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Maine Gay Task Force Newsletter, Vol.3, No.07 (July 1976)

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NEWS SHORTS

PHOENIX (*Gay Community News*) The Arizona Supreme Court has upheld that state's sodomy laws, which provide up to 20 years in prison for "crimes against nature." The ruling was filed two weeks before the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision upholding the rights of individual states to regulate private sexual conduct. In the majority opinion, the Arizona court ruled that "the right to privacy is not unqualified and absolute and must be considered in the light of important state interests. The state may also regulate other sexual misconduct in its rightful concern for the moral welfare of the people."

NEW YORK (*Phila. The Weekly Gayzette*) Despite the city's repeated failure to pass a Gay Rights bill, New York City's estimated 6,000 to 10,000 Gay teachers need no longer fear that their personal lives are a threat to their jobs. So states Frank Arricale, Personnel Director for the New York City Board of Education. Arricale asserted at a forum sponsored by the

city's Gay Teachers Association that "homosexual teachers have the same rights and protection as any other teacher in the system."

NEW YORK (*IT'S TIME*) More than half the residents of the New York metropolitan area disagree with the U.S. Supreme Court's recent decision that a state may outlaw homosexual acts, according to the Daily News opinion poll. Almost two thirds of those interviewed said they thought that homosexuals should be accepted in society and treated the same as anyone else. Respondents were equally divided on whether they thought homosexuals were treated fairly in America. The Supreme Court, in a brief order on March 29, upheld a Virginia law providing up to five years in prison and a fine up to \$1000 for persons convicted of homosexual acts.

BOSTON (*GCN*) In the wake of the virtual news blackout of information about the Gay Pride March in the establishment media, Gay Media Action is planning a series of zaps against television stations and possibly

newspapers and radio stations. Anyone interested in participating in these zaps should contact Joe Abreu at 354-2079.

INDIANAPOLIS (*Chicago Gay Life*) A new organization, the Gay People's Union of Central Indiana, has been founded in Indianapolis. Organized in April, 1976 to provide services for the Gay community and to lobby against passage of new sodomy laws, the new group will offer speakers to community groups wishing information on homosexuality and will also offer counseling for Gays in legal matters, jobs, housing, VD testing, and gender identity. The state's new criminal code, which takes effect on June 1, 1977 repeals existing sodomy laws, but some local legislators have promised to back restoration of those laws. Their address is: c/o Mike Sedberry, 146 E. 19th St., #12, Indianapolis, IN 46202.

BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA (*GCN*) The National Lesbian Feminist Conference planned for July 2 - 5 at the University of Indiana, Bloomington has been postponed indefinitely. According to the Cincinnati Lesbian newspaper Dinah, the women organizing the conference were told by the Univer-

sity Conference Bureau that they had to have a university sponsoring group. The women were told that there was no more space available for that weekend, but a sympathetic friend in the university ROTC program reportedly asked the university for the right to hold a ROTC conference for 500 people on the same weekend. The university told her there was space for the meeting. A Lesbian feminist lawyer is exploring legal action.

FRESNO, CALIF. (*NewsWest*) Timing its announcement carefully, so that it would receive a minimal amount of publicity, the Family Lobby, proponents of the initiative drive to repeal the state's consensual sex law, admitted that it had failed to get sufficient signatures to place the proposed repeal measure on the November ballot. Although deeply in debt and aced with a lack of both financial and grass roots support, the Lobby stated that it would continue its attempt to gather signatures through June 25, hoping to qualify for the November, 1978 ballot. The Family Lobby is the new name for the Coalition of Concerned Christians, which failed earlier to repeal the law.

EDITORIAL -- 1:

It is our wish that everyone had a pleasant and safe July 4th weekend. Traditionally, it is one of those holidays when half the people seclude themselves in the mountains, at the lake, or, to a lesser degree on the beach, and the other half, it seems, measure their satisfaction by the brightness of a fireworks display or, unfortunately, by the audibility of the ubiquitous firecracker. Which, after all, is our Constitutional right. The MGTFF Newsletter staff spent its 4th at a fairly quiet lake. But before we left Portland we added our not-too-reticent contribution to the 200th Anniversary of the U.S.:

WHOSE FREEDOM ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?

With millions of Americans living in poverty and unemployment near record levels, who's free? With thousands of women working as the sole support of their families at the lowest pay, who's free? While thousands fill our prisons for the crime of being poor and belonging to the Third World, and at the same time government officials receive bribes, evade taxes, spy on us and are let go, who's free? While Native Americans are pushed back into tinier and tinier corners of land and are massacred again when they try to find space to live and grow in this country, who's free? When people who pick the food we eat are denied even the minimum in health care, education, safety and wages, who's free? When Gay sisters and brothers lose their jobs and housing and are harassed on the streets, who's free? When mental patients are drugged, tortured and ignored in our hospitals, who's free? When our tax money goes to overthrow other people's governments in the interest of American business, who's free?

WHOSE BICENTENNIAL IS THIS, ANYWAY?

The work of building this country was done by minorities and by the poor, but where are they in this celebration?

Oh, sure you've seen articles and exhibits on "origins" which mentions Chines, Black and Native Americans, but nothing that tells us about the continuing presence of these people in all phases of American life. Bicentennial speakers may mention Martin Luther King, but will we hear about Harriet Tubman, Nat Turner, Sojourner Truth, Paul Lawrence Dunbar, Mary Bethune, Jessie Owens, A. Phillip Randolph, Malcolm X, to mention a very, very few? Will we learn from the Bicentennial that Sacajawea was the real backbone of the Lewis and Clark Expedition or that a teenage woman rode farther, faster to warn more people while Paul Revere quit early and ate dinner? Gay people are, of course, left out all together as they have always had to hide themselves from recognition.

This Bicentennial doesn't celebrate real life in this country and doesn't give most of us any sense of pride in OUR past or tell the truth about OUR history.

--Miriam Dyak, April, 1975. Miriam is a feminist poet/teacher/writer, and a contributor to the Newsletter.

EDITORIAL -- 2:

ON HAVING ONE'S CAKE AND EATING IT, TOO

The managers of Sybil's, the relatively new bar/restaurant on Middle Street in Portland, told MGTf when the establishment first opened in April, 1976 that--in their words--it was going to be a Gay place. The time had come, they asserted, for the establishment of what they described would be an attractive alternative to the older Gay nightspots.

The managers had already contacted MGTf for advice, opinion, etc. on the acceptability of a Gay bar/restaurant in the Portland community. MGTf had suggested the name of a lawyer who would assist them with any legal hassles. And MGTf's Tim Bouffard donated artwork for their T shirts and menus as being supportive of a Gay establishment just opening. Whether by luck or design, Sybil's had no insurmountable obstacles, and opening night was packed with Lesbians

and Gay men. Today, it seems safe to assume that Sybil's enjoys a fairly regular Gay clientel.

There have been, however, a number of strange occurrences that date back almost to Sybil's opening night. As isolated, little events they might seem trivial, but taken together, they indicate a disturbing trend:

--Their first Newsletter ad copy, in the April issue, said "A Bar and Restaurant for Gay Women and Men." Their next ad, in the May issue, had the word 'Gay' deleted. This was their last ad in MGTFN. (Although they had indicated an interest to editor Neil Miller to place an ad in Boston's Gay Community News, they never did.)

--Shortly after Sybil's opened they distributed 25 copies of the Newsletter, free to their patrons. The number dropped to 20, and then to zero.

--In a radio commercial heard in late June, a male announcer said "...and in the evening, bring your lady for the best disco music in the area."

--A man and a woman, in art deco, have been added to a wall by the dance floor.

So we ask ourselves, Is Sybil's Gay? Is the die cast for an easy transition into an Oasis-type nightspot, where "chic" heterosexuals feel secure to ogle the Gay people?

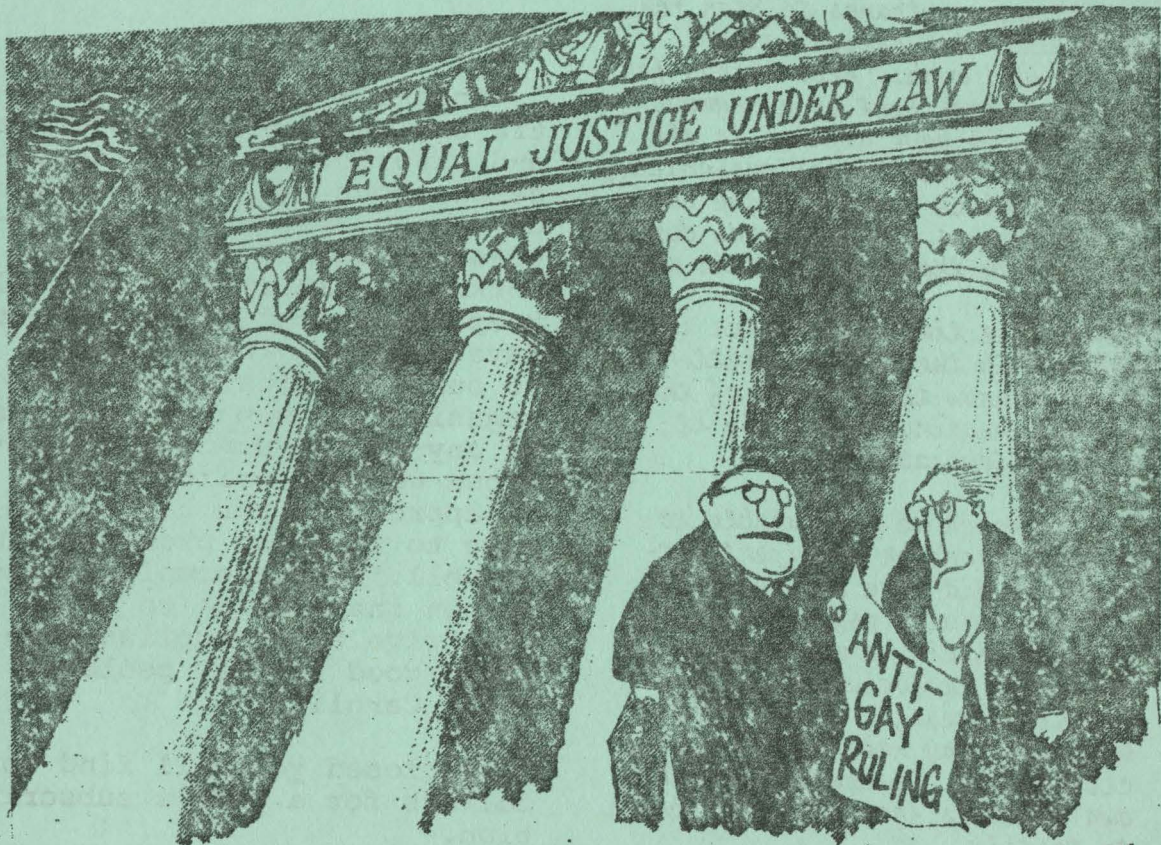
We do not question the right of a bar or other establishment to advertise as it chooses, or to attempt to attract any type of people it pleases. What disturbs us is that the managers of Sybil's seem to be preoccupied with having their cake and eating it, too. It appears that they want to be Gay but don't want to be known as "Gay." They'll happily take Gay dollars in an ostensibly Gay establishment yet, just in case that that's not enough financially or if they feel uncomfortable with a Gay image, they'll seek heterosexual dollars as well.

It would be nice to see Sybil's remain a Gay bar. After all, Portland's Gay community can certainly support more than one nightspot where they can relax among themselves

in an unoppressive atmosphere. When bars become mixed it's usually at the expense of the patrons who originally went to these bars to find comradship. It would be the same if whites began patronizing a black bar, non-Irish in an Irish bar, or strangers in a neighborhood bar.

If the trend at Sybil's is any indication--and we feel it is--than this establishment has apparently succumbed to the lure of a heterosexual image, with heterosexual dollars. And, as usual, at the expense of Gay sensibilities.

[Editor's note: Both managers of Sybil's, when contacted by the Newsletter, refused comment on any issues raised herein, with either an in-person statement or interview. After we contacted them, we wrote the editorial.]



'... except for them pre-verts.'

AUTH

LETTERS TO THE NEWSLETTER

June 10, 1976

Dear MGTF Staff & Readers,

Thank you seems so inadequate for all the support, emotional & financial, effort the MGTF and supporters have given me during our trying ordeal, however Webster didn't provide any better words.

A special thanks to Stan Fortuna and Peter Prizer for all their hard work. Also thanks for contributions sent by anonymous persons. I have replied to all the other contributors personally, however since I didn't have names and addresses for anonymous donations I am thanking you this way.

By the time this letter is printed in the MGTF Newsletter we will know the outcome of the custody hearing, hopefully it will be favorable.

Although we were unable to get Dr. Spock or an expert witness, we did have Dr. Heath, a court appointed psychiatrist, & Dr. Lowenstein, a woman with a doctorate in social welfare, as expert witnesses. Their testimony was very helpful and appreciated. Dr. Lowenstein paid her own expenses from Boston in order to testify.

It is very frightening to face the kind of situation my family & I am dealing with, however the fright has been blunted considerably by all of the support we have received. Thank you again.

Keeping the faith,

Carol Whitehead/Jodi Griffin

June 15, 1976

Dear MGTF,

Thanks for sending the extra copies of your newsletter, and also for including an excerpt about the North Carolina Gay Union. We are slowly progressing toward becoming a working organization and will keep you posted on our latest developments. Your response to our inquiries about your organization has been the best of any of the state organizations we have written to and we appreciate you taking the time to reply so promptly and so well. Your accomplishments are an inspiration to us as we strive to accomplish something good for Gay people in North Carolina.

Enclosed you will find four dollars for a year's subscription.

Thank you again and best wishes.

Cordially,

Judith L. Willis, Co-ordinator,
North Carolina Gay Union

15 June, 1976

Dear People,

Congratulations--my best to Carol. The *Washington Post* had a small article on the case, but did not go into detail. We are doing some work on a child-custody bill here in D.C. which would exclude sexual orientation as a factor in determining the awarding of custody. This bill has received preliminary approval by the D.C. city council. Could you please get me a copy of the opinion on Carol's case. It could very well be valuable to Lesbian mothers and Gay fathers in other states.

Thanks--

Steve Bull

Center for Law &
Social Policy
1751 N. St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear MGTF,

I'm an inmate here at Florida State prison, Starke, Fla. 32091
I write you this letter hoping you can put me in contact with two individuals to correspond with. I consider myself very broad minded and I sincerely feel I can relate to these people. My sign is Virgo! I was born in Sanford, North Carolina. I've been in Florida since 1962.

I've lost contact with my family. I hoped these individuals who write me will be Gay, because we can definitely relate with each other.

Please acknowledge this letter so I will know you have received it.

Respectfully,
Shelly Washington

Reply to:
Shelly Washington M-2-N-4
P.O. Box 747 017543
Starke, FL
32019

16 June 1976

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Just read about your child custody victory in our local paper--Congratulations! The case has set an important precedent for your country and hopefully Canada will experience similar success before too long.

Any information you could send us about this case would be most welcome.

I have enclosed a letter we sent out last week to gay groups around the world; I think that because of your proximity to Canada, you should also be interested in this issue.

Keep up the struggle.

In gay solidarity,

David Garmaise
Secretary
Coordinating Office

National Gay Rights Coalition
2919, Succursale D
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
K1P5W9

(613)233-0152

Greetings,

Hi, I'm a black, intelligent, sensitive, single, lovable man who desires to correspond with Gay people for companionship, LOVE, or whatever he or she desires .

Don't reject me because of my color, and/or present status - I am decent and still HUMAN. Please print my ad in your publication.

Thanks,
Jimmy

Reply to:
Jimmy Hall M-3-S-15
P.O.Box 747 006827
Starke, Fl 32019



CALENDAR

SATURDAY, JULY 10: The Lesbian Caucus at Orono will sponsor a dance for women and men at the MCA Center on campus. From 8PM to 12midnight. People should bring their own beverage.

SUNDAY, JULY 11: MGTF July meeting at the office, 193 Middle St., Portland, 4th floor, at 1PM sharp (!) Business and general rap.

SUNDAY, JULY 11: Mass Gay march and rally at Madison Square Garden in New York City, site of the National Democratic Convention.

June 1, 1970

Dear Friends -

I've been meaning to write you for some time, and the arrival of your latest Newsletter, with its vastly improved appearance and plea for readership feedback, has finally moved me to take the step.

Believe it - you are appreciated, like a "waft of fresh pine scent from the springtime forest" as my cliché-ridden hometown news & nature columnist likes to put it or (as I'd more often say), like a double hit of pride - at being Gay and from Maine - and having survived both from the bad old days pre-Gay liberation to see a real Gay community and movement being built in the land from which I fled.

There's got to be thousands of people like me, Gay Mainiacs in exile, who would rest a little easier knowing you exist and knowing that the friends we left behind may now have a glimpse of freedom - thanks to the work you're doing.

Though you probably get more of these silly sentimental letters than you need, I'd like to sketch out a bit of my own background (self-ishly) in hopes that possibly someone among your readers may have crossed paths with me in the past (after all, Maine isn't that big) and we might re-gain contact.

My credentials: lived 18 years in Locke Mills - yes, it is too in Maine, though no one's ever heard of it - in NW Oxford County, about equidistant from Norway, Rumford and Bethel. Graduated from Woodstock H.S. in 1966 (that was in Bryant Pond, a few miles away, but the school is now defunct).

The choices we all had at that point were limited: Army, Factory, or State University. (Some women had a fourth choice - marriage/home-making - which was probably the worst of the lot.) For me, a fledgling faggot with good grades, the choice was easy, and I trundled off to Orono to learn about the "real world." Oddly enough, after 4 years of it, I almost did. By 1970, I was an Orono student radical, a socialist, draft resister, pro-feminist, and one of the few academic casualties of the student strike of May, 1970.

Then, with my education aborted by a militaristic student teaching supervisor three weeks before graduation, and with my faggotry fairly bursting from the pores, I called it quits. Good-bye to Orono, Locke Mills, and repressed sexuality.

Dear, dear Wilde-Stein Club, where were you then? Were you sitting beside me in the shadows of the old UMO Coffeehouse, waiting for someone to touch your leg? Was it you, hiding behind that Esquire in the library reading room (I know the article you're looking at; I just put it down)? Or did you pass me once, going our separate ways across the Mall at 3 AM on a Maine winter's night, you home from a tryst in Estabrook Hall, me going round for the third time to look at the bear?....

So who knows - if you'd been there then, I might be there now. But that's a crazy perspective, and anyway, I like where I am and what I'm doing (which is - after 4 years as a full-time Gay liberationist - being a student again at a radical law school in L.A. and a co-conspirator with that most wonderful of all Downeast faggettes - Steve Bull. I understand Steve is one of the Maine movement originals, but too bad! Now that we've got him, we ain't gonna let him go.)

What you in the Maine Gay movement really mean to me - beyond the bitter nostalgia and the sense of being born just a few years too soon - is the realization that my pain, my alienation and the desperate need to escape from my own roots may have been among the last of its kind. Of course Gay oppression is not so easily ended but it's the work of folks like you - and me - and all the others which has begun to turn the tide. Please don't stop.

And here's one final reason why I want you to thrive: My mother, a solid ally, sends me every Gay news clipping she can glean from the Lewiston and Portland papers. So the more you do, the more you get reported, the thicker are my letters from home. What better reason could there be for extending my love to you all-----

Franz Martin
4678 La Miranda
Hollywood, CA
90029

Dear People,

After reading the article in May's Newsletter entitled "Police Rap", I was angered and dismayed by what I felt was the misrepresentation of my own statements as one of the Gay people present at that class, and by the article's general tone and implied conclusions about the police.

I am quoted as having said "that perhaps both groups [Gays and police] had false images and myths that contributed to less understanding between each other." What I actually did was to first tell the police class that many Americans, most of my friends, and I personally, saw them as a group of power-tripping, macho men who *at best* unquestioningly enforce brutal and unfair laws, and *at worst* use their state-granted authority to viciously and sadistically persecute others. I then went on to say I was sure most police in the classroom would violently disagree with this image of themselves, and that they should thus begin to understand what Gay people felt like, since we had been faced all our lives with what *we* felt was a false image of ourselves. The difference I added, was that Gay people's image really was *false*, while I personally felt that my image of the police was *correct*.

To even *imply* that the police "perhaps" suffer from "false images and myths" is to completely betray all the Lesbians who have been and are slaughtered, raped, beaten, jailed, and endlessly harassed by the police; it is to deny the common, constant street-reality of women, Blacks, homosexuals, Native Americans, poor people - in short, *all* powerless persons in America. Although I regret my actual statement because it was not particularly useful in accomplishing what I believed our purpose in being there to be - to stop local police from beating on Gay people - and because it was apparently complex enough to be disastrously misreported by a normally accurate paper, it was certainly not a sell-out of our sisters and brothers.

In addition to that dangerous distortion, I guess what disturbed me about the original Newsletter article was that it suggested the evening had been sort of a cozy, polite,

productive exchange between the Gay community and the police without attempting to analyze *why*. Yes, the police were polite - all of us speaking for MGTF appeared to be white, middle-class, professional, and articulate. Furthermore, we were there as the teacher's invited guests in a course the students would be graded for. As a close friend of mine [she and a few other sisters, with patience, compassion, and at much cost to themselves, have spent considerable energy raising my class awareness] put it, "of course they were nice to you all. You aren't powerless!" Enough said, right there.

In closing, I would like to share the following quote from Ruth Simpson with those readers, who, like myself, may sometimes drift back into the white, upper-middle-class, humanitarian/liberal luxury of judging power-wielding members of oppressive structures as individuals:

[When I speak on college campuses, inevitably one of the students will say, "What about the good cops? You can't say that all cops are bad." My answer is that all members of police departments do exactly what they are told to do, without any question. They are not encouraged or for that matter allowed to think about or analyze the orders they are given, any more than are members of the military. A cop who saves a drowning child one day may well be out beating the heads of minority members the next day, because he is "following orders." In an oppressive society labels are attached to various segments of the population--"black militants," "campus radicals," "anti-war demonstrators," "gay activists," and so on. When the order is given to move in on those so labeled and to remove their civil rights by illegal police actions, every cop obeys. If he doesn't, he is not a cop for long. The good cops, those who question the system as did Frank Serpico, are misfits in police departments, which are used against segments of the citizenry they are purported to protect. As long as our corrupt and oppressive society continues in fragmentation under a corrupt and oppressive government, we cannot expect to encounter a good cop.]

In struggle,
Susan Breeding

CAROL WHITEHEAD WINS COURT FIGHT FOR CHILDREN

"We're thrilled," Carol Whitehead told members of the Maine Gay Task Force when she announced that Maine Superior Court Justice Harry P. Glassman had awarded her unconditional custody of her children. Carol's former husband, Danny F. Black, had challenged her custody of their two children because she is a Lesbian.

In a 13-page decision, dated June 14, Justice Glassman wrote that the overriding concern of his decision was "the best interests and welfare of the children." Noting that homosexuality is not a crime in Maine, Glassman stated "a court charged with the responsibility of acting in the best interests of minor child must inquire into the psychological, social and moral well-being of that child as well as its physical well-being. To this end the sexual activity of the mother or father becomes a relevant consideration, not for the purpose of censoring or criticizing the manner in which the parent lives, but for the purpose of determining the impact of the parent's life-style upon the minor child. Thus the inquiry would be the same whether the parent is living in an adulterous heterosexual relationship or a homosexual relationship: What is the effect on the child exposed to this relationship?"

In his decision Glassman found that the present home life at the North Berwick farm of Carol Whitehead adequately meets the social, psychological, physical and moral needs of the children. His ruling placed heavy emphasis on the testimony of Dr. Adair Heath, director of the Division of Child Psychiatry at the Maine Medical Center. Dr. Heath testified that the "home life appears stable and activities are as in any heterosexual home."

Carol said, that Glassman's decision "gives you faith in the system, it's a marvelous kind of Bicentennial present." She learned the good news while looking out her window and seeing her lawyer, Kim Matthews, running up the stairs carrying a bottle of champagne. Matthews, a partner in Maine's only all woman law firm in Portland, said that,

considering Glassman's reputation for legal scholarship, the decision would probably carry wight with other state judges considering similar cases.

For Carol Whitehead, the decision means an end to thirteen years of fleeing and harrassment from her former husband, Danny Black. She moved to Maine a year ago to gain peace and security from Black who on various occassions has attacked Carol, both verbally and physically. Black arrived in Maine on April 28th and attempted to take the children from their school. School officials refused to turn the children over to Black, which resulted in the subsequent court fight.

Although elated with the court's decision, court costs and legal and witness fees were about \$1,550.00. Any donations to help pay the bills would be greatly appreciated. Please, if you can help, send contributions to the Carol Whitehead Legal Defense Fund, Box 4542, Portland, Maine 04112.

Copies of the decision may be obtained for \$2.00 from the Maine Gay Task Force, Box 4542 Portland, Maine 04112.

* * *

Commenting on Carol's favorable child custody court decision, the *Portland Press Herald* [18 June 76] said:

....Justice Glassman did not act hastily. He had a professional analysis of home environment along with a psychiatric evaluation of the mother and children. The psychiatrist found home life stable and reported "activities as in any heterosexual home."

....Given a chance to work free from external pressures, the arrangement may prove to be the children's best opportunity. With all the information at his command, if Justice Glassman had not believed that, he would not have reached the conclusion he did.

LAND TRUSTS FOR WOMEN

In an effort to give women control over their own destinies two groups of women have researched the concept of land trusts, and formed groups to acquire land for all women and children at all times. This would promote the spiritual, emotional, physical, cultural, and economic well-being of women, and preserve the land.

Many of us love nature deeply, and need to live with green all around us and be self-sufficient. We feel caged in polluted, violent cities, where we survive day to day by doing meaningless work or by standing in welfare lines. Our way of changing the status quo is to start with our own lives, living harmoniously, and by withdrawing energy from that society that oppresses us and giving it to each other.

Financially poor women are unable to buy rural property. Private ownership creates hassles anyway. Putting land in a land trust removes it from the speculative market. It would be available to all women and children, whether they want to live there (and be farmers, craftswomen, healers, etc.), or just stop for a short time, camp out, and relax. Festivals could happen there.

My personal vision is to get women out of isolation and build a supportive, creative community, a place where the land is loved and respected as sacred, where all are welcome always, and where healing is part of daily life.

We can help women set up local land trusts, or they can join us. Oregon Women's Land Trust has bought 145 acres in southern Oregon (contact them for details). Patricia and Trella welcome women to join them on 80 acres and help with the work.

-Arnica

Patricia & Trella, P.O. Box 521, Fayetteville, Ark. 72701
Oregon Women's Land Trust, P.O. Box 1713, Eugene, Ore. 97401
California Women's Land Trust, c/o Carole & Yolanda, 1538 N.
St. Andrews, Hollywood, Ca., 90028

CANADIAN GAYS HASSLED IN PRE-OLYMPIC GAMES "CLEAN-UP"

(OTTAWA) - Gay people in Canada are banding together to protest the harassment of homosexuals by police. This harassment is part of a national campaign to "clean up Canada" for the Olympic Games.

Last week 27 people were arrested in a raid on the Club Baths in Ottawa. This follows two similar raids at steam baths in Montreal which resulted in the arrests of some 115 people. At the same time, in Montreal, five Gay bars were raided by police ostensibly looking for drugs. In two of those raids, the police barged in with guns and rifles.

Denis LeBlanc, President of Gays of Ottawa, the coordinating office for the National Gay Rights Coalition, said in a prepared statement on 24 May 1976:

"We know, from the chain of events themselves, from remarks made by policemen during their raid of the Neptune Baths, and from inside information which we have obtained from people with confidential information on Olympic security, that this is part of a concerted, national effort aimed at 'cleaning up' Canada for the Olympic Games.

"This effort is not directed solely at Gay people. It is common knowledge that police forces have been visiting leftist groups and other organizations which might want to demonstrate during the Games. You are also aware of the stories from Montreal about drunks and winos being given sentences six to eight times their normal lengths in order to keep them off the streets. We have just returned from Kingston where the local prisons are full of drunks who have been given six month sentences instead of the usual couple of days.

"Our information is that this clean-up extends from Quebec City through to Totonto. We believe that what we have seen so far in Montreal and Ottawa is only the beginning."

Gays of Ottawa has talked with the Canadian Civil Liberties Association and with its elected representatives at all three levels of government in Canada -- municipal, provincial and federal.

The National Gay Rights Coalition will be contacting its 27 member organizations to plan a strategy at the national level.

In Montreal, a Gay Coalition Against Repression has been formed and held a press conference on 26 May 1976.

In Ottawa, a picket has been organized by Gays of Ottawa in front of Ottawa Police Headquarters (60 Waller Street) for 3:45 p.m. to 5 p.m., Friday, 28 May 1976 to protest this harassment by police.

In his statement, Mr. LeBlanc said, "We have no plans to disrupt the Olympic Games. We have no quarrel with these Games and we are not a disruptive of subversive element. We understand the need for security. But we will not put up with this kind of senseless harassment. It doesn't make sense in the context of the Olympics and it doesn't make sense at any time."

National Gay Rights Coalition
C.P. 2919 Succursale D
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
K1P 5W9

(613)233-0152



THE BEST & WORST OF PORTLAND

Here's a highly objective analysis of the Greater Portland Scene--all the trivia/minutiae/irrelevancy/controversy we could glean on short notice--and chosen at random (the categories, that is) for no apparent reason. The credentials of the 11 judges, we might add, are utterly beyond circumspection, as well as being inconspicuous. Any similarity to a living person, actual place or thing is probably intentional, as the judges themselves might admit after a few rounds of libation at an amicable tavern, and may be grounds for suit. C'est la vie. And pleasant reading.

[* denotes unanimous decision by the judges.]

PLACE TO RIDE A BIKE

Best: Baxter Blvd., at high tide.

Worst: Commercial St. If you get past the railroad tracks, you may not make it around the trucks.

PLACE TO CASH A CHECK

Best: At any post office. They're not into a big I.D. trip, but you'll have to settle for a postage stamp equivalency.

Worst: Canal Bank. If you aren't dressed "properly," you'll leave your right thumb print behind for somebody's computer.

DAILY PAPER

Best: Boston Globe. That's if you don't mind their rampaging smugness.

Worst: N.Y. Daily News.

Yesterday's news wrapped in a National Enquirer format.

BREAKFAST

Best: The Brunswick Avenue Diner between Gardiner and Brunswick. Admittedly it's outside Portland, but the people are friendly, the prices are reasonable, and the food is unquestionably the best.

Worst: [Each judge had her/his favorite 'worst' category, and no compromise was possible.]

BEACH

Best: Higgin's at Scarborough. Hard to park, at times.

Worst: The Desert of Maine.

And it ain't free, either.

ITALIAN SANDWICH

Best: What do you think we are, crazy?

Second Best: The concealed weapons they sell at Amato's on India St. after 6 p.m.

"Home of the Original Petri-fied Sandwich Roll."

PLACE TO GET MUGGED

Best: * Deering Oaks and Pleasant St. after 10 p.m.

Worst: After 11 p.m., none.

LEAST PRETENTIOUS/MOST PITIFUL TV ANNOUNCER

Best: Ch. 8's Tom Eliman.

You watch him and mutter, "How come I'm not on TV?"

Best (Honorable Mention):

Don MacWilliams on Ch. 6.

His monotone makes you chew your nails.

MOST PRETENTIOUS/LEAST PITIFUL TV ANNOUNCER

Best: * Bob O'Wrill of Ch. 13. No competition for this category.

PROFESSIONAL NEWSCASTER

Best: Ch. 13's Barbara Quill.

CONDESCENDING TV INTERVIEWER

Best: Cliff Reynolds of Ch. 6. One vote short of an asterisk.

SOPHISTICATED SUBURB

Best: The Portland House or Promenade East, depending on your view.

Worst: Cape Elizabeth. Money talks, nobody walks.

PLACE TO BUY POTATO CHIPS

Best: Right at the Circus Time factory in South Portland. They're fresh and somewhat cheaper than in the store.

Worst: Inside the Lion Ferry Terminal or Portland Jetport.

Both concessions are run by the same greedy outfit that charges sales tax on unsuspecting travelers and local people as well.

COMIC SECTION (LOCAL PAPERS)

Best: The editorial section in the Telegram.

Worst: The daily panels in the Press Herald. Unless you get off on Dr. Smock or Mary Worth.

MALL

Best: The Village Green at Monument Square. (A paid plug; we can use the money. Actually, malls turn us off.)

Worst: West End Shopping Center. Not really a mall, but it deserves comment: the people behind the now-defunct Arlan's department store should be forced to reconstruct Union Station, block by block.

DISC JOCKEY

Best: (At press time, the judges were still pondering.)

Worst: The hip, get-it-on! macho types at WJBQ and WLOB. Their vocabulary consists of two words, "Hey man!"

Second Worst: The hip, upper-middle class cool people at WBLM.

STREET TO AVOID FROM 7AM to 9AM

Best: Forest Ave. at Woodford's Corner.

STREET TO AVOID FROM 9AM to 7AM

Best: Forest Ave. at Woodford's Corner.

SEXPLOITATIVE MOVIE THEATRE

Best: The State, hands down.

Worst: Any movie house inside the Westbrook City limits.

TRAIN SYSTEM

Best: Maine Central, if you're an out-of-state bank leasing equipment to the line.

Worst: Excluding the scenery, the Canadian Pacific gig between Vanceboro and Lowelltown, Me. And you thought Maine had no passenger service.

CUP OF COFFEE

Best: Dunkin Donuts on Congress Square. After midnight, the side show is free.

Worst: The snack bar at the federal building on Forest Ave. A CIA plot, no doubt.

PLACE TO BUY MEAT AND VEGETABLES

Best: At Commercial Fruit store on India St. The staff is friendly, the vegetable and fruit selection is good, and the meat is often the best in town.

Worst: The Lil Peach variety store on Munjoy Hill. But don't dawdle in the aisles: the gang of punks across the street might get hostile.

FRIED CLAMS

Best: At the Village, when they aren't rushed.

Worst: The last time we checked, Giobbi's on Danforth St. was encasing their's in styrofoam batter.

PLACE TO GET HIGH

Best: Along the warves on a sunny afternoon.

Worst: Sequestered in jury duty.

STREET CORNER TO ORALLY ABUSE
A MOONIE

Best: * Congress Square, in
front of Dunkin Donuts.

Worst: There is no worst
place to abuse a moonie.

HAMBURGER

Best: The Hollow Reed on
Fore St.

Worst: After 19,000,000,000
tries, not a good one yet.

FERRY SERVICE

Best: Downeast Airlines.
Bring your own helmet and
save a \$2 deposit fee.

Worst: * Casco Bay Lines. The
management is straight out
of a Dicken's novel. And the
boats are registered in Para-
guay, or should be.

COLUMNIST FOR A LOCAL PAPER

Best: Bob Cummings and
Franklin Wright. Come to
think of it, most of the
staff writers for Guy Gan-
nett, with a couple excep-
tions, are very competent.
Miranda Spivak and John
Lovell stand out.

The worst, absolutely worst:
William Clark. His mind,
like the logs he's been roll-
ing all these years, is a
little water-saturated.

INTERSECTION TO GET RUN DOWN

Best: Temple and Spring.

INTERSECTION TO RUN A RED
LIGHT

Best: Franklin St. and Com-
mercial. Even if you col-
lide, have faith that the
traffic lights haven't work-
ed right since the day they
were installed. That will
look good in court.

PLACE TO SLEEP

Best: While reading the
syndicated columnists in
the Evening Express.

Worst: While negotiating
the Maine Turnpike on
weekends.

PORN SHOP

Best: Any health food store.
The price markups are really
obscene.

Worst: Bookland at the Mall
Plaza, South Portland. The
Playgirl magazines are wrap-
ped in plastic covers.

ALL-AMERICAN CITY, WITH A
BILLBOARD TO PROVE IT

Best: Auburn. Did we fool
you?

PLACE TO SEE A HETEROSEXUAL

Best: On the sidewalk out-
side the Plaza Hotel, after
10 p.m.

Worst: At Roland's Tavern on
a Monday afternoon.

DISCOUNT DRUG STORE

Best: The People's Drug

Store, Inc. on Portland St. They had to fight to exist, which should tell you something about the other drug retailers.

Worst: The one the kids operate at Old Orchard.

PIZZA

Best: Angelione's. And you can get it on a 45 min. lunch hour.

Worst: Any place where they use frozen dough.

CLOCK

Best: The PSB flashing sign, when it's working.

Worst: The Hay's--"Corrected Hourly"--drugstore clock on Congress Square. It's correct, all right, twice a day.

MEAL UNDER \$1

Best: The smorgasbord at the Maine Gay Symposium III. Too late, folks!

Worst: Denny's on Brighton Ave. at Exit 8. But you'll have change enough for an alka seltzer.

MEAL UNDER \$7

Best: A hot dog and a bag of potato chips at Tommy's Sandwich Shoppe on Exchange St., and an hour of pin-ball.

Worst: The cafeteria at the Howard Johnson's at Mile 24 of the Maine Turnpike. Except for the Official Junkfood on the Conn. Tpke, the worst in

the East.

UTILITY MOST LIKELY TO SUCCEED

Best: A tie: Central Maine Power and New England Telephone. They've got you incoming and outgoing.

PLACE TO SIT DOWN IN PUBLIC
Best: The contoured benches along Congress and Middle Sts.

Worst: During Round 2 at the Expo.

GAY BAR TO MAKE FRIENDS

Best: Roland's. It can be very intimate.

GAY BAR TO ENTERTAIN CLASSIST MEN

Best: The first floor bar at the Cumberland Club on High St. Very uptight and sexist, however: women are not served, unless there is a male "sponsor."

GAY BAR TO GET SCALPED

Best: At the Top of the East in the Eastland Hotel. The prices match the view.

GAY BAR THAT'S NO LONGER GAY

Best: The Oasis on Middle St. But don't tell the Maine Times staff writers who go there to leer.

Worst: Sybil's on Middle St. Unless you like art deco.

GRACEFUL ELM TREE

Best: The one on the corner of Deering and High Sts.

Worst: Any of the stumps on Clark St.

RADIO STATION

Best: WPOR. All they play is heterosexist shit, but they're consistent as hell. Let's respect continuity when we hear it.

Worst: Any station on Sunday morning.

APARTMENT TO GET LEAD POISONING

Best: The flat at 60 Anderson St., Portland. Even as the city-ordered eviction notice for lead poisoning was issued to the apartment dwellers, the building owner was busy renting the vacated space to a family with small children.

PUNGENT FLATS AT LOW TIDE

Best: The Gemini Apt.s on State St. And it certainly is sweet!

Worst: Broad Cove on a hot day.

PLACE TO MEET SOMEONE YOU'VE SUCCESSFULLY AVOIDED FOR 8 MONTHS

Best: At the Maine Mall.

Worst: In Superior Court.

NON-GAY NIGHT SPOT TO AVOID

Best: The Loft, at Franklin St. and Marginal Way. The

men are insecure, super-macho "fraternity" types. After a few dozen beers, they're prone to vent their insecurity on those who don't conform.

PLACE TO BUY LOBSTERS

Best: The Fisherman's [sic] Co-op on Commercial St.

Worst: At any Portland retailer. They call each other up, pose as customers, and adjust their prices to what they're told on the phone.

FRIENDLY LAUNDRAMAT

Best: The one at Longfellow Square. Kinda fun.

Worst: Pratt-Abbot at Westgate. They're No. 1 in laundramats, and they've got placks on the wall to prove it.

BUMPER STICKER, CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Best: "Stop Pulmonary Rape--Your Smoke, Our Lungs"

Worst: "Fight Crime--Buy A Gun"

PLACE TO READ THIS NEWSLETTER

Best: Wherever you want to.

Worst: In the back seat of a South Portland cop car.

GAY REBELLION IN THE BARRACKS

By Bob Levering

[Editor's Note: Bob Levering, is a city editor of the San Francisco Bay Guardian and a contributor to Pacific News. The original and longer version of the following article appeared in the Bay Guardian.]

SAN FRANCISCO, JUNE 1976--With as little fanfare as possible, the U.S. military is fighting to stave off a political and legal assault from within its own ranks challenging the Pentagon's prohibition against Gays in uniform.

But while the battle is far from over, recent events suggest the day may not be too far off when Gay men and women will be officially tolerated in the U.S. Army, Navy, Marines and Air Force.

Consider these developments:

*A federal judge in San Francisco recently ordered the Navy "to reevaluate its stance regarding homosexual conduct" in the case of a 15-year veteran the Navy was discharging for being Gay.

*Col. Robert Hawk, commanding officer at the Sierra Army Depot at Herlong, Ca., recently overruled a captain's recommendation that an M.P., an open Lesbian, be discharged for being Gay.

*In all branches of the service more than a dozen Gays have followed the footsteps of Air Force Sgt. Leonard P. Matlovich, who first revealed his homosexuality to his superior officers more than a year ago, and has since fought a continuing legal battle against his forcible discharge.

Most, if not all, of the dozen or more challenges may ultimately fail. But the cases -- and the attendant publicity -- are shaking up the country's new all-volunteer armed services

and forcing the Pentagon to face up to its recruitment claims that the new military is an attractive alternative for America's young "now generation."

Ironically, the Gay rebellion in the military is in many ways attributable to the nature of America's post-Vietnam armed forces.

To create an all-volunteer military the Pentagon launched a massive public relations campaign with promises of high pay, travel, free training and education and better, less regimented living conditions. The services also drastically increased the recruitment of women and even experimented with coed barracks.

The result, combined with the 1974-75 recession in the private sector, was a relative boom in recruitment levels, including many young people who had shunned the military during the Vietnam years.

Typical of many of those new recruits is Specialist 4 Katherine Isheim, a college graduate who was living with her female lover when she enlisted in the Army in 1974.

"I was broke," says Isheim, adding that she and her lover agreed that the Army was the best answer to their economic problems.

Sgt. Miriam Ben Shalom had similar reasons for joining the Army Reserves while a student at the University of Wisconsin.

"It's a good part-time job...For people who need a job, it's better than to stay on the streets and hustle," she said.

When Ben Shalom enlisted her application indicated that she belonged to the Gay People's Union, a Lesbian organization in Milwaukee -- a fact that may be crucial to her defense in the discharge proceedings currently against her.

PFC "Richard Walker" (not his real name), who joined the Marines for educational benefits, says he found a thriving though hidden subculture of Gays in the military. Walker

claims he found several Gay bars near his Marine base in Southern California that were frequented almost exclusively by military personnel.

Despite the Marine's tough "macho" image, Walker says he's met several Gay officers and gunnery sergeants as well as enlisted men in the Marines. "I've made it with more damned guys in the Marine Corps than with guys on the street," he says.

Like the others, Walker claims he found no difficulties in relations with non-Gay military people, many of whom regard their duties as a "job" and are generally tolerant of the off-duty personal habits of co-workers.

PENTAGON POLICY

Official Defense Department policy is not so tolerant. John Becher of the Department's public information office explains the policy in these terms:

"The presence (of homosexuals) would seriously impair discipline, good order, morale and security within the military."

Moreover, adds Becher, the Pentagon feels "an obligation and responsibility" to provide young people entering the service with "the most wholesome and healthful environment possible," which it feels is inconsistent with the presence of Gays.

But the Pentagon's official posture on the detrimental influence of Gays in the ranks is questioned by research from the Kinsey Institute indicating that in 1971 -- even before the all-volunteer military -- the percentage of Gays in the services was approximately the same as in the civilian population.

Defense lawyers and experts in legal cases use the standard estimate that roughly 10 percent of persons in and out of uniform are Gay.

If this estimate is accurate then the dozen or so Gays who are currently challenging the Pentagon policy -- and the

estimated 2,000-3,000 Gays who are quietly mustered out of the military each year -- represent merely the tip of the iceberg.

Evidently, substantial numbers of Gays have always been in the military. What's new is that a few are now stepping out of the barracks closet, encouraged by the Gay Liberation Movement and the significant civil rights gains of recent years in the private and public sectors.

The Federal Civil Service Commission, for instance, ruled last July that Gays should no longer be considered unfit for public service. In addition, 12 states and 22 cities have recently passed legislation eliminating sodomy laws and barring discrimination against Gays. Many major corporations, including AT&T, IBM, NBC, Honeywell and Bank of America now hire homosexuals as equal opportunity employees.

But in the military, the gains have been small, though portentous. Two months ago, U.S. District Judge George Harris in San Francisco commented on the Pentagon's incongruities in a ruling on the Navy's attempt to discharge Petty Officer First Class Dennis R. Beller, a 15-year veteran meteorologist stationed in Monterey.

Though ruling against Beller's request for a preliminary injunction against his discharge, Judge Harris wrote:

"The Navy does itself and the public little good by removing an experienced and able serviceman such as (Beller) from its ranks, and it should seriously consider what interest is furthered by its decision to do so."

Likewise, the Navy is being challenged in San Francisco federal court by Commander Gary Hess, a 25-year veteran of the Naval Reserves. Hess, who claims he stands to lose up to \$100,000 over the years in retirement benefits if his discharge is upheld, has twice been elected to the Santa Barbara County Board of Education, once as an open Gay candidate.

Says Hess, "I have a right to be in the military...As a citizen in a free country I should be able to serve in the

armed forces, like I have the right to serve on the school board."

* * * *

LOST AMONG THE FOUND
by Brian Allen Goodrich

"It is a beautifully written
beautifully produced book, a
tribute to the cooperation
between gay artists and
business." *Gay Community News*

A collection of short stories
and poems drawn from the
author's experience of coming
of age in the gay world.

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POST CARD SURVEY: PART 2

[Editor's note: Below are the comments of readers who responded to the note in the May Newsletter asking them to send us views, ideas, etc. about the direction/format/etc. of the Newsletter.

If you have not yet mailed us your post card and would like us to be aware of your feelings, it's not too late to do so.

To those of you who took the time and effort to respond, thanks for your interest!]

Dear Maine Gays,

Just got your Newsletter Vol. 3, #5 - its very good - good format and intelligible!

I produce/host radio show Gaybreak on WMUA in Amherst, there is no budget, but I would like to get it to read "bits" out over the air and of course, give credit and how to get the Newsletter - would you please be able to subscribe me? By the way your notice re. GCN is incorrect, subscription is now \$15 per yr.

be well,
Love and Light,
Demian

Page 14/27 came out blank in my copy--otherwise the new format is much easier to handle. All best wishes!

Frances Green
Editor Gayellow Pages

Sorry this is so late but I wanted to say the new format is great. Enjoy reading the MGTG Newsletter and in passing it on to friends in New Jersey, the comments have been extremely favorable. Continued success with the Task Force.

Mike Meyers

Dear Newsletter--

I'm not a regular reader nor a Maine resident yet - I will be both on Sept. 1. I've read #4 & #5 (Vol. 3) you sent me, and they've encouraged a lot about my impending move to the fringe of civilization.

I like your ease of style and sense of humor - constant outrage is, it seems, both too easy and too stifling. For some reason, I find letters to the Ed. difficult to read in terms of format. I would like to hear more from Bangor/Orono (my future home) - maybe there's nothing to say, or the area has its own newsletter of which I'm unaware? I find the "pam-plet effect" easier to read, more bulky to store.

R. Eckharoy

Dear Friends,
New format looks great, but if extra work is involved, this should be an important consideration in changing. Tim's graphics and cover are really great. Keep it simple to do for a long time to come. What's inside is the most important. That's good too.

Milo

Friends-

I like the new format. It is more readable, and it has dignity, like us!

Keep up the good work-
W.C.

Your new format is a big improvement - and over the past year I have also seen a big improvement in content of articles, editorial, etc.

Congratulations to everyone of you who put so much work into the Newsletter.

Betty/Cindy Calkins
Denver, Colorado

Dear MGTFN,

Four of us are sharing your Newsletter and all are pleased with the changes you have made. It was a great Newsletter and now is even better!

R.S., M.M., L.D., G.G.

Yes, I like your format.

And your content:

Keep up the good work. The task is only apparently thankless; there are many who thank you subvocally.

Tom von Foerntes
G.A.U.-N.E.
PO Box 212
Boston, MA 02101

Dear People-

The latest issue of the Newsletter looks fantastic! The new format is an improvement; endlessly-running paragraphs are a little easier to read. And Tim's graphics are up to his usual fine standards.

My only complaint should probably be directed toward the postal service: the May issue arrived on June 1. Not long until the publication date for the next issue, and definitely past the date for articles to be submitted.

Keep up the great work. The MGTFN is definitely needed!

Karen

Enjoy the new (blue) copy of MGTFN immensely,

T.H.



HEY PEOPLE!

Many men (and Gay men are no exception) consider women's anger at the use of sexist terms to be nitpicking. IT'S NOT! Words symbolize attitudes of both the individual and society. When words like "girl", "gal", "mankind", and "chairman" are used, they reflect and perpetuate sexist attitudes that oppress women.

Gay men should be particularly concerned with the use of sexist language because these same words are used to oppress them. "Effeminate", "sissy", "pansy", "nellie", "bitch", and "queen" are derogatory words applied to Gay men which are based on the denigration of women. So, it is to everyone's interest to eliminate sexist terms from their language.

The following are just a couple of examples why certain words are sexist. "Girl" and "gal" are frequently-used offenders. "Girl" means a female child. When it is applied to a female adult, it implies that women are perpetual children and lack the intelligence and the emotional stability to function on a childlike level, it means that they do not deserve equal treatment with men. This notion is particularly useful to bosses who increase their profits by paying women less than men for the same work. If women are children, then they should be paid accordingly, right? Wrong!

The use of "mankind" or "man" in reference to people is another example. This usage goes all the way back to the myth of Adam's Rib. It assumes that the needs, desires, experience and ideas of women are subsumed by men's. Thus, women have nothing of significance to contribute to the affairs of humanity which conveniently eliminates the threat of women vying with men for power.

Changing our language will not mean instant liberation. However, it does demonstrate a sensitivity to the problem - a sensitivity that is often lacking in interactions between Gay men and Gay women.

Cindy Gipple/Seattle Gay News

THE STATE STREET STRAW

By Peter Prizer

(For the July, 1976 issue, a long Straw to honor people and events that made this country what it is today.)

OK, ALL YOU PATRIOTIC (a sexist word, by the way) CITIZENS!! Who let the 4th go by without purchasing their red, white and blue Bicentennial doggie diapers? Sorry, a red, white and blue toilet seat is not an official replacement, and the Bicentennial casket will not do either.

LAST LAUGH DEPT.: A friend of mine decided against freezing her body after death. She realized that she might be revived in time for the Tricentennial, in 2076. For those people already frozen, good luck!

DO THEY KNOW SOMETHING WE DON'T? A very tiny Arabian peninsula country--I won't embarrass it by mentioning its name--recently issued a \$50 gold coin. Worth \$24.50 at the market place (don't ask me why), the obverse of the coin features a proud

profile of President-emeritus Richard M. Exxon. By the same token, we may know something *they* don't.

DIG THIS! Advocate publisher David Goodstein was not mentioned once in the June Newsletter. (Well, maybe just once.)

HOW TO FORGET YOUR HASSLES AND LEARN TO LOVE THE SYSTEM: If you're out of work and eligible for unemployment compensation, you will be required to physically report to a state unemployment office on a given time each week. If you miss a report day, for any reason at all, you will automatically be denied all benefits *for the entire reporting week*, with two exceptions: If you went to a funeral, you may be excused, and if you were sick on your report day (but on your report day only) you will receive a check minus a prorated amount for the day(s) you were ill. Since you've got to swear out a written statement with a state deputy that you were ill or at a funeral, and since any proved fraud will cost you your entire benefits, it's a good idea to have your wits about you when you go in to sign up

late. But unless you don't mind missing a week's worth of benefits, never give what they describe as a "personal reason" for signing in late. (A "personal reason" is anything except illness or a funeral.) Even if you were viciously attacked in the doorway of the unemployment office and the deputy had to step over your crumpled body to leave at 5 p.m., that's no reason to miss your sign up! There are no exceptions to this rule, and any appeal is a waste of your time. If you go the funeral route, the deceased had better be a sister/brother, mother/father.

A good friend will not do.

[Footnote: I used to think that the bureaucrats at the state unemployment office, like their counterparts at the post office, were incompetent merely through gross indifference. Now, at least for the unemployment workers, there seems to be a seething hostility towards many claimants which is barely hidden beneath the surface. Example: One employment advisor, a man who is probably now into the upper hierarchy of the Portland office, suggested in all seriousness to a young woman that, if she became pregnant, she would be eligible for ADC money in addition to her

unemployment compensation. Or, he advised, she might find a "sugar-daddy" who would pay her well for services rendered. This conversation occurred during Betty Ford's mastectomy and after the previously mentioned comments, he idly opined to the same female client, "I don't see any big deal about a woman getting her boobs cut off." The woman looked him straight in the eye and said, "How would you like having your balls cut off?"...just another day at the Portland unemployment office.]

HERE'S A PLEASANT THOUGHT:

Two years from now, Jim Longley will still be gov.

[Footnote: A highly respected friend of mine who had the honor to sit next to a Longley son during a recent banquet reported that this particular Longley offspring was even more obnoxious than JBL himself and suggested that he be called King James II, if his attitudes during the evening was any indication.]

RENT RIP-OFF: A Claims Rep in the Portland office of the U.S. Social Security Administration says that many of the Portland area land-

lords do not indiscriminate-ly raise the rents of their elderly tenants, as has been charged by various poor and human service organizations. Instead, the building owners await Congressional mandated increases in SS and SSI benefits, then jack their rents accordingly. Very considerate.

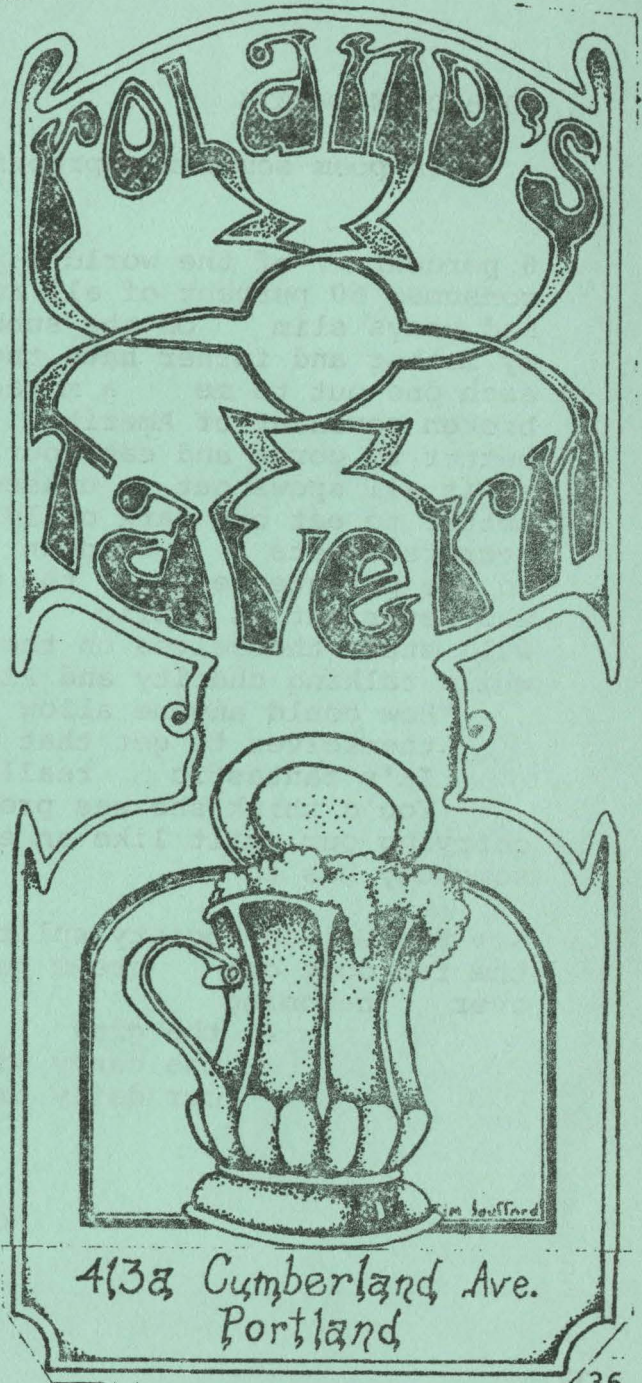
DIAL 1-202-456-2233 FOR INSPIRATION: For those of us who've wondered all these months what *exactly* Jerry Ford does during his 9-5 hours, there's a number in Washington you can call (see above) and get a professional announcer reciting newslite items telling you what President Ford does all day, reports the Village Voice. It's the White House Press Officer's Briefing Line. At any time of the day or night you can call and find out which clod Ford is going to confirm or nominate to any number of departments, judgeships or whatever; which bills he will mistakenly sign or veto; how many billions he'll appropriate to whatever new boondoggle has been slipped into his pocket; the name of the latest dictator he'll soothe; and great proclamations like

"Be Kind To Donut Hole Makers," or "National Friends of Independent Governors Day." Although the number is intended for the exclusive use of the press, give it a call if you feel depressed and need some giggles to cheer you up. Or if you think you are overly blissed, try it too. Now for the Hard Corps only: If you liked Jerry's line, you can waste money phoning the Congress! Yes, there are numbers you can call to get the latest partisan info on what the Distinguished Body is up to. To get the Republican Senate Cloakroom tape dial 202-224-8601 or the Democratic version at 224-9541. For the House of Representatives, the number for the Republicans is 225-7350 (who knows, you might get Rep. Emery) and the Dems number is 225-7400. For a live human voice, or so we're told, you can call 202-225-1772 and get the status of all bills before Congress, via computer. And if you still aren't interested, you can try the Smithsonian Institute's Dial-a-Phenomenon [202-737-8855] for the latest info on meteor showers, eclipses, and related items.

WHO SAID POLITICS MAKE STRANGE BEDPERSONS? Both ex-federal employees Spiro Agnew and Elizabeth Ray are avidly crisscrossing the nation's media centers plugging their literary versions of... (yawn)... Great Moments in the Nation's Capitol." Agnew, perhaps is pressing harder: he has no hopes whatsoever for a movie version...

AH, THIS EXPLAINS VIETNAM:

In 1965, when Lyndon Johnson was riding high in the Gallup poll and Barry Goldwater and his 24 million co-nuts had been banished by the media to the country clubs as renegade warmongers, Johnson had occasion to fly from Washington to Honolulu for secret war discussions. On the airport tarmac, LBJ was approached by a military man who advised the President, "Sir, your plane is right over there." LBJ looked at the military aide and drawled, "Son, they're *all* my planes." Say what we will about Ford, to my knowledge Jerry has never shown his machismo to White House aides by having them follow him to the bathroom during a conversation, a practice popular with LBJ, who liked to challenge the "polite" Harvard/Kennedy crowd he inherited in 1963.



The logo for Roland's Tavern is enclosed in a decorative, Art Deco-style border. At the top, the word "Roland's" is written in a large, stylized, outlined font. Below it, the word "Tavern" is written in a similar, even larger, stylized font. In the center of the logo is a detailed illustration of a beer mug filled with beer and topped with a thick head of foam. The mug has a handle on the left and sits on a small base. A small signature "Jim Bouffard" is visible in the bottom right corner of the mug illustration. Below the mug, the address "413 1/2 Cumberland Ave. Portland" is written in a simple, sans-serif font.

FORBIDDEN SWEETS

(a poem somehow appropriate for our bicentennial)

6 percent of the world's population
consumes 60 percent of all resources
and stays slim On the subway
my mother and father hate the fat point
each one out to me a miracle of failure
broken covenant of Amerika
better to gorge and eat your own long white fingers
so it all spews out unused unusable
better to eat our dark children
secrets sweets forbidden Welcome!
to the private feast the delicate ladies
who never eat in public
will stuff themselves on the back stairs
while talking charity and Planned Parenthood
"How could anyone allow
themselves to get that way?
It's fantastic really fantastic!
You'd think she was pregnant"
carrying our guilt like an enormous baby
somebody has to

Now the Golden Society splits open like a seam
the fat ooze out cream puff filling spilling
over becoming
the gray we walk on
the candy wrapper
our daily trash

Copyright/Miriam Dyak
RD 1
Pownal, Maine
04069

ODDS & ENDS

DYKES & TYKES: Dykes and Tykes is the name of a new organization of Lesbian Feminist mothers who are trying to find solutions to a unique social difficulty. Members of the New York group feel that they aren't being taken seriously by their sisters. In fact, at a recent meeting someone actually stood up and said, "If they are really Lesbians, they wouldn't be mothers." That offensive comment marked the birth of Dykes and Tykes.

Dykes and Tykes characterize themselves as Gay mothers and their children, Lesbians who want to be parents, lovers of Lesbian mothers, and Gay women working in the child care and teaching fields.

They plan various activities to engender communication and understanding about their life-style including, "picnics, outings, potluck suppers, sporting events; workshops, roommate finding services, counseling, and CR-groups; films, theatre, music, and art shows; and rap sessions on such issues as 'Why Motherhood?' 'Raising a Son

in the Lesbian Feminist Community,' and 'The Mother-Child-Lover Triangle.'"

U.S. REP. Wayne Hays of Ohio has been accused of a heterosexual relationship with a woman, Elizabeth Ray. Although Hays allegedly had her employed at \$14,000 a year to be his companion, and although he lied when first asked about his relationship with Ray, Hays has only recently resigned his powerful position as head of the House Administration (which "supplies" operating funds to other House members). He is still up for reelection. This is in sharp contrast to the drama of British Liberal Party Leader Jeremy Thorpe, who was forced by media pressure to resign as head of the Liberal Party after it was alleged he had had a homosexual relationship years ago...

THE SILVER LINING OF HOMOPHOBIA: Recently a service rep from IBM was in the MGTFF office checking out our new Selectric. Apparently nervous about the entire visit, when he left with the rented Selectric, he forgot to take the typewriter cover. Any-

body need a Selectric II type-
writer cover? (NOTE: lest
people worry, IBM was 4th in
profits in the U.S. last year.)

NOW YOU KNOW: Of the 12 peo-
ple granted Doctoral degrees
at the commencement of UMO
last month, two persons, a wo-
man and a man, were alums of
the Wilde-Stein Club as well.

LOOKING AROUND THE NATION, one
gets an idea of where particu-
lar Gay communitys are headed
or, at least, interested. New
York City seems to be into in-
ter and intra group squabbles;
Chicago is into bars and Busi-
ness as usual, Los Angeles is
split between the ideological
movers and the disco set; Phil-
adelphia is very, very low-key
(the Dyketactics group being
more NYC); Detroit is dead, if
one discounts the bar/bath
scene; Boston is (natch) the
Most Enlightened but can't
seem to be able to translate
that into any program of
"Strength Thru Numbers". The
closets in and around Boston
are jammed. And San Francisco,
fabled eureka for Gay people,
is heavily into bars Emperor/
Court bullshit, and doing
little outrageous things like
sponsoring a tricycle race
down a thoro fare of the city.
There is a hedonistic flavor

to the Bay Area and self-help
projects are short funded and
underappreciated.

TOM HURLEY, who was the co-
editor of the Newsletter from
December '75 to April 76 has
moved to Boston where he will
be working as editor for a
publishing company. We'll
miss Tom and his expertise
with the Newsletter, from
editing to stapling the rag
together. Good luck in Bos-
ton!

CHRIS SARANDON, who got an
Oscar nomination for his
first screen role in "Dog
Day Afternoon" as Leon, the
anguished transsexual he so
convincingly portrayed, was
recently quoted in the San
Francisco Chronicle as ad-
mitting, "I happen to be a
hopeless heterosexual." In
his next movie, "Lipstick"
he portrays a rapist...

ADVERTISING RATES: \$3/column
inch, with 10% discount for
3 and 15% discount for 6 con-
secutive ads. Ads will not
be insulting to people or the
environment. The staff may
reject any ad.

COMING SOON TO A TELEPHONE COMPANY NEAR YOU: Pacific Telephone & Telegraph (PT&T) in California has added an extra service to the 4-1-1 local information dialing number. It's an 8 second recorded message that begins as soon as connection is made. Anyone familiar with phone companies will know that anything they produce--especially recorded messages--will be incredibly dull; dull to the point of flirting with cruel and unusual punishment. How to combat this sinister threat? Herb Caen in the San Francisco Chronicle reports that one individual customer of PT&T dials the 4-1-1 directory assistance number, puts her phone on the desk, and counts "One chimpanzee, two chimpanzees," and so on to eight, picks the phone up and gets a live operator every time. No, the operator is not a chimp, so far as is known. In Maine, when this phenomenon arrives, we'll count "One Pine Tree State, two Pine Tree States,..."

ALEXANDER COCKBURN AND JAMES RIDGEWAY, writing in the June 7 Village Voice, have some interesting observations on the Hays/Ray

scandal, and they're convinced it's only the tip of the iceberg. In their article entitled "How Washington Exploits Women" their published research indicates:

--Wayne Hay's behavior was not an isolated case. "I think they have two choices," said a feminist who works every day on Capitol Hill. "They can throw out everyone that does that and there would be five members and all the women. And the five members would be the halt, the lame, and the impotent."

--That male members have on their payrolls women who provide sexual services for their friends as well as themselves.

--That women are used as bargaining counters in legislative negotiations.

--That the success of a woman on Capitol Hill often depends on her looks and her acquiescence to sexual overtures.

Of late, as mores have changed and more and more women have acquired professional jobs on the Hill, the brusque crudities of the back office couch or subur-

ban service apartment have become combined with buoyant public capering. With nervous pride members shepherd attractive female members of their staffs onto the floor of the House or Senate, where they function as professional assistants. It is a little like a fashion show as the Congressmen or Senators, proud as barnyard roosters, flaunt their assets.

Women on the Hill are also exploited economically. There is no job protection, no civil service, no protection against being fired. There's no unemployment insurance and labor unions are banned. There are no salary scales: individual members hire and fire at will, and at wages they themselves determine. Female typists are shuffled around in 'typing pools' with little or no notice. Because men get paid better than women on the Hill, a tight-fisted Congressman can hire two women for the price of one man. Even Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, banning employment discrimination, is specifically excluded from any jurisdiction over Congress.

Such outrages go beyond the behavior of Wayne Hays.

The fact is that members of Congress have employed hundreds of thousands of women in a state of economic servitude. They are the real workers, the boiler room people who really run Congress and without whose abilities and ill-paid endurance the noble legislators would be unable to operate.

The scandal as it is presently developing will concentrate on sexual gossip and specific revelations, not on what the underlying system is and what it has done to women.

MOONPEOPLE BEWARE!! Those Reverend Moon people are driving everybody nuts. At first, it was satisfying enough to just walk away from a Moonie when one came babbling at you. But with the warm weather, the little Nazis are out in force, which requires a more serious antidote. Simple cursing won't do. In Boston and New York, and in Portland to a lesser degree, many of the street corner Moonies are straight from South Korea, and a good, old-fashioned American "Fuck you!" gets lost in translation. So here's the idea:

The next time one of those flower-vending, pamphlet-pushing, grinning zomboids blocks your path, simply smile sweetly and say, "Neh-emi sip-hal nom." In Korean, "sip-hal" means "fuck you." "Neh-emi" indicates one is engaged in an incestuous relationship with one's parent. "Nom" specifies that the person you are talking to does both, probably does it to her/himself as well, and should get lost. Remember, that's "Neh-emi sip-hal nom." If they ask for a translation, give them one...

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO...A reader with a strange sense of humor writes us, "When the doctor says "Open your mouth and say ah" and "Oink!" comes out, congratulations, you have swine flu." Meanwhile, the company that's busy producing the vaccine has asked if it has to get signed releases from 210 million U.S. citizens before they dare peddle the stuff. Who knows what the Feds will say--probably they'll just add the vaccine to the back of postage stamps and forget the whole thing. Our reader suggests that they vaccinate the hogs instead of us. Hrrrrrrrrrr.

"ODDS & ENDS" consists of relatively short items of interest and opinion. The title should not suggest that these items are trivial or inconsequential (although some obviously are), but while they may be deemed appropriate to the general discourse, we prefer not to space them out as 'filler' around the Newsletter.

If you have an item of interest to the community at large, send it to this column in care of the Newsletter.

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

Jimmy Carter's son Chip was a tricycle rider in the predominately Gay 10th Annual Tricycle Race in San Francisco recently. He rode the Harry S Truman Democratic Club (a Gay political group) entry, along with the Club's vice president. Carter moved freely among the Gay throngs, shaking hands, and asking people to vote for his father in the primary. Somewhere along the way, however, it seems that Chip and his father were unable to connect up: At the Democratic platform hearings in June, Carter people on the Platform Committee squashed the Gay Rights plank.

A READER OUT WEST who saw the blurb in last month's issue about the town of Gay, Michigan, has sent us a photo of the signpost of the city limits of...Gay, GA.! Well, town limits. Gay is on state route 85, somewhere south of Atlanta. Rand McNally and the Newsletter stand corrected, but we'll still take Michigan over Georgia. (Another small town of note south of Atlanta: Plains, GA.)



CONFIDENTIAL GAY DRUG & ALCOHOL RAP GROUP

As mentioned previously, a Gay alcohol and drug abuse group has formed and is meeting in the Portland area.

Called the 'Confidential Gay Drug and Alcohol Rap Group,' it consists of both men and women and meets at the High Street [Portland] Community Resource Center, 68 High Street each Monday evening at 6:30.

We are the only people on the first floor during our meeting period. If you think that this group may be of help, or if you're just curious, you can obtain additional information by dropping by Mondays at 6:30 or by calling the MGTFF office at 773-5530.

NOTE TO READERS

Recently a reader expressed his concern that, in the June issue: 1) the article on the UMPG/GPA budget meeting by the Student Senate used editorializing within a news story; and 2) the short blurb describing Rep. Cohen's probable Democratic opponent as "homophobic" had no explanation.

Perhaps we are vague on where the news stops and the opinion begins. This is not intended and there is no 'conspiracy' to mislead readers.

Generally, the News Shorts and news-like stories with no named author are plain news, with no editorializing. Articles with signed writers are usually opinion, although they may be commenting on a particular item which, by itself, could be considered "news." Part of the title of the GPA budget story was entitled "...TWENTY-ONE EGOS IN SEARCH OF MESSAGE" to inform the reader that the following would no be a straight news report. And the report on the Mt. Cutler hike was a mixture of facts and humor.

Perhaps the best rule of thumb for readers is to expect opinion in all areas of the Newsletter except for the News Shorts and Calendar.

The labelling of Rep. Cohen's Democratic opponent as "homophobic" without an explanation is admittedly strange. As it happened, that particular political item was the last piece of layout to be fitted into the Newsletter, and even the item we ran had to be shortened for space reasons. Perhaps we were remiss to have used a labelling word without proper explanation. The person in question, Leighton Cooney of Sabattus, had attended a Democratic platform hearing earlier in the year at Lewiston where two MGTFF people were testifying for the inclusion of a Gay rights plank in the party platform. Mr. Cooney suggested that the plank not be included. The MGTFF people suggested that it should. As could be expected, a mini-debate between Mr. Cooney and the MGTFFers began, with the Subcommittee as spectators. We felt at the time that Mr. Cooney was afraid to deal with homosexuality; hence he is homophobic. We continue to hold this

opinion until we see evidence to the contrary. In the future we will hold items that cannot be adequately explained for space reasons.

The MGTf Newsletter review of the Portland area pin ball machines does not appear in this issue, as promised in June.

Several new machines have been introduced to the area, and they will require additional research; research that is vital to the accuracy of the report.

We apologize to our readers (many of whom may be relieved) and ask them to check out the August issue.

If only we had more quarters...

--THE EDITORS



ATTACKS AT DEERING OAKS

PORTLAND--Gay men cruising in Deering Oaks Park in the evening have reported a marked increase in the number of hostile incidents between themselves and homophobic gangs roaming the park looking for "easy" targets.

One particular hostile man carries a machete concealed up his sleeve. He is reported to drive a white '68 or '69 Oldsmobile. Gay men have also been confronted with broken beer bottles and tire irons.

It is suggested that people who decide to visit the Oaks do so with extreme caution.

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THE CUMBERLAND COUNTY CURMUDGEON

By Susan W. Henderson

Rofheart, Martha, My Name is Sappho, New York, Berkeley
Medallion Books, 1975, 337pp., \$1.50

The facts about the life of our foremother, Sappho, who gave us Lesbians our name, have almost all been lost. Jane Rule, in Lesbian Images, tells us that when the Christians burned the library at Alexandria, they destroyed much of Sappho's work. All we have now is one poem, plus fragments of others, many of them preserved because they were quoted by other Ancient writers. These writers attested to Sappho's greatness--to them she was *the Poetess*, equalled only by Homer.

From the fragments of fact and poetry Martha Rofheart has created a believable life of Sappho, in the form of an historical novel. Sappho, as presented here, is a very human woman. She has her faults--she can be insanely jealous, she is sometimes tactless, and she can simply not relate to her daughter, Kleis, who is awkward and has no artistic talent. Happily, Kleis is taken under the wing of a more prosaic aunt, and Sappho's good qualities far outshine her bad ones. She is a great artist, an affectionate lover, and a staunch champion of the rights of women. She never misses a chance to call a man on sexism, and she has plenty of chances, even in ancient Lesbos. Rofheart depicts a revival of feminism in Lesbos which draws much of its inspiration from our Hera--in fact, she is elevated to the governing council. Although she is of the aristocracy, Sappho has considerable consciousness of the oppression of poor women, and her championship of the rights of prostitutes would warm the heart of Margo St. James and COYOTE.

From a Gay person's point of view, this book is attractive because it treats homosexuality as a perfectly normal part of life (which it is.) This quality is seldom seen in writers of historical fiction (Mary Renault being the great exception.) By now you have probably realized that I liked the book. I did. It is great summer reading. I just wish we had documentation for all those nice things Martha Rofheart said about Sappho.

FROM "THE DESTRUCTION OF SODOME" (PREACHED IN 1628) TO
"MORAL NAKEDNESS" (PREACHED IN 1976): 348 YEARS OF
PROGRESS THRU BIGOTRY...

BOSTON (UPI dispatch in the *Portland Evening Express*) - The "moral nakedness" of sexual permissiveness has "catapulted our civilization into the dark caverns of hedonistic confusion," according to Cardinal Humberto Medeiros.

Medeiros, the spiritual leader of the archdiocese of Boston's two million Roman Catholics, said in his annual Lenten message published Wednesday that modern culture is "seriously lacking in its ability to give a vital, personal and vibrant meaning to sex.

"The accelerating pace of sex corruption continues under the guise of sexual freedom," he said.

The cardinal's message entitled "Growing Together in Holiness" is the first response he had made to a sexual ethics document issued earlier this year by the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

The Vatican document urged "understanding" for homosexuals deemed to be "incurable."

* * *

He does not like people who take it upon themselves to work out solutions to matters of sexuality "which are not in harmony with church teachings."

THE
DESTRUCTION
OF
SODOME:
A
SERMON PREACHED
at a publicke Fast, before the ho-
nourable Assembly of the Commons
House of Parliament,
At St. MARGARET'S Church in
Westminster.

By JOHN HARRIS, Preacher there.
Feb. 18. 1628.

LONDON,
Printed by H.L. and R.T. for G. Latbun,
dwelling in Pauls Church-yard, at the
figure of the Bishops head.

bits...BITS...bits

bits...BITS...bits

DEADLINE FOR AUGUST NEWS-
LETTER

WEDNESDAY, JULY 28, 1976

PUBLICATION DATE: JULY 30

+++ +++ +++ +++ +++

All readers are invited to use this space for brief notices, ads, information, announcements, and other various & sundry items of common interest. Please send your news to: BITS, Box 4542, Portland, ME 04112.

##

An annotated bibliography on homosexuality and religion has been prepared by the Center for University Ministry--Indiana University. For a free copy, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the Center for University Ministry, 1514 East 3rd Street, Bloomington, IN 47401

** ** ** ** **

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%%%% %%% %%% %%%

If a Gay man needs a home and is willing to live most of the year at a beautiful lake in eastern Maine, and likes to snowmobile, ski, hunt, fish, swim and water-ski, write to Bob, c/o MGTFN, Box 4542, Portland, ME 04112.

=== === === === ==

Anthony Stanback is writing a book entitled "We Are Here To Stay," and asks readers comments on any aspect of homosexuality. Mark your letters personal and send to Anthony at 403 S. Benning Rd. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20019

Sooo... you're an ageing
crippled Black
Lesbian mother and
you think you have
nothing to celebrate..
Well....



Tim Bourneford