

U.S. Senator Introduces Gay Bill

WASHINGTON, DC—Sen. Paul Tsongas (D-MA) has sent a "Dear Colleague" letter to all members of the U.S. Senate announcing his intention to introduce legislation to prohibit employment discrimination against Lesbians and Gay men. The purpose of his letter is to seek co-sponsors for the proposed legislation.

Steve Endean, Executive Director of the Gay Rights National Lobby (GRNL), expressed "extreme pleasure" at Tsongas's action. "This marks the first time in history," Endean said, "that a Lesbian/Gay rights bill will be in the United States Senate. Because of the nature of the Senate, where each member

represents an entire state, introduction of a Senate Gay Rights Bill should provide a major assist in making this a truly national issue."

The GRNL has played a key role in securing this action and Endean said it will continue to work closely with Tsongas to secure additional sponsors and supporters. The timing

of the introduction of Tsongas's bill has not yet been determined, but it is hoped that it will be introduced before the conclusion of this legislative year.

Citing the pending introduction of the first Senate Gay Rights Bill in history, Endean suggested that Lesbians and Gay men have "good reason" to attend the Oct. 14 Nation-

al March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights and to participate in the National Constituent Lobbying Day on Oct. 15.

"Until Senators and Congresspeople know that they have Gay constituents who are affected by this legislation, their support will be limited," Endean said. "The Constituent Lobbying Day, the day after the march, is an excellent opportunity to meet directly with their Senators and Congresspeople to explain their views."

For those persons who cannot attend the march or the subsequent lobbying day, GRNL has urged direct contact, by mail, with Senators at the Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510. Those unsure of who their Senators are may contact GRNL at 1606 17th St., N.W., Washington, DC 20009, or by phone at (202) 462-4255.

NEWS Collective Needs Workers

Once again, the *NEWS* goes through changes. Donna Canali and Adria-Ann McMurray have left the collective and are, as this issue goes to print, on their way to South America via the March On Washington.

For those of us who remain, three men and one woman, we will miss their energy, concern and conviction and hope they will find their way back to the newspaper when they return.

And so, once again the *NEWS* collective finds itself shorthanded but filled with ambition around our goals of country Gay people putting out a newspaper about Gay people everywhere.

Because our number is so few and the tasks so many, we must once again ask our readers to volunteer some time each month to get the paper out.

Specific tasks include: proofreading galley (during weekday afternoons), distribution (especially the River Area, Petaluma and the Napa-Vallejo areas), mailing to our subscribers (folding, stapling and mailing), production (pasting up galley on newspaper size dummy pages, headline writing, etc.), and photography. We need a photographer with his/her own dark room and a few hours a month to handle local events/subjects.

The *NEWS* is an evergrowing newspaper but needs the energy and support of volunteers to carry on.

If you are at all interested, call Melvin at 544-4109, between 5:30 and 10 PM.



Volume 2 Number 9

October 1979

Live Coverage Of March

Live media coverage of the March on Washington will be available on Sunday, October 14.

A complete day of live broadcasting will be the feature of KPFA (94.1 FM) a listener supported radio station in Berkeley. "Lesbian and Gay Day" is being presented as a Marathon Special in solidarity with the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. Programming will begin at 11 AM with two hours of live coverage from the March and Rally in Washington. This will be followed by hourly reports from Lesbian and Gay repor-

ters in Washington and presentations from the Third World Lesbian and Gay Conference. In addition there will be special features celebrating the diversity, creativity and struggles of Lesbians and Gay men in society. The KPFA broadcast will be produced by *Fruit Punch, Lesbian Perspectives, Ravens Head Communications* and other Lesbian and Gay programmers.

The Public Broadcasting System (PBS-TV) also had plans to telecast three hours of live coverage of the March and Rally beginning at 11 AM. However, as we go to press,

KQED-TV in San Francisco, Channel 9, informed as that this broadcast might not happen due to lack of funds. Check your local listings.

On the eve of the March, ABC-TV will broadcast a documentary reflecting the lives of Lesbians and Gay men in New York City, San Francisco, Los Angeles as well as Chico (Butte County) and Louisiana.

The program, produced and directed by award-winning film-maker Helen Whitney will be shown Thursday, October 11 at 10 PM over most ABC stations. (Channel 7 in San Francisco.)

D.C. Lobbying Efforts Planned

by Sandy Lowe

Members of the Sonoma County March on Washington Committee have concluded plans for local participation in the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights to be held on October 14, 1979.

The local committee has coordinated lobbying efforts both for people who are planning to be in Washington for the March and for Sonoma County residents who plan to remain at home.

(The March and Rally will take place on Sunday, October 14, and will be broadcast live over KPFA 94.1 FM and might be telecast on KQED, Channel 9.)

On Monday, October 15, a delegation of Sonoma County residents plan to meet with Representative Clausen at his Washington, D.C., offices. At the same time, a local group of concerned citizens plans to meet with Clausen's aide at his Santa Rosa district office. Petitions in support of protective legislation for Gay people will be presented at both meetings.

The local committee supports the National Third World Lesbian and

Gay Conference to be held in Washington at the same time as the March. Tens of thousands of people are expected to converge on Washington for the March, including a large group from Sonoma County and the rest of the 2nd Congressional District.

The purpose of the March is to demonstrate in behalf of 1) the repeal of all anti-Lesbian and anti-Gay laws; 2) the passage of a comprehensive Lesbian/Gay Rights Bill (H.R. 2074) now pending in Congress; 3) a Presidential Executive order banning discrimination based on sexual orientation or affectional preference in the federal government, the military, in housing and in all federally contracted employment; 4) non-discrimination in all Gay parent-child custody cases; and 5) protection of all Lesbian and Gay youth from laws which discriminate against them.

The local committee intends to continue the process of educating local politicians and citizens as to the need for legislation guaranteeing equal protection against discrimination in housing, employment and parenting. The committee has begun

correspondence with other announced candidates for the next congressional election to keep them informed on issues of concern to Gay people and to enlist their support.

Representatives of the Committee will solicit an endorsement for the March from the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, October 9. The local committee will also provide speakers to other interested citizens' groups.

Upon their return to Sonoma County, committee representatives will report on activities undertaken at the national level to insure passage of protective Lesbian/Gay Rights legislation.

People who plan to be in Washington and who wish to connect with the Sonoma County Delegation can reach Dann Noonan at the Harrington Hotel; telephone (202) 628-8140.

People who are planning to remain in Sonoma County and who wish to assist in the lobbying effort at the Santa Rosa offices of Rep. Clausen can call Lamb at 545-1217, Georgia at 527-7657 or Doug at 542-5626.

For further information regarding the work of the committee write: c/o Lesbian and Gay Alliance, P.O. Box 58, Santa Rosa, CA 95402.



FORUM

Restaurant Dish

SCLGA NEWS:

The NEWS and columnist Straight LeDyke have done a disservice to the community and to some local business people.

The September issue stated that the owners don't wish their Third Street Station to be known as a Gay restaurant (which is OK!) but then suggested that we don't eat there.

This is entirely unresponsive of our community. When we Gays operate a business we are not obligated to label it a "Gay establishment." I am Gay and operate a business, but I know that I need to attract customers from the community at large, not just a segment of it, so I don't have a "Gay business."

The owners and operators of the Third Street Station are in a similar situation. They welcome our business but they need more business than we can provide.

It's my suggestion that any of us who would like to add to life's joys should visit The Station, especially for Sunday's champagne brunch.

Doug Fiero
Santa Rosa

NEWS Reader

Dear NEWS Staff

I was delighted to find the SCLGA NEWS as I hadn't known such a paper was available in our area. Enclosed find a five dollar donation check to have the NEWS sent to my home.

This type of publication is necessary to bring up information pertaining to political and social events.

It is my hope that the NEWS staff will always be able to distinguish facts from sensationalism. This is a Gay paper and therefore should report on discrimination and abuse of our Gay sisters and brothers. The simple, unbiased truth will clearly point out any and every way that we have been wronged, without the use of an emotional ploy.

I am looking forward to future issues and plan to contribute to the NEWS when finances allow.

Thank you very much for your perseverance in bringing the NEWS to print each month.

Sincerely,
Cheryl
Santa Rosa

Marxist Spirituality Group Seeks Manuscripts

Dear Editor:

The Bay Area Marxist Spirituality Collective is feminist women and men who believe spiritual/psychic energy is material. We seek ways to extend the application of dialectics to these energies so as to further our revolutionary work.

We commit ourselves to this work as it is necessary in the struggle against personal alienation, the idealism of the growth movement, and the reactionary nature of organized religions.

At present, we are soliciting manuscripts (analysis, criticism, personal experience, prose, poetry, graphics) for consideration in a forthcoming book. The subject matter should address spirituality, healing, ESP, revolutionary politics and their relationship.

We appreciate your cooperation and support of our work. Please address all replies to:
Taj Tellalian
P.O. Box 42402
San Francisco
California 94101

In struggle
The Bay Area Marxist
Spirituality Collective

Open Letter To The People Of Sonoma County

The May 21 Defense Fund needs the support of the Lesbian and Gay community of Sonoma County. The Defense Fund has been organized to defend the rights of the thirty people arrested during the uprising that followed the travesty of justice which was Dan White's non-verdict. There are stiff felony charges facing these sisters and brothers and the final irony is that their sentences may be greater than the murderer-assassin, Dan White's.

This must not be permitted. A militant defense of the accused is possible. Let's put the system on trial. We can sustain a legal offensive and expose the courts and police for the sexist, as well as racist, homophobic that they are.

Your time, energy and money are urgently needed. Although lawyers from the National Lawyers Guild are working on the case and donating their time, the court costs are mounting. Sonoma County is the nation's leading rural Lesbian and Gay community. We have an important opportunity to lend a hand to our sisters and brothers who live in our largest ghetto and are currently under attack by the consistently right wing political turn in San Francisco.

Help us fight back! Your contributions can be sent directly to:
MAY 21st DEFENSE FUND
558 CAPP STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94110
If you are interested in forming a Sonoma County May 21st Support Group, write Ken Tray
P.O. Box 4891,
Santa Rosa, CA

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 three men and one woman and is Sandy Lowe, Melvin Muller, Hanna Banahn, and Bob Russell.
Typesetting: Von Wall

Contributors this issue: Dale Baldridge, Straight LeDyke and Louisiana Sissies In Struggle.

Mailing Address: The Northern California Gay Media Project, Inc., PO Box 4801, Santa Rosa, CA 95402. Contributions of articles are welcomed. To assure return of articles enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.

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Thanks
Betsy McKelvey

Ruling May Effect State Sex Entrapment Cases

LOS ANGELES, CA—The California Supreme Court has issued a ruling of national importance in a sexual solicitation case. The case centered around the constitutionality of the criminal statute which prohibits soliciting or engaging in "lewd or dissolute" conduct.

The Court reviewed and analyzed over 70 years of statutory interpretation and, responding to the question of what conduct past appellate decisions have made illegal, the Court said, "The answer of the prior cases—such acts as are lustful, lascivious, unchaste, wanton, or loose in morals and conduct—is no answer at all." The Court then totally overruled all of those cases, concluding that the statute "as construed by prior California decisions does not meet constitutional standards of specificity."

The case, *Don Barry Pryor v. Los Angeles Municipal Court*, involved a San Francisco resident who, on a visit to Los Angeles, solicited another person for a sexual act which Pryor claimed was to be performed in private. The solicited person turned out to be a plainclothes police officer, and Pryor was arrested.

In a surprise move, rather than striking the statute down in its entirety and deferring to the legislature to redefine the crime, the Court adopted the approach suggested by the Los Angeles City Attorney's office and reconstructed the statute itself to meet constitutional tests, creating a totally new and unique interpretation and definition.

Agreeing with the "Friend of the Court" brief submitted by the National Committee for Sexual Civil Liberties, the Court held that "a constitutionally specific definition must be limited to conduct of a type likely to offend . . . even if conduct occurs in a location that is technically a public place . . . the state has little interest in prohibiting that conduct if

there are no persons present who may be offended."

Thomas F. Coleman, Hollywood-based attorney for Pryor, remarked, "To our knowledge, this is the first time an appellate court in the United States has apparently held that a sex statute which does not include the requirement of an offended viewer, may be unconstitutional."

The Court achieved another first in California by holding that public solicitations for lawful sex to be performed in private cannot constitutionally be made criminal by the state.

According to Dr. Arthur C. Warner of Princeton, NJ, co-chair of the National Committee for Sexual Civil Liberties, "The decision could spell an end to the snooping and spying by plainclothes police on what amounts to adult sexual or affectionate behavior. It affects the case in which a couple is caught engaging in intimate contact in a car in lovers' lane when the only person who observes the conduct is a police officer with a flashlight. It also could affect the type of sexual harassment exercised by police for years as a method of building for their departments good arrest statistics, to the detriment of real crime fighting in cases of robbery, rape, assault, and other cases important to public safety and welfare."

According to Coleman, "The decision of the California Supreme Court has given stern notice to prosecutors and police that they must put an end to systematic arrests of people who are doing nothing more than engaging in some form of harmless sexual conduct. It also constitutes a warning to lower courts in California that constitutional protections cannot be denied homosexuals, nor their rights disrespected."

Finally, in an exceptionally unusual move, the Court gave retroac-

tive effect to its new definitions. This means that tens of thousands of men previously prosecuted under the statute may be entitled to an overturning of their convictions for solicitation or lewd conduct, thereby eliminating the requirement to register as sex offender for the rest of their lives.

The opinion of the Court, fifteen months in preparation and some thirty pages in length was authored by Justice Mathew O. Tobriner, senior member of the Court. Chief Justice Bird and Associate Justices Mosk and Newman concurred in the opinion. The only dissent came from Associate Justice Clark.

The Second State wide California Men's Conference was hosted by the Sonoma County Men's Support Network at a weekend retreat in Occidental the weekend of September 28-30. More than 175 men from all parts of the state attended.

A post-Men's Gathering meeting open to the public to share the experiences of the Gathering with others in the community will be held at 7:30 PM at the Santa Rosa Community Recreation Center, 415 Steele Lane, on Monday, October 15. All are welcome.

Letter Writing Campaign Urged For Gay Legislation

The Sonoma County March on Washington is urging all people who support federal legislation to protect the rights of Lesbians and Gay men to write immediately to their congressional representatives.

The enemies of Gay rights are well organized and can usually turn out an impressive letter writing campaign to Congress," said Jean Sharpe, a member of the committee. "If we care about our rights, we will have to do the same," she said.

The committee suggests a simple form letter and urges people to write it as a post card or hand-written note. A suggested letter reads:

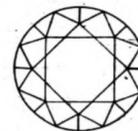
Dear (Rep. Clausen, Sen. Cranston, Sen. Hayakawa):
I support the March on Washington, D. C., for Lesbian and Gay Rights October 14, 1979. I support

the call for an end to all social, economic, legal and judicial oppression of Lesbians and Gay men. Please support H.R. 2074. Sincerely Mailing and addresses for Congressional Representatives are:

Re. Don H. Clausen
2336 Rayburn Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
or
Federal Building
777 Sonoma Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Senator Alan Cranston
229 Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Sam Hayakawa
6217 Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510



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Ex-employee Calls For Sebastiani Boycott

by Melvin Muller

A Lesbian mother of two has called for a boycott of Sebastiani wines following her resignation from her position due to harassment and shunning on the job.

Beverly De Friese, 31, lives with her two children—a daughter, 6, and a son, 8—and her lover Ann in a comfortable apartment in a working class west Santa Rosa neighborhood.

Early this year, she quit a \$1200 a month job as a staff clerk with Pacific Telephone to get a job closer to her family. In April of this year she was hired as a \$750 a month secretary at Sebastiani Wines, where she worked for assistant marketing director Steve Youngdahl.

In a letter to THE NEWS late last month, DeFriese asked for help in boycotting the winery because of the continual harassment and shunning she received in her workplace after word had gotten around that she was a Lesbian.

Two weeks after she started her position, DeFriese was called into Youngdahl's office. DeFriese claims that all conversations she had with Youngdahl concerning her lifestyle occurred out of the earshot of other employees in the office.

"Do you realize people know you are Gay?" DeFriese quotes Youngdahl as saying. She says Youngdahl warned her not to continue "making it" and "mauling" her "girlfriend" in front of the office. He warned her, says DeFriese, to go "two or three blocks away to do that if you can't

practice any self control."

DeFriese insists the kissing was not passionate, simply a good-bye kiss.

After this, DeFriese says that people in her office became noticeably cool towards her, speaking to her only when it was absolutely necessary or ignoring her completely.

In her letter to the NEWS she notes: "It didn't bother me to be called a Dyke, but it hurt when someone yelled "pervert" at me.

"It bothered me when my boss felt I had something against men because I told him that if I did not agree with him about something, I would tell him."

She was ordered to stop 'mauling' and 'making it' with her girlfriend

The breaking point came after the night of June 11. DeFriese had spent the night at community hospital her lover received treatment for a broken arm. After returning home at 5 AM, she decided she would not go in to work that day. According to DeFriese, she called Youngdahl, explaining how she had been up all night with her lover at the hospital and felt that she should stay home from work. She quotes Youngdahl as saying, after he heard why she wasn't coming in, "That's fucked."

DeFriese says she pointed out to Youngdahl that he is living with a woman to whom he is not married and "wouldn't you do the same thing for her?"

DeFriese says Youngdahl claimed that "that was beside the point."

She continued firmly, however, that she could not possibly come in to work that day and would be in the following morning.

According to DeFriese, on the following, June 13th, Youngdahl called her into his office and warned her to be more discreet. He claimed that "Sonoma was a small town" and that people would not accept her lifestyle.

DeFriese stated in an interview that Youngdahl had apparently spoken to Sam Sebastiani (whom she describes as "a very nice guy"), the son of winery owner August Sebas-

There is now no Federal or county law banning discrimination based on sexual preference.

House Resolution 2074, the Waxman-Weiss bill now before Congress, seeks to extend the Civil Rights Acts of 1964 and 1968 to cover "sexual orientation and affectional preference."

Meanwhile, DeFriese's unemployment has been denied because she claimed harassment on the job as her reason for quitting and Youngdahl denies any harassment or that any of the conversations DeFriese claims took place, actually did.

In a telephone interview Youngdahl, his voice crackling nervously, registered "surprise that she is publicizing it."

Youngdahl admitted he was nervous to comment when he felt that he was under personal attack, but neither confirmed nor denied that he had warned DeFriese "to quit making it" with her "girlfriend."

After hearing that a boycott had been called on Sebastiani Wines he assured a reporter that Sebastiani

has no policy against the hiring of Gay people.

"It sounds like there is a legal question being brought up. I would like the comment from this side to be simply no comment."

Her unemployment was denied

tiani, about her but both were afraid to talk to her because "they were afraid of a lawsuit."

DeFriese discounts the "small town" argument, pointing out that she and her lover often had their lunches on the lawn of the town's plaza, and held hands as passersby stopped to chat or say hello.

DeFriese met with Santa Rosa lawyer Trish Nugent who advised her of a recent court case won against Pacific Telephone (ironically DeFriese's previous employer) but noted that it was a new case that had to be interpreted by the courts. Nugent noted that unless DeFriese was willing to sue (DeFriese does not want her job jack) there was little she could do.

Nugent noted to a reporter that

'Sick' Gay Swedes Stage Large Sickout

STOCKHOLM—A large group of Gay men and women here recently phoned in sick to their employers, reporting that they felt ill with homosexuality." The protest moved the Swedish State Health Board to reverse its long-standing classification of homosexuality as an illness. Furthermore, the Board agreed to destroy all records of individuals classified as afflicted with this "disease."

The successful protest was organized during the fourth annual Inter-

national Gay Liberation Week held in Stockholm the week of August 31. As a highlight of the week, 1,500 Lesbians and Gay men paraded through downtown Stockholm. Concerts, films and a debate with representatives of all five of the country's main political parties were organized by the Riksförbundet for Sexuellt Likaberallegande (RFSL). The RFSL, Sweden's leading Gay organization, is recognized as a non-profit organization by the city of Stockholm. Body Politic

Anti-Gay TV Attacks Bleeped In New York City

NEW YORK—A New York coalition which includes members of the Gay Activists Alliance, Gay Atheists, and gay churches has succeeded in silencing the rabid anti-gay attacks of fundamentalist preacher James Robinson.

The management of WOR-TV informed the James Robinson Crusade Production Co. that all future attacks on gays would be "bleeped" out of the regularly scheduled program, and threatened to take it off the air if the attacks continued.

The program was off the airwaves for five months in Texas after com-

plaints by the Dallas Gay Political Caucus. It has since been rescheduled, but only after Robinson agreed to allow the station to preview each program.

The sermons are carried on 93 stations coast to coast. In one sermon the preacher quoted articles from the National Enquirer describing how gays prowl the streets of Los Angeles looking for young boys. He told his audience that the case of John Gacy (charged in Chicago with the murder of teenage boys) was "commonplace and it's going to get worse." Body Politic

No Artificial Insemination For British Lesbians

LIVERPOOL—A motion to declare Artificial Insemination by Donor (AID) for Lesbians was narrowly defeated at the annual British Medical Association meeting. Had the motion passed, any doctor allowing AID for a Lesbian could have been expelled from the profession.

Dr. Derek Fletcher, who sponsored the motion, asked "What is going to happen to the gender identity of the child, especially if it is a male and does not have a father figure?" He said homosexual relationships provided a home situation which was "entirely unnatural." Dr. Alexander

McCara, speaking in support of the motion, said that studies of babies born to Lesbians in the US have been "disturbing."

However, Dr. John Happle told the Association that homosexual love could be more intense than "ordinary love," and pleaded that doctors be fair to all patients. The chairman of the BMA's ethical committee persuaded the association to reject the motion since its defeat would not imply actual approval of AID to Lesbians.

The motion was narrowly defeated, 162 votes to 148. Body Politic

Gay Alcoholic Professionals Form

OAKLAND, NJ—A new group of alcoholic professionals, the National Association of Gay Alcoholism Professionals (NAGAP) has formed, hoping to become a strong and positive force in the field of alcoholism.

NAGAP is comprised of people nationwide who are dedicated to improving the conditions of Gay professionals working in the alcoholism field; Gay alcoholic clients who are in treatment; Gay alcoholics who are afraid to enter treatment "because of the dual issue of homosexuality and alcoholism"; and straight alcoholism professionals and agencies who want help in order to better serve their Gay alcoholic clients.

To find out more, write NAGAP, P.O. Box 376, Oakland, NJ 07436.

GCN

Lesbians Refused U.S. Entry At Canadian Border

by Jill Clark
"Are you going to the Michigan Women's Music Festival?"
"No, I'm just going camping..."
"Well, you go back to Canada to get cured and then come back to the U.S. for a vacation."

This went an interaction between a Michigan border guard and one of the hundreds of Lesbians who attempted to cross over from Ontario to Michigan a few weeks ago. Between August 19 and 25, scores of cars and vans headed for the 4th annual Michigan Women's Music Festival were pulled over at Port Huron, Michigan, and other entry points. The women who were not U.S. citizens were summoned inside the immigration station one by one for interrogation and were refused entry into the U.S.

According to Ginny Vida, Media Director of the National Gay Task Force (NGTF), the following were among the questions that the guards directed at the women:

"When was the last time you slept with a man? ... Have you slept with a woman? ... Did you enjoy it? ... What do you enjoy more—sleeping with men or with women? ... How do you feel about homosexuality? ... Who is the male and who is the female in your relationship? ... Why are you travelling with women? ... Do you carry a purse? ... Are you going to the Michigan Women's Music Festival? ... Did you know that the Festival is for Lesbians? ..."

Are you a Lesbian? ... You have denied that you are a lesbian, but another woman in your car has told us that all of you travelling together are lesbians ... How do you feel about that? ..."

NGTF Co-Executive Directors Lucia Valeska and Charles F. Brydon and a Vice President of the National Organization for Women (NOW), Arlie Scott, have sent a letter to U.S. Attorney General Benjamin J. Civiletti protesting the harassment of the Canadian women en route to the Festival. The letter is also protesting the guards' preventing suspected Gay persons from entering the U.S. on the grounds that, according to Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) rules temporarily in force, this is illegal. GCN

Runners-Joggers-

Lesbians and Gay men who would like to run together for fun and health meet at Spring Lake Park. (Parking lot by swimming lagoon at end of Bader Rd.) at 11 AM, Sunday, October 21. For more info call Larry 433-5693, or Greg 528-4893. Bring Picnic lunch.

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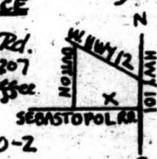
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STOP RAPE...STOP RAPE...STOP RAPE...STOP RAPE...STOP RAPE...S

(Staff Note: Louisiana Sissies in Struggle first came to our attention when we reprinted an article appearing in RFD: A Country Journal for Gay Men Everywhere, illuminating the group's problems with police harassment in New Orleans, LA.

After sending off a copy of the reprint we received a packet of information which included a pamphlet called **NO MORE SHIT: (GAY) MEN AND RAPE**, from which the following is reprinted.

The booklet is available through LASIS, PO Box 51012, New Orleans, LA 70151. The group will send free copies upon request but asks for donations to cover the cost of printing and postage. Each pamphlet costs 25 cents a piece to produce.)

Louisiana Sissies in Struggle (LASIS) was motivated to write this booklet when the reality of rape came crashing into our lives, first by a letter from a woman friend who had recently been raped and then by an incident on the streets of New Orleans during Mardi Gras. We have come to realize that men's continued silence on the subject of rape is part of the problem of stopping rape. We have also come to feel how closely male sexuality as we experience it is bound up with rape.

While preparing the booklet we realized that rape and the politics of rape was something we, as men, have just begun to talk about, and something we, as men, must continue talking about. This beginning analysis took shape in the midst of our lives as workers and lovers. It is the best we could do at this time. We expect and encourage criticism and further dialogue between us as men, and between men and women.

We believe that unless major global changes are made, beginning with each man, rape in all its forms—physical, emotional, verbal, economic, military—will destroy life. WE MUST STOP RAPE. LOUISIANA AREA SISSIES IN STRUGGLE.

MELISSA'S LETTER

Thank god I feel better today. Maybe it's because I got some money instead of being literally penniless. Maybe it's because I got to hang out with nice fun people the past couple of days. I haven't had much fun alone lately. A temporary problem, I'm sure. My biggest concern is my trouble writing. The past two years, I've been writing like a fiend, stories, poems, etc. The past two months—not a drive. This letter is the first thing...

On Dec. 5, I was raped. There, I said it. My house on New York St. It

was a Monday night. I fell asleep on the couch in my living-room, watching TV—about ten o'clock. I forgot to lock the door. About 2:30 A.M. I woke up screaming. He was very strong. He had turned off all my lights, turned off the TV. I was screaming and he slapped his hand

**"On December 5,
I was raped."**

across my mouth and held it there the whole time he was there. He told me to shut up or he'd kill me. He had a knife. It happened really fast. I was thankful for that. I wasn't hurt physically (a couple cuts and bruises from the struggle). It was gross. I was so groggy from being in a deep sleep, I was trying to get him to take his hand off my mouth so I could tell him I was on my period. (A lot of good that would have done.)...

So I worked with the detectives and the police for three weeks as the guy went on to rape four more women and attempt eight more. Finally, after my bugging them for weeks to bring in a hypnotist, they did. I remembered the rapist's face under hypnosis. I was the only victim who had gotten a look at him (also the first victim) and I knew my sleepy state at the time of the rape had kept me from remembering. The hypnosis brought it all back—every detail...

The women's community was scared and organizing self-defense and discussion meetings. The disorganized men's community pulled to-

**"Women's bodies have always been
part of the booty
for victorious soldiers."**

gether and held meetings also. The night of my hypnosis there was a women's meeting at the cafe. We organized ride systems, made sure no woman would be alone over the holidays. That night the rapist tried five different houses. Two had men in bed with the women. One man chased the rapist quite a ways. He went into one home and attacked a woman in her forties. She bit his hand. Her dog bit his leg. He left. Her son was in the next room watching TV! Her husband was upstairs sleeping!...

The rapist was caught the next day, the Friday before Christmas. It was the best X-mas present. He con-

fessed everything. He's been charged with four counts of rape, eight attempted rapes, two or three assaults, and three or four entries with intent to rape. His confession could be thrown out of court. They have other evidence.

The police and detectives and lawyers have been exceptional, sensitive—got it all out, got through X-mas. Had a fine time first two weeks of January. The last two weeks have been hellacious. I want the hearing to be over with. I don't want to see that rapist or think of him ever again. I could kill him with my bare hands. I could shoot him in the face and not think twice! My temper was gotten exceedingly violent since the R. Physically violent! The only way I can relieve it is to kill the rapist. But that's impossible. I can just help send him away. Oh well...

Thanks for reading this therapeutic write-out.

Love you—
Melissa

Rape is a crime of violence, not an act of passion or sex. Rape is the forceful violent attack by a man on an object of "otherness," whether that object/person be an 80-year-old woman, an 8-day-old child, a queer man, or a strong dyke. It is viewed as sexual only by those who imagine that rape could be enjoyable.

In addressing the issue of rape, Gay men must examine the nature of male sexuality—our sexuality. No male, queer or straight, escapes the pressures to perform sexually and play the "masculine/feminine" roles put on us by our society. What is the nature of male sexuality beyond cultural pressures? Is it inherently violent and dominance prone? Is aggressive male sexuality characteristic

women of Dacca and My Lai during the wars for independence in Bangla Desh and Viet Nam. Women's bodies have always been part of the booty for victorious soldiers.

The myth that no woman can be raped against her will is exemplified in such jokes as "Women can run faster with their skirts than men can with their pants down." Statements like these are meant to discourage women from doing battle against an aggressor. This myth fosters the idea that there is no such thing as force

himself you should too. This is a classic example of how men define women's sexuality.

Feminist writers have illustrated over and over again how our cultural mythology—fairy tales, fiction, drama, movies, advertising, television—perpetuate the image of Woman as Victim. Red Riding Hood is punished for going alone into the woods and has to be saved from her folly by a "strong" man. Sleeping Beauty and Snow White are (literally) brought to life by "fearless" men. Even Dorothy

ize this myth. Utah is anti-ERA, anti-abortion, and homophobic.) As men we know for a fact that maintaining an erection is as much psychological as physical. Women cannot penetrate men's bodies with their sexual organs. If the level of physical violence and terror were the same for the male "victim" as it most certainly is for women, then maintaining an erection during a sexually oriented attack (rape) would be impossible.

On a physical level, sexual intercourse between a man and a woman

first instance of rape as a capital offense is found in the slave codes prior to the Civil War. A slave accused of raping a white woman was given a mandatory death sentence. There was no penalty for a white man raping a slave woman—a common and legal practice.

A further myth that must be questioned is that of "homosexual" rape. We encounter this myth most often in written accounts of prisons, the military, boys' schools, etc. Even if we use the medical definition of the

forcefully, by a strong male-identified man—Is this rape? Is there here the fear of violence, pregnancy, mistreatment by police and hospital officials? Or is it a consensual dominance-submission fantasy?

Conscious voluntary submission is not rape. To call it so is to trivialize the importance of rape to women and prevents us from allying with them. Rape is a crime of violence, not a sexual act. Gay men, especially effeminate men, face similar violence on the streets. The differences between queerbashing and rape is the absence of the possibility of pregnancy, abortion, or forced motherhood with a lifetime reminder of a violent act. Let's call our "rape" fantasies "dominance-submission" fantasies. And let's call queerbashing queerbashing and rape rape. The issues get confused and clouded by using the same word for different experiences. At the end of a Gay male "rape" fantasy there are only memories, no scars. This is not what rape is about.

Gay men are in a unique position to explore the culturally conditioned patterns of dominance and submission that seem to be inherent in the nature of male sexuality. Why is the man getting fucked usually on bottom? How can anal sexuality be a mutually supportive act, with the man being entered empowered to stop or to continue? How about fucking with dildoes instead of penises? Why fucking? How about mutual masturbation, rubbing, or sucking? Why cum? Why must our sexuality be tied to the heterosexual myth of The Big Orgasm? Why must we repeat the oppressive patterns of heterosexuality? How much shit have we learned, internalized, and unconsciously act out in our male-male relations? Gay men can lead the way in exorcising the violence that appears to be at the center of male sexuality.

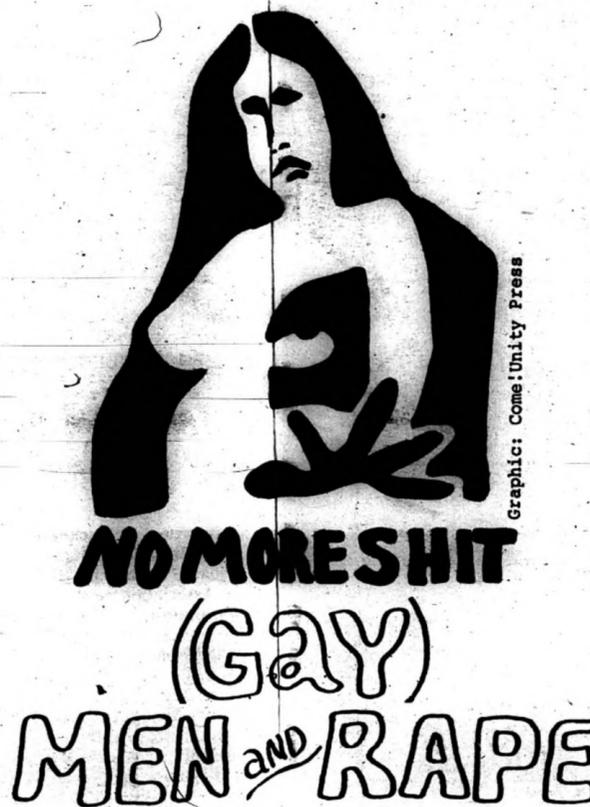
Stopping rape is an issue that is vital to Gay Liberation. Gay men, no matter how masculine our appearance, are seen as "other" by the dominant heterosexual culture. As long as straight (white) men continue to dominate the world, just so long will continue the rape of women, the queerbashing of Gay-identified men, and the destruction of our Mother the Earth. We must unite to stop rape.

**"Heterosexuality is not consensual,
but coercive. In this culture
men are conditioned to choose
and women to oblige."**

is nonreciprocal, since "pleasure" for the woman and "pleasure" for the man are profoundly different. The energy exchanged for achieving pleasure differs. Men achieve orgasm within a matter of minutes, sometimes seconds, and have a tendency to lose consciousness afterward. Women achieve orgasm thru clitoral stimulation, not vaginal penetration, and are capable of multiple orgasms. It is our view that heterosexuality is not consensual, but coercive. In this culture men are conditioned to choose and women to oblige.

It is our contention that all men desire to be penetrated. As males we know that it is pleasurable for the prostate gland to be massaged, and we know that this produces an "orgasm" that is not necessarily ejaculatory or genitally focused. The only way for men to massage the prostate is thru anal penetration by either a phallus or another man's erect cock. It is our theory that men want to be fucked. In a woman/"other" hating society this desire is projected onto all "others." Rape, then, is the forcing of male sexuality onto all "other"-defined beings.

The writers of these "Thoughts" are all white males living in the South. It is urgent, therefore, that we address the racism in the mythology of a rape. In the past forty years, 455 men have been executed for rape in this country. 408 of these men were black (90%). And yet 75% of all reported rapes are committed by white men. In the majority of all rapes, white men rape white women and black men rape black women. Rape laws were never intended to protect women, but instead to determine the damage done to a man's property. The oldest definition of the word rape (c. 1400) is the taking of property by force. In America, the



ble rape, that it is the will of the woman to be "ravished." Even though rape is the least reported crime, statistics show that over one-half of rape victims are threatened with a weapon and one-fourth are physically harmed or brutally beaten. The primary reaction of women to rape is fear for their lives.

The mythology of rape even claims to have a sense of humor. The light-hearted suggestion that "If you're going to be raped, you might as well relax and enjoy it" implies that a violent physical encounter not of your choosing can be fun if you play along and suspend all feelings. The myth here is based on the assumption that the man is doing what comes naturally and that because he's enjoying

in the Wizard of Oz is forced to admit that she never should have gone outside her backyard in search of the rainbow. Any woman who steps out of her role expectations is "asking for it." "It" being rape.

Rape is more than physical assault and sexual terrorism. Rape is a violent energy that does not always play itself out in physical attacks. Rape is treating another person as an object, loudly and publicly commenting on their body, invading their personal space. Rape is verbal, emotional, psychic, and physical.

The concept of a man being "raped" by a woman is another myth that must be examined. (A precedent was recently established in Utah which amended its rape laws to legal-

STOP RAPE...STOP RAPE...STOP RAPE...STOP RAPE...STOP RAPE...S

This article was prepared from the following sources:
Susan Brownmiller: *Against Our Will: Men, Women, and Rape*
Phyllis Chesler: *About Men*
Mary Daly: *Gyn/Ecology: The Metaethics of Radical Feminism*
Andrea Dworkin: *Woman Hating*
Calvin Herndon: *Sex and Racism in America*
Kate Millet: *Sexual Politics*
Frankie Fire Organizing Committee: *"Rape and Racism"*
Evelyn Reed: *Woman's Evolution*
Adrienne Rich: *Of Woman Born*



Straight LeDyke

PROM NOTES: My heart (and other parts) are just beginning to calm themselves from all the excitement of seeing my usually Levi clad sisters and brothers in those rented, borrowed, and store bought outfits—and I do mean outfits! My favorite was May William's handmade lavender cumberbund. Thanks to the many women and men who worked on the prom. Special mention needs to be given to Kit Carson for the hours she spent in assembling the bubble machine which we had to scratch to make room for the band. Another special thank you to the Red Clover's warehouse for the use of their truck to transport that humongous fountain from Wishing Well Nursery in Freestone.

AND NOW, about the band. Jerene Jackson deserves no wrath. What happened was . . . Jackson was called to see if her 17 piece "Big Band" was available to play. No, they were just getting back together and would not be ready to play by prom time. However, she was playing with another group called SHE and would we be interested in having them? Of course. A week later Jackson called back and confirmed the price, length of sets, etc. Another two weeks later (2 weeks before the prom) she called back to say she couldn't play with the group (due to an invitation to play in Santa Barbara at the tune of \$350—considerably more than each performer would receive from us) but SHE would still perform. OK for us. Making a living as a performer is damn tough and all we wanted is a band. The new negotiator of SHE was called a week before just to see if all was well. All was a mess. SHE's drummer left without notice and they wouldn't play. After tears, threats, talks of lawyers and suits the answer was still the same. They would not play. To make a long story short, a call to the Cabaret for bank sources resulted in Aircastle. Many dancers would have appreciated more mellow music. We appreciated any music at all.

THE LIST OF BUSINESSES, both Gay and non-Gay, who gave us their support for the prom should be clipped out and posted for your shopping pleasure. We could not have done it without them. What we could have done without is the lack of support from Fife's Peter Pender. Clearly one of Sonoma County's largest Gay businessmen, Pender once again (he donated not one dime to the SCRAP 6 effort) chose to decline our request, saying he's already donated too much to people this year.

SPEAKING OF BUSINESS people: Please, please, please stop by and have a sandwich or something at the 3rd Street Station. They didn't mean they didn't want to be known as a Gay business. I only understood their words, not their intent. It seems that the station owners are under pressure from local bureaucrats to prove they are a perfect addition to Railroad Square. Something about taking over from undesirable.

CRANKSHAFT, the new local men's bar, is evidently decorated in a lovely old automobile motif. Turned in my tux before I got a chance to see for myself but word has it that my lumberjack outfit would be more appropriate anyway. Now, if somebody will just tell me from which side to hang my keys, I'll check it out.

The Fundraising Committee for the Media Project would like to thank the following groups for their donations and support in making *Lavender Moon Over Cotati Prom* such a success. Over \$1200 was raised in support of *THE NEWS* and we extend our gratitude to all the businesses listed below for their support as well as all of those who came and had a good time!

- Lotus Sutra
- Hexagon House
- 3rd Street Station
- My Daughter the Framer
- Rusty Nail
- The Flip Side
- The Santa Rosa Inn
- Sweet Potatoes
- Grohe II Flower Shop
- Wishing Well Nursery
- L & B Disco & Plant Shop
- Sister Ann Palm Readers
- MoonRise Cafe
- Mandelin Cafe
- Bayere Books

'New' Cure For Gays Found In Carribean

PORT OF SPAIN—A Trinidad psychiatrist, Dr. Ibrahim Hosein, has claimed that almost 12% of the male population of the West Indian republic of Trinidad and Tobago is Gay.

Hosein's estimation that more than 80,000 of his countrymen had "shared sexual relationships with another man for at least three years" sparked front-page headlines in the national press.

The doctor also revealed that men are being "treated" with aversion therapy by local psychiatrists. Hosein claims he has achieved a 30% success rate in "curing" male Gays, and added that homosexuality, accom-

panied by agitation, depression and sometimes suicide, was a significant cause of marriage breakup. The doctor's findings on Lesbianism are expected to be made public shortly.

Meanwhile, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Bridgetown and Kingstown in Barbados has told islanders that homosexuals have the right to love and to be accepted by Caribbean society. Speaking during his monthly radio broadcast, Bishop Anthony Dixon declared that "Homosexuals who have been the victims of prejudice and discrimination have a right to be integrated into society."

Body Politic

Legislator Fights Bedroom Laws

MADISON, WI— Addressing the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee of the Wisconsin State Assembly recently, Rep. David Clarenbach said, "The government has absolutely no business in what goes on in the bedrooms of the state." Clarenbach is the sponsor of a sexual privacy bill for consenting adults which he hopes to see passed in spite

of current Wisconsin law, which proscribes sexual relations between people who are not each others' spouses, sexual relations between people of the same sex, and oral and anal sex.

Rev. Richard Fritchard, leader of opponents of the bill, has urged a referendum on the measure, but clergypersons from across the state have testified on its behalf. GCN

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"In the garden of the senses lies a pathway to the spirit."



How To Start A Men's Group

Mike Ransom, founder of the Gay men's support group which meets weekly in the Santa Rosa area, was interviewed in mid-September by Bob Russell of the *Sonoma County Lesbian and Gay Alliance News*.

Alliance News: what is the group called?

Mike: I started out thinking of it as a Gay men's rap group. Probably now support group would be the better term. It's been used by the group more often than not.

AN: What is the purpose of the group?

M: When I first started it my idea was to talk about mutual problems Gay people have. So far I think it's worked pretty well.

AN: What led you as an individual to start the group?

M: I felt the need to have something like this for Gay men in Sonoma County, as possibly an alternative to going to bars and talking. You can't always converse in bars because of the music and so forth. So I did feel a very big need for a group of this kind in Sonoma County. There are several in San Francisco but none up in this area.

AN: How did you go about starting it?

M: I asked a couple of people how I should go about getting it started. I thought at first that you might have to have a psychologist on hand to facilitate things, but you don't. I called Sandy Lowe of the Alliance News, and he gave me some ideas. I announced it through the paper and started getting phone calls. I set up a time for the first meeting. It was a bad time—it conflicted with Gay Skate. Of the many people who'd said they were coming to the meeting, only one showed up. He suggested we change the meetings to another night. So I set it up again, this time for Thursdays. Six people attended that time, and thirteen came to the next one. It averages out to about nine or ten per meeting at this point.

AN: Are those essentially the same individuals each time or does it vary?

M: It has been, although in the past week we've gotten four new members, which is nice. There was some discussion at first whether we should have a closed group, but we decided it should be kept open so that it would be available to people when they need it. That's what we're here for, to be a support group for Gay men.

AN: Is there any fixed format for the sessions of the group?



M: We start the session with each of us giving about a five minute synopsis of our past week or anything else the person wants to talk about. It doesn't have to be about his week although generally it does start out that way. After that we just throw the meeting open. Anybody can bring up anything he wants to and we all just jump in and talk about that, there's really no formal structure.

AN: Is there a group leader or facilitator?

M: No, it's a leaderless group. When I started the group I didn't want to be a leader; I just wanted to get a group started. I'm just a member, and I'm a coordinator so people can call and find out about the group and where we're meeting.

AN: Are people who drop in or those who begin to attend regularly expected to make any commitment to the other members of the group?

M: I would say no. If they don't want to attend every week, that's alright. Some people have hardly

missed a session, others attend less regularly. As for confidentiality, the issue really hasn't come up. People don't gossip around about what's talked about in the group.

AN: Has being a member of the group benefited you?

M: Definitely. I've come out more because of the group. I've come out at work totally. I was able to go in drag for the first time about three weeks ago. I'd never done it before, and it was totally frightening. I wanted to do it and see what it was like. I was able to pierce my ear; I've always wanted to do that. I pierced it, not so much with the group's OK, but because I had some Gay men that I could rely on.

AN: So being a member of the support group has helped you to do things that you wanted to do but hadn't otherwise been able to do?

M: Oh certainly. It's difficult to put into words. I feel that if I did experience any setbacks, I could bring it before the group and I would get support. It makes it easier to risk yourself.

AN: I also want to say that as a result of the group I have made some friends I think I will have for a long, long time.

AN: Have you had any experience with people attending the group just to cruise?

M: No we haven't. There have undoubtedly been some encounters in the group—which is fine—but no one has tried to make it a cruising spot.

AN: Do members get together as a group other than at the regularly scheduled meetings?

M: As a matter of fact, yes. Yesterday we had a barbecue at the home of one of our members. It was really fantastic; I think everybody had a really good time. I know I did. I'm hoping that we can do more socially outside the group as well.

AN: Well, after about four months of experience with it, how do you feel about the group?

M: I'm extremely glad that I was able to start it and that's going so

well. I feel totally good about it.
AN: How can people find out about when and where the group is meeting?

M: It meets on Thursday evenings at about 7:30PM. That's when people begin arriving, and then we start when everyone who's expected is there. We meet in the homes of various members. People can call me to find out the address and get directions to the meeting. My phone number is 795-6292.

Gay Fights To Stay In Army

FORT LEWIS, WASH. (UPI)—A 21-year-old Army private lost the opening round in his fight to become the first acknowledged homosexual allowed to serve in the military.

An Army hearing board voted 2-1 Tuesday to discharge Pfc. Roger Cutsinger, saying he was unsuitable for further service and would have an adverse effect on the morale and discipline of his fellow soldiers.

Cutsinger, a clerk-typist who has served 2 years of his 3-year enlistment, said he was "proud" the decision was split. He said earlier he would take the Army to federal court if he was discharged.

The Army began proceedings against the Battle Creek, Mich., native in June when Cutsinger declared his sexual orientation to his superiors. He said he did it in hopes of proving by his own example that homosexuals make good soldiers.

The Administrative Elimination Board deliberated for one hour 15 minutes before returning the verdict after 4 days of testimony. The panel said it was not possible to rehabilitate Cutsinger and that he should be discharged honorably.

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County-Wide Conference Reveals Low Visibility

by Dale Baldridge

The first county-wide Conference on Community Resources met on Thursday, September 20.

Close to 500 people, representing over 150 agencies, attended the day long session at Veterans Memorial Auditorium in Santa Rosa. The event was organized by the Information and Referral Section of the Sonoma County Council for Community Services and co-sponsored by the Sonoma County CETA Services and the Human Services Commission.

Bonnie Eisenberg, Projects Director for the Commission on the Status of Women, pointed out that a hoped-for result of the conference would be the identification of gaps in communication between public and private non-profit service agencies in the county.

Interviewed in her office a few days later, Eisenberg offered further comment.

"One of the very interesting things to come out of the conference was the fact that none of the agencies represented identified themselves as providing services for the homosexual community. One of the planned activities that didn't happen was an exercise designed to point out areas in which services are not available or in which their availability is not generally known to information and referral workers. I'm sorry that one

didn't materialize; it would have been really valuable for this to have come out of floor discussion."

"It may be that homosexuality is still too hot an issue in this county for many homosexuals to feel safe in identifying themselves," she added. "It also may be that the homosexual community has not made its needs known to the community at large. I do feel that it's up to those of us who work in the services agencies to take responsibility for identifying those needs and for developing programs to meet them."

"All of this, of course, raises some even larger questions. For instance, when many of the persons concerned are still underground, can we accurately speak of a community? And how far can we emerge as a community without the protection of specific and actively-enforced anti-discrimination legislation?"

Commenting on the lack of media attention to the conference itself, Eisenberg stated that the committee sent press releases to the commercial newspapers and to all the radio stations in August and made two subsequent follow-up contacts with the Press Democrat.

"I saw a couple of very short notices two days before the conference," she said. "As far as I know, there was no press coverage of the event itself."

Switchboard Meeting Oct. 24

A group of concerned Lesbians and Gay men are getting together to form a Gay Switchboard.

The organizational meeting will be held Wednesday, October 24, at 1300 Coddington Center. The meeting will begin at 8PM and all interested parties are strongly urged to attend.

The switchboard will be able to refer Lesbians and Gay men to suitable organizations that fit their needs. It will also be available as a crisis line.

For more information please write: PO Box 9292, Santa Rosa, CA 95405

Nixon Man OK After Attack In Hotel Room

ATLANTA, GA—The Boston Globe reports that G. Harold Carswell, whose nomination to the U.S. Supreme Court by Richard Nixon was rejected in 1970, was reported in stable condition in an Atlanta hospital following an attack by a man he had invited to his hotel room. Carswell, 59, was beaten by the man and suffered multiple head lacerations which required stitches. Carswell reportedly told police that he met the man at the skating rink of the Omni International Hotel.

Carswell, a former federal judge in New Orleans, was arrested in 1976

Harvey Milk Movie Planned

An item in a San Francisco Chronicle column reveals that plans might be underway for a film based on the life of assassinated San Francisco Supervisor Harvey Milk.

According to columnist Herb Caen, Joel Grey, the singer and actor most widely known for his portrayal of the master of ceremonies in the play and movie versions of Cabaret, is planning the television movie with Grey playing the part of Milk. It is not known who will play the part of Killer Dan White.

Perhaps he will be out in time to play the part himself.

Episcopals

No Ordination For Church Gays

DENVER, CO—Homosexual persons should be accepted into the Episcopal Church but should not be ordained if they are sexually active.

This is the essence of a resolution proposed by a committee of the House of Bishops and approved by that body on Sept. 17 by a vote of 99-34. The resolution became official church policy when it was approved by the House of Deputies of the Episcopal Church on Sept. 18. The House of Deputies is comprised of priests and laypersons.

A group of 21 bishops issued what was termed "a stinging dissent," stating that they could not comply with the resolution because "to do so would be to abrogate our responsibilities of apostolic leadership and prophetic witness to the flock of Christ and would involve a repudiation of our ordination vows as bishops." Supporters of the resolution hailed the vote as "a victory for morality," while opponents claimed that it indicated a retreat from the church's biblical mandate to "embrace all who would seek Christ."

Bishop Paul Moore, Jr., of New York, stated that the policies of his diocese would remain unchanged and that he would invoke the "conscience clause" in order to continue to ordain homosexuals. It was Moore who, in 1977, ordained an open lesbian, Ellen Marie Barrett, and provoked convention debates on the issue.

GCN

Time Refuses Gay Ad Despite Recent Coverage

MIAMI, FL—Time magazine, which has featured Gay life in America on its cover on three separate occasions (most recently in its April 23 issue), has refused "a conventional, conservative ad" for *Alive!* magazine, published in Miami.

A letter signed by Jane Griffith, Secretary, Copy Acceptance Committee, states, "Your advertisement... has been reviewed, and we regret to tell you that it will not be accepted for publication."

A statement issued by Christian Lange and Associates, Inc., publishers of *Alive!* said that *Time's*

Army Moves For Stronger Anti-Gay Rules

WASHINGTON, DC—The US Department of Defense has proposed new regulations to strengthen the prohibition against Lesbians and Gay men in the military.

The new regulations were drawn up after a pro-gay ruling was handed down by the US Court of Appeals in late 1978 in the cases of Air Force Sergeant Leonard Matlovich and Navy Ensign Lawrence Berg (*TBP*, February). The court ruled that homosexuality alone was not sufficient cause for discharge according to existing regulations. The Defense Department is appealing the decision.

The proposed regulations would label same-sex marriages as "aberrant sexual acts." Such acts, along with "homosexual acts," and even "homosexual tendencies" would become sufficient grounds for involuntary separation from the forces. "any form of homosexuality is incompatible with the best interests of the military services," according to Pentagon sources.

Body Politic

Hours Change Gay Skate

GAY SKATE, which started in Sonoma County in March, grew out of the need for social/recreational activities created by and for the Gay community.

The evenings will always be the second and fourth Mondays of the month from 9 to 11 PM at Cal-Skate, 6100 Commerce Blvd., Robnet Park.

Admission and skate rental is \$1.50. For further information call 526-6077

Gay Teachers Hold Workshops

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—The Gay Teachers and Schoolworkers of San Francisco have successfully orchestrated year-round workshops on homosexuality for school administrators, teachers, parents, and students. Tom Ammiano, leader of the group, said it took two years to "get around obstacles and sabotage."

The first session, on Aug. 23, was attended by over 200 administrators, among whom were four members of the Board of Education. Current plans call for monthly two-hour sessions throughout the school year and a formally scheduled Speakers' Bureau.

Ammiano, incidentally, has recently been appointed to the Citizens Advisory Council of the Mayor's Bureau of Child Care.

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Gay Man Named Judge By Brown

Sacramento—Stephen M. Lachs, a 39 year-old Superior Court commissioner from Los Angeles became California's first openly Gay judge, September 17 following his appointment by Governor Jerry Brown.

Lachs is active in the Los Angeles Gay community, sitting on the board of directors of the Los Angeles Gay Community Services Center.

Last year Lachs ran unsuccessfully for Municipal Court seat in Los Angeles among a field of 13.

A graduate of UCLA, he is a former public defender, lawyer for the state Insurance Department and private attorney. He has also been active with the Juvenile Justice Committee of the American Bar Association and as a volunteer with the American Civil Liberties Union.

Says Lachs, on his appointment: "It's such an exciting thing. It's hard to divide yourself in two. There is a lot of personal excitement, and knowing the barriers to Gay men and Lesbian women, this appointment makes me feel good, whether it was me or someone else."

When asked, Brown's office insisted that Lachs' homosexuality was "not a factor in his appointment. He was chosen because of his experience and record as a court commissioner and lawyer."

Chicago Rights Bill Stopped

CHICAGO, IL—Action on a Gay rights bill backed by Mayor Jane Byrne has been postponed by the City Council, and an opponent of the measure, Alderman Robert Shaw, has filed a proposal for a city-wide referendum on the question.

The sponsor of the bill, Alderman Clifford Kelley, asked that consideration of the bill be deferred when it became clear in Council chambers that the bill would ban employment and housing discrimination against Lesbians and Gay men. Shaw then proposed the referendum.

If the City Council agrees to put the question to a referendum, it would appear in the general election ballot in Nov., 1980. It would read, "Shall the term 'sexual orientation' be included in the civil rights legislation of the city of Chicago?"

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HAIR ARTISTRY BY ART

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Studies Show Gays Make Good Parents

by Marilyn Elias

In this novel era of Gay self-awareness and public candor, a stinging backlash has found its mark at the spot where many homosexuals feel uniquely vulnerable.

Conservative estimates identify several million American Gays as parents. And over the last few years, a steady barrage of custody and visitation fights has left many Gays severed from their own sons and daughters.

Judges rule that Lesbians cannot raise normal children, that homosexual dads may molest their offspring and that youngsters must be kept away from Gay adults or they'll turn to this lifestyle themselves.

But courtrooms of the 80s may prove easier battlegrounds for homosexual mothers and dads. Social scientists are just starting to provide weapons that should give Gays a fighting chance to keep custody or at least to win continuing contact with their young children.

Results from two vanguard inquiries were released recently at the American Psychological Association's annual convention in New York City. Both projects offer ammunition sure to be used by attorneys who must counter judges' ugly assumptions about Gays.

Dr. Martha Kirkpatrick took a clinical look at the children of Lesbians, comparing them to youngsters with heterosexual mothers. She stud-

ied a diverse group of single women with children aged five to 12.

"We didn't find more emotional disturbance among the Lesbians' kids nor did we find gender disturbance to suggest that the children of Gays are any more homosexually oriented than the children of straight women," says Kirkpatrick, a Los Angeles psychiatrist and faculty member at UCLA.

Ironically, Gay women provided more adult companions for their youngsters than did straight women—which Kirkpatrick attributes to deliberate effort on their part and a natural tendency to cultivate men as friends rather than dates.

Judges often cite lack of male models as a compelling reason for removing children from the custody of Gay mothers.

A broader investigation of how single mothers cope turned up more surprises. "I found that Lesbians and straight mothers live very similarly," says Dr. Ellen Lewin, an anthropologist at University of California Medical School, San Francisco.

Both groups of women rely heavily on mothers, sisters and female friends for help with child care and in handling crises.

Lewin uncovered a wide range of parenting skill among adults living with the women. "For some lovers, the children evoked jealousy and tension. Others took up a step-parent role enthusiastically. But gender

wasn't relevant to whether the roommate liked parenting."

Lewin found that Lesbian mothers tried to befriend other women with children or at least women with an interest in kids.



"Our image of Gays is one of self-indulgence, of the frantic pursuit of pleasure," Lewin says. "But I found that, rather than sexuality, their motherhood was a much more central factor in how these women organized

their lives."

Fathers, too, are coming under scrutiny. A new investigation suggests that none of the major reasons cited for separating homosexual men from their children have any scientific basis.

"Second-generation homosexuals are rare," reports sociologist Brian Miller of University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada. Miller studied fathers and children in a cross-national sample of large and small cities.

He found that Gay fathers did not molest their sons nor did the fathers' homosexual friends do so.

Miller detected a "Catch-22" trap in charges that such men will expose their youngsters to social ridicule. Custody trials often force Gay men to prove their fitness publicly.

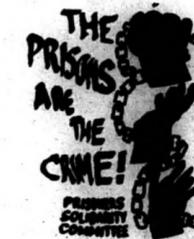
"Then publicity resulting from the court case usually seeps into the community, and this may result in snide remarks made to the children," he observes.

Although most father-child relationships were satisfactory, they tended to get even better as men moved out of unpleasant marriages into openly Gay lifestyles.

"There are as many styles of Gay fathering as there are of heterosexual fathering," says Miller.

Kirkpatrick's message is equally blunt: "Sexual object choice says nothing about the ability to nurture."

S.F. Examiner



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A Short Etymology And Brief History Of The Word

FAGGOT!

Those of us who are white draw our cultural heritage from Europe. The prevailing religious beliefs there, before the Christian Holocaust, followed patterns of nature worship. Women held places of honor in these religions, and all life was considered sacred. In northern France and southern England the oak and the beech trees were especially dedicated to an Earth Goddess figure who went by many names.

The beech in particular was often the center of sacred rituals. It was under a beech tree in Aomremy that Joan of Arc, who was burned at the stake for cross-dressing, first heard the voices that guided her visions. The Latin name for the beech is *fagus*, which many etymologists believe is the origin of the word faggot.

In ancient Rome bundles of twigs from hardwood trees like the oak and beech were tied together and carried as firewood to heat and feed the Roman armies. Bundles of long-burning twigs were easier to transport than logs, thus increasing the mobility and speed of the troops. In time these bundles came to symbolize to the Romans the source of their strength, and the *fasces*—a bundle of sticks tied around an axe—came to be the symbol of the Roman army. The word *fasces*, incidentally, is the origin of the word fascist.

When Rome first came into contact with these nature-worshipping, Woman-honoring peoples, they encountered Gay men who collected bundles of beech twigs to light bonfires in celebration of their seasonal



sexual rituals. (Today these seasons are called solstices and equinoxes.) Thus very early in our history was the word that passed into English as faggot associated with Gay men.

But it took another thousand years—a thousand years of Christianity—before the word faggot came to be used with the scorn and hatred that Gay men today so fear. By the eleventh century in northern Europe, the Church had consolidated its hold on the economic and political power of the region. It was not until then that Christianity began seriously trying to convert the countryside. The Latin word for "country person" is *pagani*. A concerted effort was made to stamp out the Old Religion—what today is called witchcraft. *Wicca*, from which comes the word witch, is Anglo-Saxon and means "wise."

The practitioners of this "knowledge of the wise" were those people who had devoted their lives to the plants of the earth and knew which ones could heal and which could kill. (This period also marks the rise of the great European universities and the beginning of domination of medicine by male "doctors.") The people who had these medical skills were Women and men who often lived alone, but sometimes in same-sex pairs, outside the framework of the traditional heterosexual family. They were Women who did not depend on men to survive. And they were men who did not breed in order to support the state.

The wrath of Christianity descended primarily on these independent Women. When Gay men were caught they were thrown into dungeons until there were enough of them to tie together, back-to-back, like a bundle of twigs, to burn at the feet of these Women. Conservative historians estimate that from the eleventh to the seventeenth centuries, over nine million Women and Gay men were burned at the state in Europe and America.

Is it any wonder that the word faggot strikes fear and terror into the hearts of many Gay men? Burning at the stake is no longer fashionable. But loss of our jobs, eviction from our homes, expulsion from our families, and discrimination in the social, judicial, and criminal systems of the world continue with unabashed popularity.

Contrary to what the pseudonymous author of a current *Impact* (New Orleans) editorial avers, faggot is not an "exalted negative" term. Rather, it is the reclaiming of a word that once had honor and power, and which has been corrupted by a thousand years of heterosexist Christian usage. We must reclaim our past in order to move forward in pride and unity. —Louisiana Slaves In Struggle. (New Orleans)

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