

# sonoma county lesbian & gay alliance

# NEWS

Free

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July/August 1979

## Rioters Charged With Felonies

# Defense Fund For 'Twinkie' Rioters

by Berri Winters and Charlie Hinton

San Francisco DA Joe Freitas is throwing the book at the people arrested at the May 21st protest of the Dan White verdict at City Hall that turned into a riot.

Of the 28 people arrested that night, eighteen have been charged with felonies (most of which consist of throwing rocks or dog mace at policemen). In response, some lawyers of the National Lawyers Guild have organized a combined defense of all eighteen defendants and a group of concerned people have organized a defense fund to cover all expenses.

The DA's strategy is creating a further polarization of an already critical situation in San Francisco. Freitas is using this trial to save face for his inept prosecution of Dan White. He has assigned James Lassarte, notorious for his prosecutions of the White Panther party and the New World Liberation Front, as prosecutor. Furthermore, several of the defendants have been charged with two or three felony counts, each of which could carry a five year sentence. In other words, some defendants could carry a five year sentence. In other words, some defendants could get longer sentences than Dan White!

The defense strategy is to disqualify Freitas as prosecutor of this case and demand an independent prosecution. On Thursday, June 7, the defense filed a motion for recusal (i.e., disqualification) before Municipal Court

Judge Dorothy von Beroldingen on the grounds that Freitas is prejudiced since the riot was a reaction to his prosecution of Dan White. The defense attorneys are arguing that because of his prejudice, he will try to get very stiff sentences for the people arrested to show that he is a good prosecutor and to get vengeance.

The response of the prosecution to this strategy has been to file a motion, also on June 7 to disqualify Judge von Beroldingen on the grounds that she was prejudiced against the prosecution since she had ruled favorably to set an evidentiary hearing on the recusal motion. When von Beroldingen refused to disqualify herself, the DA countered on June 29 with a writ to Superior Court Judge Hanlon to disqualify von Beroldingen, which was upheld. It is expected that the defense will appeal to the Court of Appeals to reinstate von Beroldingen as judge, and that is where the legal maneuvers now stand.

These motions and counter-motions are early indications that this will be a serious and drawn-out legal battle. They are also a good example of the double standard of justice in this country that would give Dan White a slap on the wrist for killing two elected public officials and railroad those arrested for protesting this outrage to long prison terms.

A strong show of public support is very important for the May 21 defendants. The May 21 Defense Fund has been organized to provide this sup-

port and is asking people to help. Defense attorneys estimate they will need approximately \$30,000 in the next year. This money will pay for investigation costs and legal expenses of the defendants and ultimately for bringing suit against the police for acts of brutality against people at Civic Center and on Castro Street after the

riot. The fund will also defend anyone who may be indicted by the new grand jury which will be called in July.

So far the Fund has raised +2400 through benefits, donation cans, and mailed-in contributions. The next event is an evening of music and poetry at Glide Church on Friday, July 27.

(Continued on Page 10)

## Teacher Files Suit Against John Briggs

by Sandy Lowe

Demonstrating that it is becoming more and more expensive for bigots to flaunt themselves by attacking Gay people, Larry Berner, the Gay school teacher from Healdsburg, is filing a \$3.5 million suit against four such parties.

The suit will seek \$1 million each from State Senator John Briggs, the Fullerton Republican who led the campaign against Gay teachers and for Proposition 6 last year; Healdsburg Elementary School District Trustee Lee Lee, Briggs' Primary local representative; and Los Angeles television station KNBC.

Berner's attorney, Jerel McCrary of Gay Rights Advocates, said he will be filing suit in Sonoma County Superior Court soon alleging defamation of character.

Punative damages will be sought for alleged harm to Berner's reputation and presenting Berner in a false light.

Berner, an exemplar school teacher in Healdsburg for more than five years, was singled out by State Senator John Briggs in August of 1978 as a symbol of "militant homosexuality" in the classroom. Slanderous attacks against Berner and against all Gay people were made regularly by Briggs. McCrary said that throughout the campaign Berner "was charged with using the classroom to proselytize" children into homosexuality. McCrary also said that Briggs accused Berner of public homosexual conduct.

Berner became the target of Briggs' attack after a local columnist publicized the fact that Berner had written a story for the SCLGA NEWS describing his experiences as an undercover petition circulator for the Briggs Initiative.

A group of Healdsburg parents protested to the school board. The

Continued on Page 11

## No NEWS Ain't Good News

by Donna Canali

The energy crunch knows no mercy and its heavy booted foot steps hardest on the backs of struggling progressive groups, or at least that's how the diminishing number of members on the NEWS staff are experiencing it.

Presently our one time seven person collective has dwindled to four and in September two more of us will be leaving. For months all of us have discussed our feelings of "burn out" and the necessity for individuals to take leaves of absence for a month or three to revitalize. But a newspaper, even a small monthly such as this, takes a tremendous amount of work so here we still sit. Gathering of news, writing articles, solicitation of ads (not very easy for a Gay publication in a rural county), typesetting, proof-reading, corrections, writing of headlines, graphics, layout, pasteup, mail-

ing, distribution, fund raising, as well as weekly meetings, are all embodied in the actual newspaper.

Our printed and personal pleas for financial and people energy support from the Lesbian/Gay community have returned virtually nothing. Although there were over six hundred people on our mailing list while subscriptions were free, when due to financial necessity, we had to change our policy and limit our mailing to paid subscriptions, our subscription list dwindled to two dozen, despite a three month advance notice of the change.

We have continued to distribute 3500 newspapers, primarily in Sonoma County but also in San Francisco, Oakland and as far north as Eureka.

After this issue we are out of money and one collective member will be gone

for a month, bringing our number down to 3 and our checkbook to 0, or worse. The possibility of publishing next month looks grim.

BUT being the optimists we are, the NEWS may be moving into an actual office this month. Searching for an inexpensive office has been one of our projects since December and although it seems ironic that it happens when our resources are at an all-time low, maybe it's a good omen. Although our feelings about taking on this added expense range from foolhardy to ingenious, our hope is that having a definite location will somehow promote a feeling of permanence and generate enough support to keep the NEWS alive and well.

The Northern California Gay Media Project Collective is firmly committed to the idea that the Lesbian/Gay community needs a medium (i.e. the

NEWS) to disseminate information about all the political activity surrounding Gays, to give Lesbians and Gay men a vehicle to voice their opinions and differences and to serve as an organizing tool for future political battles such as we faced last November.

The collective members, past and present, sincerely thank all of you who have supported us with our efforts.

We strongly urge anyone interested in assisting with any aspect(s) of publishing the NEWS, donating money or office supplies, or writing a letter giving us feedback to please do so soon.

You may contact us by writing to The Northern California Gay Media Project, Inc., P.O. Box 4801, Santa Rosa, CA 95402; calling Donna or Adria-Ann at 795-2693; calling Melvin at 544-4109.



# FORUM

### 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

## Defense Fund Needs Support

Dear Friends,

We are writing you to gain your active support for the May 21st Defense Fund.

The May 21st Defense Fund has been formed to help those individuals who face criminal charges and were seriously injured as a result of the riot on May 21st in San Francisco following the Dan White verdict in the Milk-Moscone assassinations. There are currently 28 people facing criminal charges as well as many people with civil charges against police officers of San Francisco. The legal activities, which have already begun, both defensive and civil suits, will require an enormous amount of money.

In San Francisco, we are faced with a police force that is extremely repressive and belligerent, especially towards the gay, poor and third world communities. The history of this is long and well-documented. In addition to this open repression, we have a "liberal" District Attorney, Joseph Freitas, who not only allows hundreds of "queer-bashings" to go unanswered on a regular basis, but also threw the Dan White case.

Now that the people have answered with their rage at this blatant injustice, D.A. Freitas is lining up selected individuals as the scapegoats for his office to prosecute as "provocateurs" of the riot... as if provocateurs were necessary for such an outpouring of righteous rage at such an irrational and brutal system of social relations and unequal justice.

So please help us in anyway you can. Direct financial contributions are great but even better would be any benefits you might organize in your area. This facilitates both our legal defense via receipts from the benefit and our political defense via the information disseminated during the event: We have literature we can send. Tell us what you need and try to include \$ for our expenses—they are monumental.

Thanks for your support,

Events Committee  
May 21st Defense Fund

P.S. — All checks should be made payable to the Capp Street Foundations (a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation) with an ear mark for the May 21st Defense Fund.  
Capp Street Foundation  
558 Capp Street  
San Francisco, CA 94110

## Praise for the NEWS

Dear People,

Here is my subscription check to your paper. I am most impressed with your paper and quality of reporting. I hope you can continue without interruption.

While I've only read your last two issues (May, June), I trust I will continue to discover in your efforts that spirit of a Lesbian and Gay consciousness that nurtures and informs. For me you are an antidote to the "hothouse" qualities I find in the B.A.R. and The Sentinel.

Sorry you don't have more advertisers, but I presume your standards are/will be more discriminating than these two mentioned S.F. "locals." I'm also most appreciative of the coverage you've given to the March on Washington. There seems to be a very parochial and insular attitude in the Bay Area both on the part of the press and so-called "leaders." The failure to have a speaker for the March on the stage of the Civic Center for Gay Freedom Day is one glaring example of this tunnel vision.

Keep your goddess and fairy visions alive, fraternally,  
Gayly,

Fred Boungard  
San Francisco

P.S. Excellent riot photos. Wish you would have credited the photographer. Convey to her (or him or them) my appreciation.

(Note: Last issue's photos of the May 21 demonstration were donated anonymously.)

## More Praise

Dear Folks:

I was heartened to discover your paper recently, at Paperback Traffic.

I moved here from Boston in December and I'd resigned myself to the sorry state of Gay journalism in this town.

Your paper is a breath of fresh air. It is the best-written Gay publication I've seen yet in California.

Keep up the good work.

Love and Struggle,

John Kyper  
(of Gay Community News,  
Boston)  
San Francisco

## History Project Needs You

Lesbians and Gay men have been a vital part of San Francisco's history since the days of the Gold Rush. Our history, however, has been hidden from us. For a long time our letters and diaries were destroyed, our names blotted out, our books censored, our love declared unspeakable, our very existence denied.

Yet much of the history of Gay people in San Francisco is still alive in the memories of older gay men and women. Their recollections of the 1920's, '30's and '40's, the places they met, the books they read, the words they used, their experiences at work, in the military, with families, and lovers and friends, their daily struggle to survive—all these are part of our history, and can help to make our past come alive for us today.

Oral history is a way of preserving the memories of older people by interviewing them with a tape recorder. The San Francisco Gay and Lesbian History Project, by interviewing older Lesbians and Gay men, is trying to reconstruct the history of Gay life in San Francisco. Since so little has been written, oral histories are sometimes the only way we can learn about our Gay heritage.

These taped oral histories will have many educational uses. Most will be available, either as tapes or typed out as transcripts, for people studying Gay history. They will help put together a picture of our past before it is lost forever. A number of arrangements can also be made so that a person interviewed can choose to remain anonymous. No part of any interview will be made public without permission of the interviewee.

If you are (or know) an older Lesbian or Gay man who has lived in San Francisco for a long time and would like to be interviewed, a trained interviewer will call you to talk about what experiences you would like to share; the time, place and length of the interview; permissions, etc. If you both agree to work with each other, the oral history interviewing can begin. Your time will be well spent; you will help preserve a rare heritage for future generations of Gay people, and we today will gain a better understanding of the tradition that we carry on. For more information, write:

San Francisco Gay and Lesbian History Project  
P.O. Box 1653  
San Francisco, California 94103

People interested in receiving training in how to conduct oral history interviews and those interested in working with the Sonoma County Lesbian and Gay Men's History Project may write to P.O. Box 58, Santa Rosa, CA 95402.



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

The NEWS is produced by a collective of two women and two men. The collective is: Donna Canali, Sandy Lowe, Adria-Ann McMurray and Melvin Muller.

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We welcome contributions of articles by our readers. To insure return of articles enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.

## A Tale of Two Proms

In Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Randy Rohl braved threats of tarring and feathering in order to attend his high school prom with a twenty-year-old friend. Lincoln High School Principal Fred Stephens said it was a "straight legal decision," and refused to block the couple.

Forrest Rode of the Sioux Empire Gay Coalition, which has members in South Dakota, Minnesota and Iowa, called the student's decision to attend the prom, "another step out of the closet for gay people in this country."

"Many students came over and congratulated us," said Rohl after the prom. "A lot of people were really glad we stuck to our guns."

Meanwhile, in Rhode Island, Paul Guilbert got to go to the prom with Ed Miskевич—finally. The 17-year-old Cumberland High School Junior made national news last month when he sought, but was denied, permission to attend his class prom with 22-year-old Ed Miskевич, a senior at Brown University. Although he was willing to challenge the school administration's decision in federal court, he decided—after consultation with people from the Rhode Island office of the American Civil Liberties Union and the Rhode Island Gay Task Force—to wait until next year when he reaches 18. Not being a minor, his father's objections would matter less then.

Gary Dotterman, owner and manager of The Bar in Boston, felt that Paul was entitled to attend a prom and decided to

hold one that other young gays could attend. With the raising of the drinking age in Massachusetts to 20, the only way Dotterman could do this was to remove all liquor from the area—so he did. The event was held on Thursday evening, May 31, as a benefit for the Committee for Gay Youth. Many young gays attended the \$5 per couple event, as did a number of not-so-young gays who never went to their own high school proms.

Paul said later that he thoroughly enjoyed himself at what was believed to be the nation's first Gay Prom. He continued to complain, however, about the tremendous amount of harassment which he receives daily at school and hopes that the massive publicity resulting from his case will encourage other gays in high school to "come out."

As for Dotterman, his only complaint was that too many people came to the door and left when informed that it was a \$5 per couple benefit for the Committee for Gay Youth.

The Bar was decorated with crepe paper, lavender fairies and cartoon figures. Bartenders Dolly and Tish, both in white dresses with plunging necklines, served soft drinks from behind the downstairs bar. Upstairs, a drinking crowd gathered around to hear song stylist Ellie Boswell at the piano. The event received extensive coverage in the Boston Herald American and the Boston Phoenix.

—TBP & GCN

## The Other Side of Susan B.



by Sandy Lowe

In early July the U.S. Mint issued a limited supply of a new one dollar coin bearing the likeness of the 19th century American feminist and women's suffragist, Susan B. Anthony. The government is prepared to release 500 million of these new coins into general circulation.

Along with the coin, the U.S. Mint has also released a short summary of the active life of Susan B. Anthony characterizing her as a tireless organizer in behalf of women's rights. Although government press releases do not include the information, Anthony was also a staunch advocate of women's independence, talent and love. A closer inspection of Anthony's life makes it clear that her love of women was an important component of her political work.

In celebration of the new coinage, the NEWS is pleased to publish here some selections from Susan B. Anthony's correspondence to a close woman friend, Anna Dickenson.

October 23, 1866: "I mean always to keep beckoning you upward and onward 'til you speak right out in words the rich, deep, earnest love for your own sex that I know lies in the inner courts of your being. So, Anna, as I love you and you love me and we both love the right-I ask you to examine the 'inner light' and see if you shouldn't bear your testimony for the enfranchisement of the whole people. Lovingly yours, Susan B. Anthony."

August 15, 1867: "Anna, I cannot bear to go off without another precious look into your face-nay, soul...Darling, I can't tell you anywhere, but specially can't on paper, how my spirit yearns

for your safe and sure growth into all that is true and beautiful and noble and heroic...

March 18, 1868: "Now, when are you coming to New York? Do let it be soon. I have plain quarters on 44 Bond Street, a double bed big enough and good enough to take you in. I do so long for the scolding and pinched ears and everything I know that awaits me. What worlds of experience since I have smuggled the wee child in my long arms! Your loving friend, Susan."

[These letters can be found in the Anna Dickenson Collection in the Library of Congress and were presented in a paper at the Berkshire Conference on the History of Women at Bryn Mawr College, June 11, 1976, entitled "Changing Patterns of Sexuality and Interaction in Late 19th Century America: Some Case Studies From the Feminist Movement." The paper was presented by Nancy Sahli.]

## L.A. Rights Bill OK'd

LOS ANGELES, CA—Mayor Tom Bradley affixed his signature to a gay rights ordinance here on June 1. The measure, introduced in City Council by Council President Pro Tem Joel Wachs and Councilperson Peggy Stevenson, provides civil damages of \$200 to \$400, but not criminal penalties, for a variety of discriminatory practices.

Modeled on existing laws in San Francisco and Berkeley, the new ordinance bans discrimination based on sex and sexual orientation in the areas of employment, housing and business, excepting only bona fide religious occupational qualifications. —GCN

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# More News On March Third World Delegation Goes To White House

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—The concept of a National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights was conceived by a group of women in Minneapolis, MN, and quickly spread across the Nation. Subsequently, organizational files were forwarded to San Francisco Supervisor Harvey Milk, who was working on the March at the time of his assassination.

Shortly after Harvey's death, three hundred people met in San Francisco and organized the S.F. Ad Hoc Committee for the March on Washington. This group in conjunction with the New York Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights, and the Philadelphia Ad Hoc Committee for the March on Washington called a national planning conference in Philadelphia late in February 1979.

The conference, attended by hundreds of delegates representing the full ethnic, social and political diversity of the National Lesbian and Gay community called for a march on October 14, 1979. The central demands include:

1. Repeal all anti-Lesbian and anti-Gay laws.
2. Pass a comprehensive Lesbian and Gay rights bill in Congress.
3. Issue a Presidential executive order banning discrimination based on sexual orientation or affectual preference in the Federal Government, in the Military, in Housing, and in Federally-contracted private employment.
4. Non-discrimination in Lesbian Mother and Gay Father child custody cases.
5. Protect Lesbian and Gay youth from any laws which are used to discriminate against, oppress or harass them in their

homes, schools and social environments.

In an effort to guarantee full and equal representation of all our people in the organization of the March, the Philadelphia conference stipulated that 50% of the leadership positions in the March structure must be reserved for women and 20% for Third World people. The date of the March was chosen to correlate with the Third World Lesbian and Gay Conference in Washington, D.C., October 12th through 15th.

The Third World Lesbian and Gay Conference and the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights represent an all-out effort on behalf of this country's estimated 20 million Lesbian and Gay people to make this nation, and the world aware of our social and cultural diversity, of the discrimination we face as a people and of our unity and determination to end that oppression.

## Art Festival Slated Aug. 18

The California Women's Art Guild will sponsor the 1979 Northern California Women's Art Festival on August 18 and 19 at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds in Santa Rosa, California.

This festival is open to all Northern California Women Artists of all media. The applications for this year's Festival are available now. Write: Women's Art Festival '79, P.O. Box 496, Forestville, CA 95436.

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Twelve third world gay men and lesbians met at the White House on June 5 with Jane Wales and Abigail Havens, representatives of President Jimmy Carter. The delegation represented black, hispanic and oriental gay persons. The topics of discussion, however, was not limited to lesbian and gay issues, but covered subjects of concern to all third world persons.

The meeting was a result of a letter written several months ago by representatives of the National Coalition of Black Gays (NCBG), and it was the second time that representatives of the Carter administration have met with a delegation from the lesbian and gay communities. The first time was in 1977, when Midge Costanza, then a Carter aide, met with a delegation from the National Gay Task Force (NGTF).

When the meeting was requested, NCBG co-coordinators A. Billy S. Jones and Delores Berry expressed the feeling that NGTF had focused too narrowly on gay rights issues, and they felt that third world gay people needed to address a wider range of issues of discrimination facing them. "No one form of oppression is more tolerable than another," they said.

According to a report in the Washington (D.C.) Blade, the delegation dealt with several issues during the course of the meeting, one of them being affirmative action policies. The group expressed "great concern" about the Bakke and Weber cases, both of which involve white males who have argued that they have been discriminated against in favor of women and minorities under existing affirmative action laws.

Through Wales and Haven, the delegates urged that Carter express his support for the Waxmann-Weiss Bill (H.R. 2074) currently before the House of Representatives. The bill, backed by 44 co-sponsors to date, seeks to ban discrimination based on sexual orientation. Carter has previously stated that he opposes such discrimination, but has yet to take a public stand on this particular bill. In addition to seeking Carter's support for this bill, the delegates called on the President to issue an executive order banning discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation at all levels of the executive branch of government, including the military.

The Carter administration was commended for its support of the Equal

Rights Amendment (ERA), but the group said that the backers of a proposed constitutional amendment to ban discrimination on the basis of sex were placing too much emphasis on white professional women. The Blade quotes Renee McCoy, a delegate from Detroit, as saying, "The black working woman does not see ERA as helping her at all."

Carter was praised for his strong stand on world-wide human rights issues, but the delegates expressed hope that he would go further and call for an end to "acts of terror" against gay people around the world. They were particularly concerned about Iran, where the Khomeini government has executed several gay persons. Also mentioned by the delegates were the governments of Argentina, Cuba, Chile, Ethiopia, and South Korea.

In addition, the group expressed concern over the policies of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) regulations which use homosexuality as a basis for denying citizenship or entry into the United States. The delegates called for an end to the "brutal practices" they claimed INS used against illegal immigrants.

The Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA) was also cited as a source of concern, as CETA provides job training and employment opportunities for the "hard core urban poor." CETA's funds have been cut in 1980 federal budget.

Wales promised to respond to the points raised by the delegation within 30 days, saying that she needs more time to study them before she will be able to make any recommendations to Carter. She said, however, that "many of the issues raised relate to social and attitudinal problems in which the government cannot help."

The delegates to the meeting were Delores Berry, Billy Jones, Renee McCoy, Gilberto Gerald, Sidney Brinkley, Jon Gee, Darlene Hines, Siu-Ming Ng, Carolyn Pickett, Stephanie Wilson, and Ernie Acosta.

—GCN



by Brandy Moore  
HOUSTON—During the weekend of July 6-8, people from 31 states converged on the University of Houston, to hold a conference that would change the course of the Lesbian and Gay liberation movement.

That conference was called by the delegates of an earlier convention in Philadelphia, that sought to plan for the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights.

In attendance were some 200 members of various organizations and groups throughout the country. They had been selected by their own regional peers in local conferences held prior to the Houston convention.

The purpose of the 2nd National Planning Conference for the March on Washington was to elect the permanent members of the organization's steering, coordination, and policy committees. Also, the conferees met to discuss the already completed work of the March effort and to plan the final stages of the event. Expectations were high when people began appearing from points all over the United States. New friends were made, solidarity became a watchword, and leaders from every segment of the Lesbian and Gay movement were able to see "a new hope" in grass roots organizing.

Complaints and opposition had faced the March organizers during the months since the Philadelphia conference. These ranged from concerns of the country's Lesbian community surrounding the visibility of women and Third World people in leadership and policy positions; to the concern of the Black and Third World Gay community and their hope that the March would not be just another parade by and for white, middle-class males.

# Washington March Group Represents Gay Diversity

The conference delegates numbered 66 men, 64 women, and 39 women and men of Third World identification. The conference was co-chaired by six persons on a rotating basis to allow facilitation from the floor in specific disputes, to allow a maximum of involvement by the co-chairs and to keep each one fresh during

the Lesbian and Gay community. For many conferees this issue was their first real opportunity to confront serious discussion about this group. Further, many had never met an individual from this group in their daily lives. Thus, there was considerable angst pervading the conference, but the discussion of the issue by those

The conferees debated the (5) demands of the March and voted to keep them as they are, except that where specific segments of the Lesbian and Gay community are singled out a transperson will be included. The name of the march will remain the same. There will be established a committee to deal with the concerns and issues of Lesbian and Gay youth. Too, there is an ongoing commitment to the gender parity of at least 50% women and a minimum of 20% Third World persons throughout March planning and leadership. This parity applies for the geographic regions of the country.

Established at the conference was a national travel proposal with a toll-free number, whereby interested parties may call and find out up to the hour data surrounding the March and travel arrangements. That number is (800) 528-7382.

Lastly, the theme and tone of the March will be overviewed by the persons in each region to insure an "End to all social, economic, legal and judicial oppression of Lesbian and Gay people."

At Conference end, delegates, alternates, and observers agreed that the weekend had been well worth the time and effort. The conference had established some historic firsts; 1) the first national geographically, gender, and ethnic parity representative convention for the Lesbian and Gay community was held, 2) the first national men's caucus was held, 3) the first meeting called by a national political/communications network for the Lesbian and Gay community. Aside from all this, the Lesbian and Gay community had achieved the power to organize on a grass roots level around issues that affect our destinies. Building coalitions that can support our causes symbiotically can change the struggle for Human Rights/Lesbian and Gay Rights.



The overriding wish was that the March be a broadly based

statement of unity with every effort made to assure success.

C 1979 Cookie

the sweltering 12-18 hour days. The co-chairs were Sylvia Robinson (Mich), Brandy Moore (SF), Eleanor Cooper (NY), David Knudson (N.C.), Kathy Dennis (S-NY), an Jim Newton (Denver).

The single most volatile issue debated on the floor of the conference concerned the inclusion and non-discrimination against trans-persons (transsexuals, transgenderists, transvestites, drag queens, and female impersonators) by and within

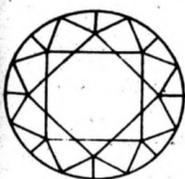
most closely involved paved the way for galvanizing the entire body in support of the measure.

Still, some delegates, alternates, and observers attended with specific questions and some opposition to the March effort. Among these were representatives of the National Gay Task Force, the Metropolitan Community Church, the National Organization for Women, Presbyterians for Gay Concerns, Dignity, the Advocate and the Blade newspapers. Their primary concerns involved plans for fundraising, accountability, March demands, logistics, and constituent lobbying.

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### Dykes Living Sober

# Throwing Away The Brown Bags

by Donna Canali

Play softball without a little vodka in my gator aid? I'd never lose enough to pitch properly. Talk on the phone without boilermakers? I might be boring--they could hang up. Have sex sober? Whoever heard of a clumsy Scorpio? I'm so happy. Whoppe! Let's get drunk!

Statistics: On a crowded freeway a drunk driver passes every 60 seconds. At night, 90 percent of fatal accidents involve alcohol. Twenty-five percent of suicides involve people with alcohol problems.

At Sonoma County's first Clean an Sober party in February, several women, inspired by a performance of Mother tongue Readers Theatre's script on Lesbianism, started brewing over the idea of a Lesbian alcoholic reader's theatre.

The women, members of a Lesbian alcoholic recovery program that meets Sundays at 8 PM at the MooRise Cafe (all women welcome), stimulated interest in the idea and 22 women became involved.

For too long brown bags have been used to hide Lesbian reading material and alcohol. We no longer choose to cover up who and what we are. It is time for us all to put out brown bags down. Thus, the Brown Bag Reader's Theater was born.

Initially members found the most difficulty in dealing with a lack of confidence in their own writing abilities and with the fear of getting in touch with the time when they were drinking.

We drank for sophistication and became obnoxious. We drank to make conversation and sturred our speech. We drank for relaxation and got ther shakes. We drank to feel heavenly and ended up feeling like hell.

I feel miserable. Here, a drink will make you feel better.

Fear, individual needs to put more energy into recovery, and scheduling conflicts pared the number of the group down to eight, seven alcoholics and one co-alcoholic.

I've asked you to put it down. I've asked you not to drink. I've

## Runes Folds After 4 Years

Runes, first and only women's newspaper in Sonoma County, has folded. According to the remaining collective members, the paper was put to rest for lack of energy and money.

Runes began publishing in April, 1975 and has provided a forum for women writers and artists through a succession of changes in collective members and philosophies.

At present, the paper is in debt to the tune of \$400. All of its equipment, including a desk, tables and chairs and sundry office supplies are for sale. The collective is also gladly accepting donations to help get it out of the red. Checks can be made payable to Runes, c/o 929 Temple Ave., Santa Rosa 95404.

screamed and ranted and raved at you, 'What will the neighbors think.' I never even realized what your were going through. I didn't know what drinking was doing to both me and you. A co-alcoholic is a person who has an ongoing relationship with an alcoholic or any person emotionally involved with an alcoholic.

With the aid of a one day workshop provided by Mother tongue, courage from each other, support from friends and countless hours of agonizing over scripts and rehearsals, the group gave its first performance to a packed house at the MoonRise Cafe on July 5.

Brown Bag performed on July 7 and 8 at the Living Sober Conference in San Francisco for recovering Lesbian and Gay men alcoholics.

The crowd of women, overwhelmed by the courage, talent, and professionalism of this amateur group responded with tears, laughter, and a fierce pride that glowed from their faces.

I always wanted to be a writer,



Brown Bag Reader's Theatre: (Top L to R) Carla, Georgia, Julia, Madeline, Diane, Maureen, Anita, Lindee. -Photo by Adria-Ann McMurray

## Seattle to SF Bikeathon

SEATTLE, WA—The Lesbian Mother's National Defense Fund (LMNDF), which for almost five years has provided legal, emotional and financial support to lesbian mothers across the country, is planning its second annual Seattle-to-San Francisco Bikeathon. The event is planned as a fundraiser for LMNDF, which each month pays 20 attorneys fees which range from several hundred dollars to over \$10,000.

The LMNDF is seeking women who want to bike all the way or part of the way between the two cities, a distance of about 1,000 miles. They also seek sponsoring organizations and lesbian mothers who can collect pledges for the bikeathon. Any individual or group wishing to participate is asked to write Linda at LMNDF, P.O. Box 21567, Seattle, WA 98111, or call (206) 325-2643.

THER'S NO LOW LIGHTS HERE  
NO SMOKE FILLED ROOM  
NO DANCE FLOOR FOR THE CROWD  
NO BARTENDER TO HEAR MY DOOM  
NO JUKE BOX-TURNED UP LOUD

SOBRIETY HAS CHANGED MY WAYS  
THE BAR SCENE'S DEAD AND GONE  
I FOUND A PLACE THAT'S NOW MY CRAZE  
A PLACE WHERE I BELONG

OH, DENNY'S, YOU ARE HEAVEN SENT  
YOU'RE WHERE I WANT TO BE  
YOUR REFILLS TO MY HEARTS CONTENT  
ARE SUCH A JOY TO ME

SUPPIN' AWAY ON THE HORSESHOE BOOTH  
TALKING AWAY THE NIGHT  
THERE SEEMS TO BE A REAL DIFFERENCE HERE IN THIS BRIGHT AND TACKY LIGHT.

THE WAITRESS THINKS WE'RE CRAZY  
THE POURING NEVER ENDS  
BUT ON THE ORANGE PLASTIC SITS SOME REAL CARING FRIENDS

YES, DENNY'S YOU ARE HEAVEN SENT  
NO MORE DEW DROP IN FOR ME  
FOR WHEN I LEAVE YOUR SWINGING DOORS  
I'M SOBER, STRONG, AND FREE.

sponsored by the National Conference on Alcoholism. Locally, Brown Bag will be performing on August 5 in conjunction with the opening of the new office of the Sonoma County Lesbian and Gay Alliance NEWS in the Lincoln Arts Center in Santa Rosa, and August 11 at the Women's Building in San Francisco.

Alcoholics Anonymous defines alcoholism as "a mental obsession coupled with a physical allergy." One of every 10 people in the general population is an alcoholic. One out of five Lesbians and Gay men are alcoholics.

Alcohol is the drug of choice for many women and men dealing with the problems of being Gay in a straight society. The Brown Bag Reader's Theater is an attempt to address the serious but too often ignored issues of alcoholism among Lesbians.

Wow, wasn't that a great performance of the Brown Bag Readers' Theater. I feel so high, let's have a drink! Sounds great. I'll have a miner! water, please.

## Carter Won't Endorse March

WASHINGTON (UPI)—No, the White House said, President Carter simply cannot endorse a homosexual march. A group of black, Asian-American and American Indian homosexuals made the request Tuesday during a White House meeting with Jane Wales, a member of the president's public liaison office.

# Dan White and the Cult of Masculinity

by Melvin Muller

During the anti-Prop. 6 campaign, a Gay bar must resort to guards posted on its roof to ward against attacks.

In April 1979, a Lesbian bar is attacked by partying off-duty San Francisco cops who are looking for some Dykes to beat up.

In May, a Third World Gay man is threatened on a San Francisco MUNI bus, in full view of on-looking passengers, by a knife-wielding Third World man who asks him why his hair is cut so short.

On May 21 police riot on an otherwise quiet Castro Street the night of the Dan White verdict feeling that their chief had not allowed them to open enough heads during the uprising at City Hall.

What do all these incidents, and countless others unreported and under-investigated, have in common? They are attacks on Lesbians and Gay men, it's true, but by whom? By straight men.

This year's Gay Freedom Day marked the tenth anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, when drag queens and street people, Gay men and Lesbians, fought

emulate in recent years. The "clone look" of dressing as your oppressor (i.e. police, armed forces, "straight-man" drag, etc.) to project a "masculine"



image is more than just a little visual satire of straight male role models but also, and more significantly, an affirmation of "See, we queers are really just like lyou."

The other irony is that Dan White killed a Gay man who was playing a "straight" game. He had entered the straight system and won and was very successful at what he was doing. Harvey Milk represented the hope of Gay people to enter the main stream of society in important and, more especially, powerful ways.

Dan White is, of course, a very efficient hit-man for the Right. Because of his actions, more and more Gay people will seek to lead lives as straight people to avoid possible attack. We will lead lives more and more away from our true selves and our true natures and, in so doing, assure every straight person that Heterosexuality is the one true road because we won't want to be known as Gay and straights will say "They like leading lives just like us."

It is foolish to consider this, of course, without thinking about the consequences. But as the economy declines and repressive legislation and right-wing pressure groups come to bear, we, as Gay men and



Lesbians, must come to realize that a straight culture is not going to be supportive of us. We must learn to support and encourage each other. We need to develop and maintain organizations that can provide information, services and a sense of community for us as Gay people who more and more are feeling the heel of the Cult of Masculinity bearing down on us. For that is just what it is: A Cult of Masculinity.

A cult that defies the image of the straight man, a cult that says that all who swerve from this norm are lowly, are sick, are perverts, indeed are enemies of the State and must be stopped, must be reprocessed, must have their behavior modified, and become useful members of society who will be fertile ground for the development of more little workers for a masculine dominated economy. Gay men are not the only ones who do not measure up; Lesbians and straight women who are uppity enough to defy the straight male dominated culture are also seen in this way.

Thus, we have John Wayne, with all the All-American imperialism and fascism he represented, raised to herod-deity and Dan White given a light sentence because, in view of his cop-fireman-young-family-man-on-the-rise

fireman - young - family - man - on - the - rise background, must have been awfully depressed to do something so terrible. So he has the possibility of parole in four or five years.

Parthenetically, it is even more ironical that Gay businessmen in three-piece business suits were seen at the City Hall Uprising soaking their neckties in water to wash away the tear gas. After all that work playing in the straight/masculine ballpark there they were, left out of the game after all.

While straight women and Lesbians have been quick to realize the need to establish their own culture and in so



doing take their own power, many Gay men have sought to adopt the culture and seek the power of a straight masculine society.

Harvey Milk, of course, was playing in Dan White's ballpark; in a straight male culture; and this, ultimately, was an affront to White's image of himself as a man, especially as a cop-fireman-businessman. It was also an affront to the jury who, by their verdict, vindicated White and affirmed his "inalienable right" to preserve the Cult of Masculinity.

If the assassination of Harvey Milk has taught us anything as a group, it is that society and its rules are based on this



Cult of Masculinity and anyone who strays from the cult's doctrines must be punished.

But just as the Women's Movement has come to bring some changes in the way women are viewed in society and the roles they are being allowed to play, so the Gay Movement can bring pressure on society to assure our rights and expand the possibilities of assertive roles for Lesbians and Gay men. But this can only be done as Gay people; Lesbians and Gay men, faggots and Dykes.

When we play by their rules, the

assumption is that their rules are thus the correct ones. We must develop our own rules and our own strategies.

It should be remembered that Harvey



How could they forget. He was the only one allowed to play.

## State Wide Men's Gathering Here September 28

The Sonoma County Men's Support Network is sponsoring its second state gathering for all men the weekend of September 28 through 30 in Occidental.



Topics to be covered will include aging, rape, homosexuality, problems of parents, militarism and athletics. For further information, write P.O. Box 4688, Santa Rosa, CA 95402 or call (707) 763-9866.



back against the police who were raiding (again) the Stonewall Inn, a bar in New York's Greenwich Village.

Ten years later San Francisco Gay people rioted (or rose up) in protest to the Dan White verdict.

White, a working class, but upwardly mobile white man, former fireman (every red-blooded little boy's dream), former policeman, former rookie politician, makes a mistake and is forgiven because he was "upset" when he was premeditating his acts of violence and murder.

There is double irony in the case of Dan White versus the Gay hordes of San Francisco (especially ones who smirk) that does not seem to have been brought out.

One, is that Dan White represented precisely the elements of society that many Gay men have been striving to

Sissies Organize

Louisiana Group Fights Police Harassment

An item from the Police Reports published in the New Orleans Times-Picayune on Friday, May 11, 1979:

Dean A. Haynes, 26, and Dennis Melbason, 46, were arrested after they allegedly appeared at their front door in the nude and "paraded around" the front porch in full view of persons in the area, including students at Charles J. Colton Junior High School about 10:15 a.m. Thursday.

Dimid (aka Dean A. Hayes) and Dennis were taken to Central Lockup and booked under a Louisiana state statute: Obscenity (exposing the person). Contrary to usual procedure, their cases were separated. No lawyer came to their assistance. Dennis was singled out and forced to declare himself a "homosexual." The arrest had occurred at 1:15 Thursday afternoon. Stacy was able to bail Dimid out at midnight. Dennis was held in solitary until 9:30 Friday morning, even though Stacy had paid his bail at 5:30 a.m.

Every two weeks, on Thursday mornings, la Casa Maricon receives a delivery of bottled drinking water. That Thursday morning Dennis staggered out of bed into the hallway at 9:30 a.m. (note time discrepancy) and opened the front door for the waterman. He then staggered back down the long hallway into the community room to search for the checkbook and a robe. In the meantime Stacy was awake and went out onto the front porch in bright blue satin jogging shorts to see what was happening and to check the mailbox. The waterman collected his check and left. Dimid slept through it all and Aurora had been at work since 8:30 a.m.

The day began typically. Stacy went downtown to make a bank deposit and Dennis went out back to write a long overdue letter. Dimid watered the plants and was doing some rearranging of his space when the front door began to be pounded upon. He slipped on some cutoffs. Dennis had forgotten to relock the door earlier, so by the time Dimid got into the front hallway he was greeted by ten cops. Dimid was forced outside onto the front porch. On the street there stood a black woman and a black man surrounded by white cops. She said, "That's him." Immediately Dimid was arrested and handcuffed behind his back. Dennis had heard the pounding and came inside to investigate. He was nude and was arrested immediately. By the time he was allowed to get dressed and taken onto the front porch, the Woman had gone. Dennis was never identified (though the Woman told the cops that there was "an older one" inside), and Dimid was falsely identified.

Friday was spent locating a lawyer who would take our case and making phone calls to everyone we could think of. The rest of the week was spent in our usual manner: going to work; attending community meetings; arranging a concert for Charlie Murphy and Chris Tanner in connection with the New Orleans Gay-Fest celebration June 29-July 1; working on organizing Louisiana, Mississippi and

Arkansas for the Gay March on Washington October 14; trying to keep up with our correspondence; battling Impact, our local gay paper, because the publisher censors our Pink Triangle Alliance (PTA) column; doing childcare for a Meg Christian concert; trying to find time to dance among ourselves. Only that week we added seeing lawyers to our Dance Card of activities.

By Thursday afternoon, May 17, our dance card was full of things to talk about. We circled on the patio about



12:30. By a Goddess-seat stroke of intuition, Aurora had on cutoffs. Dimid, Stacy and Dennis were nude. At exactly 1:15 p.m., a week to the hour, two cops walked into our backyard and arrested us on a municipal charge of Lewd Conduct. Aurora, who was not arrested, was told to go in the house and get us shorts. Dimid, Stacy and Dennis were handcuffed in the usual manner and taken to a police car. Fifteen minutes passed while the cops knocked on neighbors' doors in order to find someone to lodge a complaint. The name of an Hispanic woman who speaks no English was filed as our complainant. Her daughter told Dimid later that her mother had understood nothing of what had been said to her. The cops got the name off the mailbox.

In the squad car on the way to Central Lockup Dimid, Stacy and Dennis were told that "We're gonna keep coming back until they lock you perverts up forever."

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Repeating the pattern of the week before, Dennis was separated from Stacy and Dimid. Our lawyer got a judge to sign us out on recognizance. The order was signed at 4:15 p.m. Dimid and Stacy were released at 4:30. Dennis was not released until 6:00. At the arraignment hearing on Friday, May 18, our lawyer was told by the City Attorney that charges would be dropped if we were not arrested again before the trial date, which was set for August 23. For the next three months la Casa Maricon will be under police surveillance.

There is a strong and growing feeling among ourselves and in the Women's community that we are obvious victims of political harassment. The Pink Triangle Alliance, our political face in New Orleans, is an outfront Sissie presence at Women's rallies and events. Because of this, and because we oppose racism, sexism and ageism of certain gay bars, we are under attack from some of the gaymale community. Impact, for example, has refused to let us use the words "sissie" or "faggot" in our column, and censors our responses to criticism from other gay organizations. PTA is also an outspoken critic of James C. Parsons, the Superintendent of Police. In addition, our house has protested to the District Supervisor about the principal of Colton Jr. High School, who blares his pronouncements over an outside PA system for all the neighborhood to hear. And now we have been forced to deal with the homophobia of the 5th District Police Department.

LASIS wants to try and assure everyone reading this Update that every precaution we can think of has been taken to secure our files. All mailing lists have

been removed from la Casa Maricon. For obvious reasons we cannot go into our security measures in any detail. Dimid and Dennis are in particular danger right now because of the second bust. At any moment the police can go to the District Attorney and ask that he have their bail (\$150 each) revoked, which would mean they would go to Parish Prison for Dimid or the House of Detention (9th tier, the Queer Tank) for Dennis. Or their bail could be increased. This Update is being written from a house somewhere in New Orleans where Dimid and Dennis are staying until we learn what action the D.A. is going to take.

This is not a formal plea for funds. But that may come. Nor is it a warning that we may appear on some of your doorsteps seeking sanctuary. But that may come too. We will try to keep you informed of what's happening. If for any reason, after repeated tries, you cannot make contact with us by letter or phone, our lawyer's name is: James Derbes (off. 1-504-522-8706; home: 1-504-522-3997). The phone number of la Casa Maricon is 1-504-943-2081. Identify yourself clearly and assume that the phone is bugged. Paranoia is a valid and heightened reality.

We need your support and energy. Notify your local gay media. Spread the word in your gay community. Our only hope for survival is letting large numbers of gay people know what's happening. Be strong. Love each other. We are all special.

Louisiana Sissies In Struggle (LASIS) P.O. Box 51012, N.O., LA 70151



Large advertisement for 'Dog Bathing for FLEAS + TICKS AT THE PRECIOUS POCH' with a dog illustration and promotional text.

No Help From Hets

Gays Harassed At Anti-Nuke Washington D.C. Rally

WASHINGTON, DC—Several Gay men and women were harassed and a gay banner ripped down during this city's May 6 demonstration against nuclear energy.

Although many groups of Lesbians and Gay men came from across the U.S. to attend the march, there was no organized Lesbian/Gay contingent. Small groups of Lesbians and Gays were scattered throughout the huge demonstration of 125,000 people.

One group of Gay men from Philadelphia, New York and Washington, D.C., were marching under the banners "Faggots Against Fission" and "Gay Men Against Nuclear Families" when a group of six to eight young men began calling them "faggots." A few minutes later the gang ran up behind the demonstrators and ripped the banner in half.

When the group attacked for the third time after the banner had been repaired the gay men surrounded the youths and pinned down one of the attackers until police arrived. According to Scott Tucker, "The straight men at the scene did nothing to stop all of this from happening; and that was as upsetting as the attack itself. Several women, both Lesbians and straight, did step in and were very helpful and supportive."

A group of a dozen Lesbians also reported harassment, this time from other anti-nuke marchers. "As we sat in the hot sun, trying to listen to speeches, we noticed that people around us were drinking beer and getting louder as the afternoon wore on," said Sue Halcy, a Lesbian from Boston who had helped pull together a women's contingent from that city. When a woman in the crowd saw the group's sign "Clean Energy—Lesbians for Life," she loudly said some derogatory remarks about lesbians. "We were so shocked at her crudity we hardly knew how to respond," reported Haley. Later the woman continued, "This is an anti-nuke rally, why do you have to bring that lesbian stuff into it."

When the gay men who had been attacked approached the speakers platform requesting three minutes to make a statement about what had happened, they were told it was impossible to change the programme. Finally Jane

Fonda, a scheduled speaker, made the announcement, "Something very ugly has happened today that we should internalize: a group of Gay men has been attacked."

"We felt it was very important that we speak for ourselves," said Tucker. "There was no gay presence on the platform although we were there in numbers at the march and rally. I am really angry that we were denied any space."

The announcement made by Fonda, along with the full rally proceedings, was carried nationwide on a number of radio stations. It gave rise to concern by gay activists elsewhere that an incident involving substantial injuries had occurred. When the buses returned the demonstrators to their home cities later that evening, many were met by worried friends.

Although it was felt that most of the anti-nuke protestors welcomed Lesbians and Gay men into the march and rally, "sexism and homophobia rampant in this culture were just under the surface of many of the people at the rally, and much of it was loosened with alcohol," said Haley. "There were enough anti-Lesbian and anti-Gay comments directed at us so that we felt unsafe, almost on hostile territory."

In an open letter to the May 6 coalition which organized the demonstration, Tucker pointed out: "The same power dynamics involved in sexism and homophobia are meshed with the power dynamics which promote nuclear militarism and death-dealing technology."

Gay activists said they would call on future demonstrations to include Lesbians and Gay men in the speakers group as one way of insuring visibility.

Meanwhile, the Corporation Counsel (City Attorney) for the nation's capital has decided not to prosecute a 16-year-old suburban Maryland youth arrested for allegedly attacking gay demonstrators at the May 6 anti-nuclear protest in Washington.

The decision not to prosecute the youth was made on May 7, one day after the alleged attack, apparently without consultation with the complainant or with the gay demonstrators who were attacked. —TBP & GCN

Holly Sings Out Against Nukes



Photo by Adria-Ann McMurray

Lesbian singer and songwriter Holly Near was one of the featured performers at the April 30 rally held in San Luis Obispo to protest the opening of the Diablo Canyon nuclear reactor. Near joined Governor Jerry Brown and others in calling for an end to nuclear madness.

Lesbian Appointed To Committee

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Jill Schropp, an open Lesbian, has been appointed by President Carter to the newly-reorganized National Advisory Committee on Women. Active in Seattle gay politics, Schropp was the campaign manager for Citizens to Retain Employment, the more conservative of the two groups which defeated the move to repeal that city's gay rights law last November.

In response to the White House announcement, the National Gay Task Force said it was a "most positive sign that President Carter has again appointed a member of America's Lesbian community to his Advisory Committee on Women." NGTF went on to note that it was particularly pleased with Schropp's appointment because of "her brilliant

leadership in the planning and execution of the Seattle anti-repeal campaign." NGTF co-director Charles Brydon was also a member of Citizens to Retain Employment.

The Advisory Council has been re-structured since the administration removed Bella Abzug as its head last January after she criticized the impact of President Carter's economic policies on women. Abzug's firing was followed by resignations of other women within the council, including former co-executive director of the NGTF, Jean O'Leary.

O'Leary expressed hopes that, "in its new form the committee will be an important and powerful voice within the administration to reflect the needs of American women." —TBP

'Summer Stepping Stones': SRJC College Re-entry Program

Current trends are making it more and more possible for women to enter non-traditional fields of employment. People in vocational fields are needed. The Santa Rosa Junior College Re-entry Program is responding to this need and will be offering a series of college orientations appropriately entitled "Summer Stepping Stones."

These orientations are designed for women from their mid-twenties onward who, for example, want to return to school; have specific career goals; have no specific goals but wish to explore possibilities; want personal enrichment; are experiencing career changes or transitions in their lives.

"Summer Stepping Stones" will make

available information about admissions, registrations, scheduling, financial aid, vocational training, childcare, tutoring, peer counseling. The "Stepping Stones" will be held from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon, and will be scheduled in the following homes and communities:

- July 26—Thursday Virginia E. Torres 801-B Petaluma Blvd. N. Petaluma, CA 94952 August 9—Thursday Caroling's Studio 18063 Elm (corner Willow) Monte Rio, CA 95462 For further information call 527-4375. The public is invited. There is no fee.

Advertisement for 'Lori's Lori's' organic grocery store with a list of products and contact information.

Advertisement for 'HAIR ARTISTRY BY ART FOR APPOINTMENT' with a woman's portrait and contact number.

# French Gays Harassed

PARIS—The French Communist Party is attempting to avoid an open discussion on homosexuality by resorting to the bogeyman of child prostitution.

Responding to pressure from gay organizations, the party established a commission on sexuality at its Center for Marxist Research in 1977. Thanks to the work of the commission, several positive articles appeared in the Communist Party newspaper *L'Humanite*. Although the paper was not willing to carry news about the French gay movement, it is interested in cases of discrimination against homosexuals. Communists in the Senate and the National Assembly supported a move to repeal two anti-gay articles in the penal code.

In January 1979, however, the right-wing paper *Minute* accused the communist municipality of Saint-Ouen and its employee Jacques Dugue of organizing a child prostitution ring. *L'Humanite* responded to the article January 13. It defended the municipal government, but leveled the same kind of accusations at Dugue in similar homophobic language.

Marcel Croissant, founding member of the sexuality commission, was shocked by the tone of the *L'Humanite* article and wrote a letter of complaint. As a result of his letter Croissant found that his job in

the communist municipality of Ivry was changed. He was soon being denounced publicly as an "advocate of perversion and vice" and ultimately was forced out of the party. The other founding commissioner, Jean-Pierre Januel, resigned from the party shortly afterward.

Croissant feels that the anti-pedophilia rhetoric now being taken up is an attempt to avoid a discussion on homosexuality and sexual morality at the upcoming party congress.

"Now that the party is trying to become 'respectable,' it is becoming more conformist," said Croissant. "It is useful to raise the bogeyman of pedophilia with all its distortions."

"The party's silence on the question of homosexuality has meant that militants are not prepared to reflect on this question," he said. "Today they are presented with a trilogy—homosexuality equals pedophilia equals child prostitution. How can the militant make a distinction? Anybody who was talking about this questions has to shut up. The party leadership is using these scare tactics to make sure that pedophilia and homosexuality remain private problems and not political questions."

—TBP



and they said, go fight City Hall!

## San Francisco

Continued from Page 1

Contributions may be mailed to the Capp Street Foundation (for May 21st Defense Fund), 558 Capp Street, San Francisco, CA 94110. To help with the defense or for more information call the National Lawyer's Guild at (415) 285-5066.

Besides defending those arrested on May 21, there is also a need to stop city government efforts to find "perpetrators" of the riot. Mayor Feinstein has appointed the Police and Fire Commissions to investigate the riot after her "blue ribbon" panel dissolved. The Police Commission in turn is paying the Stanford Research Institute \$25,000 for a two-month study of the riot. The Police Commission is the

body legally set up to monitor police behavior and they should certainly be told about any police brutality on May 21. Countless experiences, however, show that the police cannot and will not investigate or prosecute themselves, and no one should expect them to do an unbiased investigation. More than likely, they will be looking for scape-goats to blame for the riot and if they attack anyone connected with the police, it will be Chief Gain instead of the responsible officers. If anyone believes they must testify to the commission, they should talk to the Lawyer's Guild first and be very careful about what they say in testimony.

Besides the Police Commission investigation, there is also a Grand Jury investigation. The Grand Jury that ended on June 30 subpoenaed 24 witnesses to testify and a new Grand Jury, to be impaneled in July, will undoubtedly subpoena more and may possibly recommend that the DA issue indictments against those people they consider "instigators". Anyone who receives a subpoena should call the National Lawyer's Guild before talking.

The Grand Jury is a witch-hunt to attack progressive leaders. The riot happened as a spontaneous protest against the Dan White decision and against increasing police harassment of Lesbians and Gay men. The Police Commission and the Grand Jury will try to cover up these real causes of the riot and place the blame on Gay community leaders. This is the classic case of the oppressors blaming the oppressed for their own oppression—a tactic used against all minority and oppressed communities. Only a strong defense effort will fight these attacks and uncover the cover-up.

# International Gays Hold Historic Meeting

BERGEN—Sixty-five men and women representing lesbian and gay organizations from seventeen countries met at the first annual conference of the International Gay Association in this northern Dutch city April 13 to 16.

As a result of the conference the IGA, which was founded in Coventry, England in 1978, will seek consultative status with the United Nations as an international body speaking on gay rights.

One of the first questions to be tackled by the meeting was the under-representation of lesbians in the IGA. The principle of "gender parity"—equal representation of lesbians and gay men—was adopted as an ultimate goal. Special outreach to lesbian and women's groups, the formation of a women's caucus and work on proposals to make the IGA programme more relevant to lesbians will take place during 1979. The women's caucus will be co-ordinated by Ginny Vida of the NGTF (USA), Truus van Buren of the COC (Netherlands) and Julia Schärnhorst, of the AG Lesben im KB (West Germany).

Heated debate developed around a motion from Great Britain's Gay Activist Alliance concerning the exploitation of third world gays by gay male tourists. The motion did not pass because a number of organizations felt that not enough information was available on the question.

Different member organizations will contact national liberation movements in the third world to determine the position of lesbians and gays in those countries. A special workshop on the question will take place at an informal gathering in Brighton, England in August, and a

newsletter will be published once the necessary information is gathered.

Several international organizations will be targeted during 1979. The World Health Organization will be tackled on its continuing official categorization of homosexuality as a disease. The Council of Europe will be pressed to recommend the decriminalization of homosexuality in member countries. The International Labor Organization will be contacted about the rights of gay people at work. The IGA will be working with Amnesty International to supply information about gay prisoners and a network will be set up to smooth the passage of gay refugees.

The question of pedophilia also came up for lengthy discussion. The IGA disassociated itself from "reactionary positions which condemn pedophilia out of hand." A full discussion of child sexuality and pedophilia will take place at the next conference and member organizations were encouraged to hold discussions around these issues in their own countries.

Representatives will be sent to Moscow on the opening day of the Olympics in 1980 to protest the oppression of gays in the USSR. Demonstrations will picket Soviet embassies throughout the world at the same time. Spanish laws against-gays will also be singled out for attack.

A letter was drafted which will be sent by member organizations to the Attorney General of Ontario, Roy McMurtry, expressing indignation at the appeal against the acquittal of *The Body Politic*. The demand that *The Body Politic* appeal be dropped will be one of the demands at International Gay Solidarity parades around the world June 28 to 30. The IGA is also supporting *Lampião*, a Brazilian

gay paper under attack from that country's government.

"A week after the first annual conference, we in Amsterdam are still in a glow about what was gotten done and the way it was gotten done," said Rob Pistor of the COC, one of the conference organizers. "There is room for improvement and mountains of work to be done... but the commitment of making gay rights international has been confirmed. We can all be quite excited about this."

—TBP

# Woman Named NGTF Co-Chair

NEW YORK, NY—Lucia Valeska, a Lesbian feminist activist from Albuquerque, New Mexico, has been named by the Board of Directors of the National Gay Task Force (NGTF) as the new Co-Executive Director of the organization. Valeska succeeds to the position left vacant by the outgoing Jean O'Leary who resigned from NGTF for "personal reasons."

A 39-year-old sociologist who is completing a dissertation on the history of Lesbian feminism, Valeska is a co-ordinator of the New Mexico Coalition of Lesbian and Gay Rights Organizations and an instructor in Women's Studies at the University of New Mexico. She is also the mother of three children, ages eleven through sixteen.

Not a *card carrying* member of NGTF, Valeska nevertheless feels that the organization can play a "crucial role in the effort" to bring Lesbians and Gay men together. She told the Gay Community News of Boston that NGTF "still does not yet represent the needs and perspectives of Lesbians as it should. Women comprise only 16% of the total membership. If we're going to be a force in NGTF, there are going to have to be more of us."

In addition, Valeska is concerned with the participation of third world gays and rural gays in the movement and particularly in NGTF. She explained that efforts in these directions must be directed at both the national and local levels.

The new Co-Executive Director was active in both the civil rights and anti-war movements of the 1960s. She is the founder and organizer of the University of New Mexico's Women's Center, Women's Studies Program and Gay student union, as well as the Albuquerque Women's Center and the Albuquerque/Santa Fe Chapter of the National Lesbian Feminist Organization.

Valeska will officially assume her duties on July 9.

—GCN

# Theatre Group Offers Gay Plays Festival

The first ever festival of Gay plays to be presented in San Francisco begins on August 3 when Theatre Rhinoceros commences its Robert Patrick Play Festival. The Festival opens with a production of *The Haunted Host* and continues through November, with *Kenney's Children*, *T-Shirts and My Cup Runneth Over*.

The Robert Patrick Play Festival will be presented at the Goodman Theatre at 1115 Geary Street in San Francisco. Series tickets for the Festival are priced at \$10.00 (or 3 P.A.S. vouchers plus \$2.50). Individual or series tickets and reservations for the Festival can be arranged by calling Theatre Rhinoceros at 626-1921 from noon to 6 p.m.

*The Haunted Host*, which opens on August 3, is being directed by Guy Bishop who directed the highly successful *Richmond Jim* as part of T.R.'s "Malic Rites." Charlie Hufford and Randy Bennet, both acclaimed for their performances in *Richmond Jim*, will be starring in *The Haunted Host*.

# Teacher Files Suit

(Continued from Page 1)

Board took an unofficial position in support of the Briggs initiative. Briggs read about the controversy in a San Francisco newspaper and zeroed in on Healdsburg and Larry Berner, the only Gay teacher Briggs seemed capable of finding. School Board Trustee Lee Lee became a vociferous spokesperson for the Briggs campaign and

subsequently made a television commercial for Proposition 6 and against Larry Berner. Most stations refused to carry the spot, but KNBC of Los Angeles did broadcast the political commercial.

Proposition 6 was defeated statewide by a margin of 58-42 per cent; in Sonoma County by a margin of 63-37 and by a margin of 55-45 in the city of Healdsburg.

McCrary said he will file suit within a week after the defendants are served with legal papers.

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# Court Rules For Gays

SAN FRANCISCO—In a May 31 decision the California Supreme Court has ruled that public utilities cannot discriminate against gay people in employment.

"Effectively, this makes unlawful all employment discrimination whether public or private," said Don Knutson, Executive Director of Gay Rights Advocates, a public interest law center.

The decision was handed down in a suit filed by four persons who had been fired by, or refused employment with, the Pacific Telephone Company because they were gay. California law prohibits employers from interfering in the political activities of their employees. "The Supreme Court, by its ruling, expressed its opinion that a gay person's coming out is a political act and therefore not legal grounds for employment discrimination," said Knutson.

## S. D. Vice Squad Challenged By Gays

SAN DIEGO—In the face of growing numbers of arrests for such victimless crimes as "showing public affection" and "cross dressing," gays in this California city have formed the Gay Alliance for Equal Rights.

In a detailed brief submitted to San Diego's Public Safety and Services Commission, the group challenged the city's police department to justify large expenditures on the enforcement of laws involving victimless crimes. According to the Gay Alliance, police in recent months have not only been selectively enforcing such laws on gays but have resorted to excessive patrolling around gay businesses, conducting groundless interrogations and making unwarranted arrests for public drunkenness.

The group estimates that the Vice Squad's enforcement of such "crimes" costs over four million dollars a year—at a time when violent crimes in the city are escalating. It calls for the redirection of "the expertise of 25 to 30 seasoned veteran vice officers to serve the community in a manner consistent with the public need."

—TBP

## Cop Hides From Gays

SAN FRANCISCO—A burly police sergeant wants separate locker rooms for the departments new homosexual recruits because he doesn't want them "looking at my body."

Writing in the Police Officers Association newspaper, Sgt. Ronald Hansen voiced his objections in an article titled "Out of the Closet—Into the Locker Room."

"I don't know how you feel, but I don't feel I should have to dress or undress at work in a locker room with a homosexual officer standing next to me at his locker, possibly looking at my body. I grant it may not be the best looking one after all these years, but it's mine, and I feel I have the inherent right as to who looks at it as much as the homosexual has to his sexual preference."

Hansen also questioned whether prisoners might not object to being stripped searched by homosexuals.

—United Press



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PROHIBITORY ORDER  
NO. **79-6-0001**

WHEREAS, we were furnished a mailing piece containing advertising matter which you mailed or caused to be mailed to [redacted]

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[redacted] (Address)  
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and

WHEREAS, said addressee has determined your advertisement to be a pandering advertisement offering for sale erotically arousing or sexually provocative matter, and WHEREAS, said addressee has requested the issuance of an order pursuant to the provisions of Title 39, U.S. Code, §4009, a copy of which law is printed on the reverse side hereof, directing you and your agents or assigns, to refrain from making any further mailings to him (and his minor children residing with him who have not attained their nineteenth birthday).

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the cited statute, you, your agents and assigns, are hereby ordered: (1) To refrain from any further mailings to the following parties at the indicated address, or intended for the indicated address by any variation of addressee designation, such as, but not limited to, occupant, householder, resident, boxholder, postal patron, rural route boxholder, and local, effective on the 30th calendar day after receipt of this order:

[redacted]  
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