference

Continued from Page 1

In a workshop on Crisis Intervention and In-Patient Care, discussion centered around the restraint of violence and medication techniques. Once again, no specific programs of support seemed to exist for Gay people.

Alliance representatives noted that the discussion of Gay issues at the conference resembled community dialogue during the recent campaign against Proposition 6. Even in this allegedly liberal setting, the open presentation of Gay concerns by openly Gay men and Lesbians appeared to be something entirely new.

While there were no overtly homophobic reactions, traces of fear and guardedness surfaced repeatedly. For example, staff people continued to imply that Gay counseling was discreetly available through Mental Health Services, and that matters were well in hand. Alliance representatives challenged the healthfulness of running counseling programs out of a closet when the closet is so often the symbol of Gay oppression.

Another staff person, claiming to play the Devil's Advocate, asked why Mental Health should have to bear

the responsibility of caring for "a small private sector." An Alliance spokesperson responded saying that "gay people have been caring for ourselves for a long time and will go on doing so," but that, "as taxpayers who constitute ten percent of Sonoma County's population, Gay people had citizens' rights to expect a public agency to address our needs and, at the very least, not to exclude or discriminate against us."

In general, however, the mental health staff and the public which attended the afternoon meeting, seemed receptive and supportive of the Gay presence. One old-time community activist encouraged continued Gay visibility and audibility by suggesting that "the squeaky wheel gets the oil." An Alliance speaker responded: "Everyone should know that these wheels have begun to squeak."

B.J. Wingate, a member of the Citizens Advisory Committee, urged Gay people to continue applying pressure in behalf of their needs and to come with our concerns before the advisory panel. She told an Alliance representative that she sees "the committee becoming a political force to promote change."

feiffer

AMERICA IS ENVYLED IN A RISING TIDE OF ANTI-AMERICANISM.

ENVIRONMENTALISTS ARE ANTI-AMERICAN IN THAT THEY WISH TO CRIPPLE OUR INDUSTRIAL GROWTH.

MINORITIES ARE ANTI-AMERICAN IN THAT THEY PLACE THEIR OWN INTERESTS ABOVE OUR DEFENSE NEEDS.

KIDS ARE ANTI-AMERICAN IN THAT THEY DON'T LISTEN TO ME.

FEMINISTS ARE ANTI-AMERICAN IN THAT THEY PUT THEIR OWN COMPLAINTS ABOVE MY NOSTALGIA AND FANTASY LIFE.

HOMOSEXUALS ARE ANTI-AMERICAN IN THAT IF THEY HAVE RIGHTS, I DON'T.

LIBERALS ARE ANTI-AMERICAN IN THAT THEY PUT UP WITH STUFF I HATE AND WANT TO OUTLAW.

INFANTRY CHIC.

LESBIAN AND GAY COUNSELING REFERRAL

The following are individuals who provide counseling for Lesbians and Gay men in Sonoma County:

SANTA ROSA:

Joanna Eder/823-8612
Lesbian Feminist Counselor
Sliding Scale based on income

Judy Freespirit/538-0376
Radical Feminist Therapist
Sliding Scale

Chandra Stephens M.F.C.C./545-0213
Straight supporter, eclectic counselor
\$25/hr., some sliding scale

Naomi Richman M.F.C.C./526-1233
Straight supporter, eclectic counselor
\$25/hr., some sliding scale

Kay Caldwell M.F.C.C./526-1233
Lesbian, talk trained, gestalt, guided fantasy
\$25/hr., can be adjusted

Linda Lazzar M.F.F.C./545-0213
Straight supporter, eclectic counseling based on intuition, bodywork gestalt
\$15-25, some sliding scale

Lizbeth Hamlin M.F.C.C./823-4457
Straight supporter, holistic counselor
\$24-30/hr.

Donna Smith M.A./539-7170
Lesbian and Gay counseling and domestic violence and child abuse
\$30/hr. or sliding scale

RIVER AREA:

Kathy Sharp
Joan Odette/864-2866
Straight supporters, varied techniques
Sliding scale, MediCal accepted
Outreach North, Guerneville (county agency)

SONOMA:

Patricia J. Lytle M.S./996-3694 or 996-7661
Lesbian counselor. 3 yrs. exp. with issues of sexuality and oppression. Individual, couples and families. County agency-sliding scale, can take MediCal
Also does private practice.

SEBASTOPOL:

Dr. Neil Ehrlich
Roger Rose, Ph.D/823-1166
345 S. Main, Sebastopol Counseling Center
Sliding Scale, can take MediCal

Women's Slide Show

The Women's Advisory Committee of Sonoma State Hospital will hold its quarterly meeting on Wednesday, March 21.

It will be held outside at Sonoma State Hospital deom 12 Noon to 3 PM.

A women's self-defense film, Women's History Slide Show (inside), Ti Chi stick fighting demonstration and speakers are among the events planned.

This meeting will be catered by the Moonrise Cafe.

From Santa Rosa, travel east on Highway 12 for approximately 18 miles. Turn off Hwy 12 at Sonoma State Hospital-Glen Ellen sign. Travel through Glen Ellen until you arrive at the Hospital, then follow the signs.

Gay Teachers Get Support

Australia — The New South Wales Teachers' Federation has declared that homosexual teachers have a necessary role to play in sex education in the schools.

The Federation's annual conference in Sydney also adopted a policy opposing discrimination on the grounds of sex, sexuality, or marital status. The Federation called for the removal of sexist, anti-homosexual and other biases from the curricula, courses and counselling practices.

●●●●●●●●●●

The

G A Y

Community and all of our friends are invited to get together to roller

SKATE

at Cal-Skate
6100 Commerce Blvd.
Rohnert Park
Monday, March 19, 8-10 PM.

\$1.50 includes admission and skate rental

For more information, phone Doug at 526-6077



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1446 Mendocino Ave. 542-9768
Santa Rosa

Mon. - Fri 11 - 8 p.m. Leased space from S.R.J.C. Behind Matvies location

Shasta County Dance

The Coalition For Human Rights of Shasta County is holding a fund-raising dance March 17, St. Patrick's Day, at the Riders of the Wonderland Hall, Kenyon and Cedar Sts, Redding, Calif.

The dance, running from 9 PM to 1 AM, will offer beer and soft drinks on sale, door prizes, and VD and legislation information tables.

A portion of the \$2.00 admission will go to California Human Rights Advocates of Sacramento.

For further information call: (916) 365-3577.

TATTOO

BERT'S TATTOO SHOP
Artist — Bert Rodriguez
584-7384

780 Todd Rd. at Stony Point/Santa Rosa

Local NWPC Chapter Forms

The National Women's Political Caucus (NWPC), will soon have a chartered chapter in Sonoma County due to the efforts of local women.

"We intend to become an influential force in Sonoma County," stated Angela Frank, chapter founder. She outlines the purposes of the Caucus as: supporting women's issues; educating women about political issues; and providing an environment for women be supportive of one another.

The National Policy Council of the NWPC in its statement of purpose endorses a non-sexist, non-racist, non-

poor, non-violent society. The NWPC is actively supportive of Gay rights.

Donna Born, mayor of Santa Rosa, will be the guest speaker at the next meeting which will be held Saturday, March 17, from 9 AM until 12 Noon at Westside School, 1201 Westside Rd., Healdsburg. The school is wheelchair accessible and free childcare will be provided by the Men's Center Child-care Network.

All interested are invited to attend. If you desire further information or need childcare, please give at least one day advance notice by contacting Angela Frank at 545-5410.

N. Y. Gay Health Conference Set

The 2nd Gay Health Conference will be held May 18-20 at Hunter College in New York City.

The Conference is co-sponsored by the National Gay Health Coalition (NGHC) and Hunter College Student Health Society. The Coalition chose "Gay Health Care: 10 Years After" as the theme of the conference "to honor those Gay health professionals who have remained 'out' in their fields and who continue to serve us as models of inspiration and courage...to encourage greater visibility and solidarity for Gay professionals, issues and concerns within the American Health System.

The NGHC, founded in May of 1976, is an association composed of Gay

health caucuses of health professional organizations. Its purposes are to communicate with each other about caucus activities and to coordinate and promote mutual efforts.

The goals of the Conference are: to clarify the health concerns of the Lesbian and Gay community and identify their need for health services; to establish the rights, needs, and obligations of Gay health providers on the job; AND TO DEFINE THE CURRENT FEDERAL IMPACT ON Gay people's mental and physical health and suggest future changes.

Reservation deadline is March 31. Reservations received after that date will be subject to a higher fee.

For more information contact the NEWS

Sonoma County Community Services

Rape Crisis Center of Sonoma County	Hot Line/545-7278 Office/545-7270
Women's Emergency Shelter Program—YWCA	546-1234
Parental Stress Service (24 hour counseling dealing with the stresses and frustrations of child rearing)	528-6223
SRJC Women's Center	527-4375
Sonoma County Men's Center Drop-In Group (Open to all men)	795-8060(days) 542-5042 523-4172(eves)
Men's Center Childcare Network (Childcare for events)	542-5042(eves)
V.D. Clinic 3313 Chanate Rd., Santa Rosa	527-2533
Sonoma County Men Against Rape	545-7273
Commission on the Status of Women	527-2161 527-2017
Rising Woman Books	545-6590
MoonRise Cafe	526-4207
Sonoma State Women's Studies	664-2840

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