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Maine Gay Task Force Newsletter, Vol.3, No.10 (October 1976)

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Maine Gay Task Force Newsletter



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Note To Readers

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

The Newsletter staff takes this opportunity to thank each MGTf monthly donor. We are aware that many person's funds are--like ours--very limited and that each donation, regardless of its size, is a considerable sacrifice.

The generosity of the monthly donors, along with the volunteered time and energy of contributors and office staffers alike, have kept the MGTf Newsletter alive and well.

To one and all, thanks!

* * *

TRAVEL NOTES

At midnight, December 31, 1976, our lease on the MGTf office at 193 Middle Street in Portland will most surely and irrevocably expire. By January 1, 1977, MGTf and the Newsletter hope to be moved to new office space in the Portland area.

Basically, our reasons

for not renewing the lease in the Casco Bank Block building (our present address) are considered though dull. For one, the rent--currently \$70/month--could, and probably would, increase after the New Year. Additionally, we do not choose to remain in the building as tenants of the building owners; currently we sub-lease from an attorney's law office that is also moving at year's end.

In any event, the Newsletter is searching for new office space. Ideally, we would prefer to share both rent and work room with a "fairly similar" (???) organization or endeavor, but an economical office space by ourselves would be acceptable as well.

If you have information on potential office space or may know where this scarce commodity might be located, the staff of the Newsletter would appreciate hearing from you! We're at 773-5530 weekdays, from 10AM-4PM.

We'll miss our old office (came to "grow" on us) and especially our 4th floor co-inhabitants: Attorneys Reben and Anspach, Joe Rubin, Bob Howe, Mindy and Linda.

NEWS SHORTS

ANN ARBOR, Michigan (*Gay Community News*) -- President Ford has promised to review the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service's (INS) policy on the immigration of Gay aliens to the United States. Answering a question from Dan Tsang, writer for *Gay Space*, a Michigan Gay newspaper, Ford stated, "I was not familiar with the fact that it [homosexuality] is the basis for exclusion. I was not familiar with that as a hindrance to a person coming to the United States. I think that is a matter that ought to be looked at and I will have my people do so." Gay people desiring to immigrate to the U.S. or to visit as tourists are presently barred on the basis of "psychopathic personality."

OAKLAND, California (*Chicago Gay Life*) -- Two Gay women in Oakland are suing their former employer because they claim his anti-Gay prejudice created a hostile environment in which they could not work, so they were forced to quit. Lillian Williams and Lee Dooley, according to their lawyer, were discrim-

inated against by their former employer, the Alameda Regional Criminal Justice Planning Board. They are now seeking \$200,000 in damages. Williams and Dooley say that their immediate supervisor disapproved of their lifestyle and made working conditions impossible for the pair. Their lawyer is hopeful about the outcome of the case since the State of California has awarded the two former clerks unemployment benefits even though they quit, rather than being fired.

MINNEAPOLIS, Minnesota (*News From the National Gay Task Force*) -- The 65th General Convention of the Episcopal Church which met here Sept. 11-23 passed several resolutions relating to the rights of homosexuals in the church and society. The convention declared that "Homosexual persons are children of God who have full and equal claim with all other persons upon the love, acceptance, pastoral concern and care of the church." In addition, a resolution was passed declaring that "homosexual persons are entitled to equal protection of the laws with all

other citizens" and calling upon society to see that "such protection is provided in actuality." Concerning the ordination of homosexuals, the delegates voted that the church examine the question in detail over the next three years and make recommendations for action at the next General Convention. Resolutions restricting ordination of homosexuals were defeated.

SAN MATEO, California (*The Advocate*) -- A nationwide survey of college groups shows that only one-half of the groups say that they would involve themselves in political activity of any kind. Only one person in seven says that they would even consider demonstrating--for anything. Most of the groups surveyed said that social services and educational functions, such as speaking to classes, were their prime work. "The campus Gay movement is larger than ever..." writes the *Advocate's* Randy Shilts, "but it has adopted the quiet, mild-mannered demeanor that dominates the campuses of the mid-'70s. For better or worse, Gay college students have traded pickets for proms and moved

their campus groups straight to the center."

WASHINGTON, D.C. (*Gay Community News*) -- The Metropolitan Community Churches has issued a pioneering directive to local congregations instructing them to eliminate sexist language from worship, according to F. Jay Deacon, a Hartford pastor. The directive, voted by the denomination's annual General Conference in Washington last month requires that masculine gender references to God be balanced with feminine ones or eliminated. It also requires changes in such terms as "mankind" ("humankind"), "chairman" ("chairperson" or "chair"), and the use of pronouns such as "he" ("s/he" or "he/she") when the person referred to could be either female or male. The denomination also voted to "redouble its efforts to include women in visible leadership positions."

PORTLAND, Oregon (*Gay Life*) -- A Pennsylvania Deputy Attorney General, Barry Kohn, recently predicted that it will be five or ten years before most states pass laws protecting the rights of Gay people. Kohn expressed this belief in a talk before the

Oregon Task Force on Sexual Preference, which was appointed by Governor Robert Straub to study the problems of Gay people in Oregon and make recommendations concerning laws which should be passed to eliminate these problems. Kohn shared with his audience Pennsylvania's experiences in dealing with the issue of Gay rights. At present only Pennsylvania and Oregon are the only states where active governmental groups are studying the situation.

CONCORD, New Hampshire (*The Advocate*) -- Pointing up more evidence of the trend to repeal repressive sodomy laws as a normal course of law reform is this bit of news that has just surfaced: New Hampshire repealed its sodomy law more than a year ago, on June 7, 1975. The repeal also went into effect more than a year ago, on August 6, 1975. The repeal was buried in the state's revised rape statute and attracted no attention from the non-Gay media, the Gay media, or from Gay activists. The addition of this state brings the total number of states to have repealed sodomy laws to 18, more

than a third of the 50 states

STATE COLLEGE, Pennsylvania (*Philadelphia Gay News*) -- In May the Borough Council here defeated, by 4 to 3, a proposal from Homophiles of Penn State (HOPS) that would have created a Human Relations Commission charged with protecting people from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation as well as all the other usual categories. However, two factors make passage of a similar ordinance likely. In the May primary election, two pro-Gay Democrats won their party's nomination to the Council, and if they win in the fall the balance will tilt by 4 to 3 in favor of Gay rights. Also the new bill will be proposed not by HOPS but by the borough's Advisory Board, which has 10 new pro-Gay members.

CHICAGO, Illinois (GCN) -- Gay marriage activists, Nancy Davis and Toby Schreiber, recently sentenced to a year in prison for a sit-in at the County Clerk's office in Chicago, have been transferred to the women's penitentiary at Dwight, Illinois. Chicago Gay circles continue to express outrage over the extremely stiff sentences which the two wo-

men received for the "criminal trespass" when they refused to leave the county clerk's office after being denied a marriage license. Their sit-in prevented the closing of the office.

LOS ANGELES, California
(The Advocate) -- The Los Angeles Gay Community Services Center, supported by several friends in city government, won approval of a \$305,250 grant for a federally-funded job training program on August 24. Virtually ignoring testimony from a clique of Bible-thumping protestors, the council voted 8 to 5 to approve the funds from the Comprehensive Employment and Training act (CETA), which will provide a work experience program for 75 people at the Center. During debate on the grant, homophobes armed with Bibles forecast doom for Los Angeles if funds went to the Center, and claimed homosexuals would be responsible for not only a nuclear war, but a major earthquake as well.

NEW YORK CITY (*Newsweek*) -- Nearly \$5000 has been raised by the newly-formed Gay Rights National Lobby for pro-Gay federal legislation.

CALENDAR

- 7 October...Gay People's Alliance
 Rap Groups (every Ths.)
 773-2981 X535 for time
 & place. All welcome.
- 8Wilde-Stein Club
 meeting. 7PM in the
 International Lounge
 of Memorial Union,
 Orono. Business &
 rap. (every Fri.)
- 11.....GPA business meet-
 ing. 7PM. (every Mon.)
- 15.....Portland Gay group
 organizational meet-
 ing. 7:30PM, 193 Mid-
 dle St., Portland.
 4th floor.
- 16.....Maine Lesbian Femin-
 ists meeting; Bangor
 area. For details
 write MLF, Box 125,
 Belfast, ME 04915.
- Kay Gardner Concert.
 8PM in the Damn Yan-
 kee Room of Memorial
 Union, UMO. Free,
 come early!
- 1 November...Bunch/Brown speak at
 Orono. Hauck Auditor-
 ium in Memorial Union.
 Free, come early! At
 8PM.
- 2.....Rap with Brown and
 Bunch in Bangor
 Lounge of Memorial
 Union, Orono. At 10
 AM.
- [Remember, GPA meets every Mon. &
 Thurs., and W-SC every Friday.]

Letters to the Newsletter

PLEASE NOTE:

ALL letters to the editor that are intended for publication must include the writer's full name and address (and phone number, if possible.)

Unverified letters can not be printed.

If requested, a person's name will be withheld from publication, or a first name or other designation may be used. Please, no exceptions!

Dear MGTFN Staff,

I could see my MGTFN issue glow from my mailbox before I even looked into it. Ahhh, I said to myself, a Gay companion to keep me company in this wasteland of heterosexuals at Franconia College. Being the only openly Gay person in the student body (with the exception of the school dead-animal-eater's cook, Jory the Junkie--who gets off on spring water and brightens the place up with his gentle smiles) can be alienating indeed in these northlands of Thompson and Loeb.

So I grab my issue, walk back to my cafeteria table and conspicuously read it in front of others.

"What's that?" asks Chea. I, of course, ever so casually and smugly answer, "Why, it's my new issue of the Maine Gay Task Force Newsletter."

But then I turn to page 14. Blank! Flip to page 39. Blank! You non-suckers! Didn't you listen to Stan when he told you to look on both sides of the paper as you collated them?! Oh, well. That's O.K. I guess, because Peter Prizer's S.S.S. was left intact and besides, I can go to the Franconia College Library and read their copy--which sits, by the way, next to the Village Voice: Peter Prizer's Pie in the Sky. (I love you, Peter.)

Miriam Dyak's letter was rather disturbing for two reasons:

1.) She's right about the male orientation which, to a degree is hard not to do since all of the contributors, with the exception of Susan Henderson (I'm dying to read that book), are male.

2.) She has no sense of humor. The "New York City: A Plot to Divert Innocent Radicals" is an absurdist satire on a moral all-A-

merikan perspective towards decadent male homosexuality; and how can anyone take a drawn nude centerfold of Frederick the Great seriously?

Aw Christ, now look what ya got me doing: defending absurdist satire from dogmatic utopian purism is tantamount to discussing dialectical materialism with Eugene Ionesco.

But all in all, the Newsletter is a breath of fresh air, and in the open spaces and mountains of northern New Hampshire, that's quite a statement.

I love and miss you all,

Tim Bouffard
Franconia, New Hampshire

There are many other battles at present to be fought in court for Gay prisoners in prisons and jails throughout the United States.

To be able to continue this effort we ask your help in publicizing our Gay Prisoners Fund, the address of which is: "Sister Evelyn Ancilla, Convent of Transfigurations, 495 Albion Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio, 45246," c/o John Gibbs, Prisoners Defense Fund. Also you may inquire about arts, crafts, hand-made knitted clothing, etc. made by Gay prisoners.

Your help will allow us to continue our legal battles for attorneys and basic civil rights.

In Gay Unity,
John Gibbs

National Gay Prisoners Coalition
P.O. Box 1000, U.S. Prison, McNeal
Island, Stilacoon, Washington 98388

Dear Newsletter Readers,

Appeal For All Gay Prisoners!

As chairperson of National Gay Prisoners Coalition, I would like to offer our deep appreciation for your support of my Gay Rights court action against Prison Officials at the U.S. Prison, Marion, Illinois on June 21, 1976. We were successful and feel that your letters and those of others had a positive effect.

BALLROOM DANCING INSTRUCTION

Group or private lessons
Students will be taught to lead
and follow

LOUIS SIROIS STUDIO 60 LYMAN ST.
WESTBROOK, MAINE 854-2282

THE CUMBERLAND COUNTY CURMUDGEON

By Susan W. Henderson

Fall Thoughts and Vast Projects

Fall is an ambiguous time of year, in a way. It is a time of settling down, of finishing up the canning, furniture painting, and other summer things. I put away the canner with relief, having made tons of bread-and-butter pickles--you know what you're getting from me for Christmas, folks! On the other hand, Fall is a time of new beginnings. Perhaps this is because most of us spend the first eighteen years or so of our lives in school--we are geared to starting our year in September. The air becomes crisp, and the mind revolves vast projects.

The MGTFF Newsletter is entering its third year, and flourisheth like the green bay tree. We have acquired a new typewriter and an electro-stencil cutter, thanks to generous donors, and have expanded our format. We had six or seven people turn out to fold and staple the last issue--many thanks, friends, and please keep coming. Please keep writing, too! We never have too much material. If we don't use your work in one issue, we will in the next. I for one hope that more sisters will write for us. Most Lesbians, it seems, lead very busy lives--I wonder if it's an inborn Dyke characteristic? There never seems to be enough time, what with building one's own house, teaching classes, building tankers at Bath Iron Works, or pushing paper for the Fed. If you get inspired, now that winter is coming and things are quieting down, please share it with us. That goes for you brothers, too.

This brings me to the latest Vast Project of the Newsletter staff. We're writing a cookbook, folks! No kidding! We want to include recipes used and enjoyed by our readers. We plan to include graphics, and hope to put up the book with a spiral binder and sell it to raise money for our Beloved Rag. We are asking our readers to send in their favorite recipes, along with any notes or stories

about them which might be of interest. Recipes should all have been tested by the person who sends them in. Let us know if you want us to use your name, a pen name, or credit the recipe to "Anonymous." We also need appropriate graphics, suitable for black-and-white reproduction. Hope to hear from you. After all, if the Boston Museum of Fine Arts can do it, so can we.

SYBIL'S
Y a comfortable
B reality
I for
L gay
S people

135 Middle St.
Portland 772-9476

MGTF SURVEYS MAINE'S CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATES

OR

EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT THE NOVEMBER ELECTION
MADE PERFECTLY CLEAR...WELL, ALMOST EVERYTHING...

PRETTY MUCH EVERYTHING, HUH?...PRETTY
CLEAR, CONSIDERING...WHAT'S
THAT?...HUH?...

MGTFN recently wrote to Maine's Congressional candidates, asking whether or not they support H.R. 5452 (recently renumbered H.R. 13928), the National Gay rights bill. H.R. 5452/13928, basically, would prohibit discrimination on the basis of "sexual or affectional preference" by amending the 1965 federal Civil Rights Act to cover Gay people in the areas of employment, housing, public accomodation, and federal funding. The responses from both candidate and incumbent were interesting and, as we might have expected, not all that supportive.

Rick Barton, Democratic candidate from the First Congressional District, was the only aspirant to indicate support for H.R.13928. His opponent, Rep. David Emery said he will not support the bill.

William Cohen, Republican incumbent from the Second District, does not expect to cosponsor the bill. His opponent, Democrat Leighton Cooney, also does not believe he would cosponsor the bill.

In the Senate race Edmund Muskie, the Democratic incumbent, wrote that he would not oppose a similar bill if it were introduced into the U.S. Senate. His Republican opposite, Bob Monks, said he would give the proposal every consideration, but he would not firmly endorse the bill right now.

In other words, all the candidates except Barton are, with varying degrees, turned off to H.R. 13928. Emery is the least enthused ("...I can not at this time support [the bill] for I believe that such a law would in the end advo-

cate homosexuality as an appropriate and an acceptable lifestyle--an advocacy that I can not and will not support.") A bit homophobic, to be sure, but not unexpected from Mr. Emery whose cheerful loathing of homosexual women and men would appear "normal" behavior for an unmarried Republican from Knox County. Candidates Cohen and Cooney do not expect to cosponsor the bill; the former "until its full impact is more thoroughly assessed," and the latter "not having given the matter sufficient study..." Not much difference for Second District voters to weigh (although Cohen wrote back promptly while Cooney had to be prodded a little.) For the record, Rick Barton wrote, "I believe strongly in equal rights for all people. With that foundation I could easily support H.R. 5452/13928 and similar measures as your Congressman."

The positions of the Senate candidates are equally as cryptic. Muskie wrote:

I can understand your interest in the provisions of H.R. 5452, which will have the effect of banning discrimination on the basis of sexual or affectional preference.

I have always supported the right of law-abiding individuals to practice their choice of lifestyle free of officially-condoned harassment or discrimination. To the extent that H.R. 5452 would codify that right at the federal level, I would not oppose it.

In Washington jargon "not opposing" something is a nicer way to say what Cohen and Cooney declared. All three comments are basically 'No.' But Muskie's letter seemed genuinely friendly, like Barton's, while those of Cohen and Cooney were "proper." Emery's required a heated letter opener to get at it. And Bob Monks, who earlier said orally that he would support 5452, now says on paper that

"..[I] can not provide a simple yes or no answer at this time." It should be noted that Brian Arsenault, Monk's press secretary, responded to our survey at the last possible moment for inclusion in this pre-election Newsletter, after missing four specially extended deadlines.

In summary, the clear-cut race is in the First C.D., with Barton supporting and Emery opposing H.R. 5452. Elsewhere, you pay your nickle and take your choice. Clear?

HUMAN RIGHTS AMENDMENT (CONT.)

As reported in the September issue of MGTFN, concerned people of various state Gay organizations and the Maine National Organization for Women (N.O.W.) have formed a coalition to work for the amendment of the Maine Human Rights Act to include the phrase "sexual and affectional preference" in its listing of protected categories. As amended, the Act would prohibit discrimination against Gay people in areas of employment, housing and public accomodation.

While a core group of people is presently forming (see November, '76) it will be Gay people from around the state demonstrating the need for an antidiscrimination clause that will be the crucial factor. To this end we urge that anyone who has been the victim of legal discrimination on the basis of sexual or affectional preference please write or call us with relevant information. If you wish, you may remain completely anonymous. Please don't let the other person do this--we'll need evidence of discrimination, and lots of it.

Additionally, petitions

are now being circulated in several areas of the state in support of the measure. If you would like to help distribute a petition, please contact the MGTFN office at 193 Middle Street, Portland, at 773-5530, or through PO Box 4542, Portland, ME 04112.

This issue of the Newsletter was published several days before the planning meeting of October 6, the full details of which will be printed in the November issue.

WOMEN'S COUNSELING SERVICE

The Women's Counseling Service provides low-cost feminist counseling and referrals for women throughout Maine. Some counselors are Lesbians, all are non-homophobic. Their hours are Mondays 7-10, Wednesdays 11-2, Thursdays 4-7 and Saturdays 10-1.

To contact them call 443-9531 (or write) or drop by their office at Room 23, 72 Front Street, Bath 04915.

MGTF MEETING NOTES

At an unusually early (10 AM) meeting on Sunday, September 26, approximately 20 people from various parts of the state met in the lounge of the Gay People's Alliance office to discuss future activities and general structure of the Maine Gay Task Force.

The consensus of the four hour meeting was that the Task Force would seek incorporation and continue its role as a coordinator of statewide Gay-related activities, especially on a "need" basis. In a related development, several people offered to investigate the possibility of forming a Portland-based Gay group that would be entirely independent of MGTF. Part of the discussion at the meeting dealt with the observation that MGTF had become a *de facto* "Portland group" inadvertently. The creation of an actual Portland group by southern Maine people was seen as benefiting both the Task Force in its broader concerns and also those individuals who may not be interested in a predominately political organization like MGTF. (The first meeting of the proposed Portland Group

will be held October 15 at 7:30PM at the 4th floor lounge at 193 Middle Street.)

Additionally, a Finance Committee for MGTF was organized. Its task will be to explore new sources of income presently undeveloped. The Committee will hold regular meetings which will be listed in the Calendar.

After the meeting adjourned Bill Gordon presented the "semi"-classic Orson Welles movie "The Stranger" which was entertaining for those who remained to view it.

[The next meeting of MGTF will be announced in the Newsletter. At publication time, a definite date had not been set.]

RESOURCES FOR BLIND

The Americal Library Association's Task Force on Gay Liberation announces a list of books on Gay people that have been recorded for the blind. The list is available free from the Task Force at: PO Box 2383, Philadelphia, PA 19103. Please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

THE STATE STREET STRAW

By Peter Prizer

For October, a whimsical Straw harvest of droll wit, crypto-dychotomic revelation, unveiled inuendo, out and out repetition and more. If you secretly read the cereal boxes at the local A&P, you'll be right at home with this month's selection. Actually, some cereal boxes aren't that dull. Redundant, perhaps, for those who eat slow or, for those with very balanced diets, a little tedious--the same box, morning after morning...

For me, it's the Press Herald in the morning; second section first, in the bathroom, with the front page and editorials for breakfast (yes, in the kitchen). All in all, not a bad reading experience although I'm afraid the awesome responsibility of having cranked out a printable column six days a week for the past zillion deadlines has hopelessly scrambled the basic motor skill/signal recognition levels of columnist William (The Logroller) Clark, who with each passing day seems more and more hooked on shame-

lessly needling any person or group whose social views don't conform to those of John D. Rockefeller. Any day now we'll turn to Clark's column over a bowl of Kellogg's raisin bran and find Uncle Jake spinning rustic homilies from atop Somerset County's very first Peabody Coal Company *mammoth* shovel, methodically driving both "preservationists" and sociologists before him, like a broom after cat hair on a linoleum floor, from Caratunk to Skowhegan. And behind and astride Uncle Jake's great swath we'll have an enthusiastic Bill Clark, lavishly praising the budding technology of strip lichen mining and its great economic potential for Maine. At least if Uncle Jake's forward progress isn't stymied by out-of-state do-gooders, jealous regulators, Augusta pointy heads with neo-socialistic leanings, etc. etc. Happily, the rantings of the House Grouch are so predictable that few readers bother to contest them in the Letters section.

Speaking of early morning ritual, if you massage your gums with Crest toothpaste, then you and me and Jimmy Carter have something in common. And that's the tooth!

September Songs:

"Massachusetts is a communist front." (Alan Spang, John Birch radio commentator, September 4, 1976.) Warrants investigation!

"There is no secret fund." (Sen. Robert Dole, himself a recipient of \$3000 from the \$1.7 million secret cash fund in CREEP's safes, on ABC's Issues and Answers, September 24, 1972.) Watchdog media sleeps through this one.

"Ice cream was never intended to sit on a cone." (Muttered by a frustrated young male Deering Ice Cream Shop trainee, well into smashing his second plain cone with a scoop of butter almond, September 22, 1976.) Heresy from a young radical.

HERE'S A QUESTION for the candidates: What do they think about the fact that Americans with wealth over \$5 million (the top 0.008 per cent of the population) own as many assets as the bottom 50 per cent of all U.S. families?

BUMMERS OF NO SMALL PROPORTIONS: Adidas T shirts, November, the Fonz, fiber lamps, doomsday prophecies by holier-than-thou zanies

and E.S.T.

BATH'S DOUBLE WHAMMY: The City of Bath on the Kennebec river in Sagadahoc County occupies a fairly pleasant spot on the northern tip of the Richmond/DC/New York/Boston/Portland megalopolis; the last pit stop of civilization, as it were. This summer, however, has not been as pleasant as others. For one thing, the Carlton Bridge (U.S. 1) to Woolwich has been a little terse at times, due to construction, and the U.S. Navy ship Detroit (in Bath Iron Works for overhauling) has introduced an estimated 200 dope smokers to the already tight southern Maine market, forcing up grass prices and placing a severe squeeze on its availability. But sources familiar with both situations have said that the conditions have moderated somewhat since Labor Day.

THUMBING SURVEY: Having spent considerable hours hitching between Portland and Damariscotta the past five months, I've come up with some trends that other hitchers might keep in mind (at least between Portland and points north.) Forget: Cadillacs, Continentals,

Chryslers and other autos of status. Gettings into them is harder than crashing the Debutante's Ball. Possibilities: Chevys, Pontiacs, Plymouths, Fords and other standard issues. Sports cars may surprise, especially if the male driver is out to impress you with his skill and savvy. Best Bets: VWs (especially busses), vans, Volvos, old junkers, Saabs, '50's pickup trucks with Vermont tags.

The best time to hitch is often just before it threatens to rain or snow: passing drivers will have guilt feelings as they approach you. But should you not get a ride as the precipitation mounts, drivers will get a strong inclination not to stop--they'll be turned off by the idea of a wet-clothed person entering their car. And as you stand in the pouring rain, subsequent drivers will regard you as a weirdo; one who hasn't the sense to come in from the rain. Start walking! Bane to hitchers: vehicles with CB mumbo jumbo babbling in the foreground (unless you're into it.)

THE TWENTY YEAR ITCH: As

promised last month here's a detailed fact sheet on the dread Zero Factor, or why every President elected in a year ending in zero (since 1840) has never lived to attend his successor's inauguration...Strange but true!!

1840 William Henry Harrison caught pneumonia at his inauguration festivities and died a month later, the first President to die in office. He was succeeded by John Tyler who, it turned out, had mysteriously sent Harrison's heavy dress coat to the dry cleaners one day before the inauguration.

1860 Abraham Lincoln, elected on this date, needs no introduction here.

1880 This election was won by James A. Garfield, affectionately nicknamed "Mr. President" by a Gilded Age public. Garfield was gruesomely decapitated by a trunk lid in the White House attic by Charles J. Giteau over a dispute in employment. Giteau spent 17 years at Sing Sing for his role in "The Thursday Night Incident."

1900 William McKinley coined the phrase "the full dinner pail" in his successful election bid in

1900. One year later, McKinley was shoved by anarchist Leon Czolgosz into a prototype pizza crust stamper at the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo and never heard from him again. A grim demise for the Double Zero Chief Executive!

1920 Warren G. Harding enriched our civic vocabulary with phrases like "smoke-filled room" and "political scandal." While touring the northwest U.S., Harding became sick from food poisoning (it was thought) and died a month later. No one knows what foul device did him in, as no autopsy was performed. (It's too late now.) His timely departure spared him the embarrassment of the court trial of two of his Cabinet members.

1940 FDR. Again, no introduction needed.

1960 JFK. Ditto.

1980 ? ? ? If either Ford or Carter are elected in 1976, both would be eligible to run again in 1980. My fearless prediction: Ford, who is clued to the Zero Factor, forfeits the '76 election with his famous Fourth Carter Debate blooper

("Up yours, sweetie!") thus precluding the possibility of a 1980 reelection campaign. President Carter attempts a valiant defiance of the Zero Factor in the election of 1980, armed with a simple faith in the Almighty, a beefed-up Secret Service and a bevy of 27 specially recruited Carter look-alikes. Fate will not be fooled, however, and in February, 1982, the real Jimmy Carter is stomped to death by a rabid kangaroo in a children's petting zoo in Hobart, Tasmania. Mondale takes the oath of office (after a lengthy court battle between the Justice Department and one of the Carter imposters) and serves out the remainder of his predecessor's term. Then in 1984, it's fresh faces all around, with Robert Kennedy III for the Democrats and Edward Cox, Jr. for the Republicans. RFK in a squeaker that pits the poor, aging cities of the Northeast and Midwest in an electoral slugfest against southern California, Albuquerque, N.M. and Dade County, Fla. (To be continued.)

BIGOTGATE SCANDAL--Although this is a family Newsletter we're going to print what probably is only a small

sample of the wit and humor of Agricultural Secretary Earl Butz. As the excerpt opens, we find Butz, Pat Boone and John Dean chatting together on a plane leaving the Kansas City GOP convention. Dean is the "I" in the dialogue.

To change the subject Pat posed a question: "John and I were just discussing the appeal of the Republican party. It seems to me that the party of Abraham Lincoln could and should attract more black people. Why can't that be done?" This was a fair question for the secretary, who is also a very capable politician.

"I'll tell you why you can't attract coloreds," the secretary proclaimed as his mischievous smile returned. "Because colored only want three things. You know what they want?" he asked Pat.

Pat shook his head no; so did I.

"I'll tell you what coloreds want. It's three things: first, a tight pussy; second, loose shoes; and third, a warm place to shit. That's all!"

Pat gulped twice.

--Rolling Stone, Oct. 27, 1976

Not only is Butz's homily a bit racist, but it's a shade sexist, too. Agnew would have loved it.

See you next month!

LISTING OF AREA GAY GROUPS

MAINE LESBIAN FEMINISTS
PO BOX 125
BELFAST, MAINE 04915

MAINE GAY TASK FORCE
PO BOX 4542
PORTLAND, MAINE 04112

SEACOAST AREA GAY ALLIANCE
PO BOX 1424
PORTSMOUTH, N.H. 03801

LESBIAN CAUCUS
FERNALD HALL
UNIVERSITY OF MAINE
ORONO, MAINE 04473

WILDE STEIN CLUB
C/O MEMORIAL UNION
UNIVERSITY OF MAINE
ORONO, MAINE 04473

GAY PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE
92 BEDFORD STREET
UNIVERSITY OF MAINE
PORTLAND, MAINE 04103

SOUTHERN MAINE LESBIAN CAUCUS
c/o JOHNSEN/BREEDING
205 SPRING STREET APT.5
PORTLAND, MAINE 04102

BOOK REVIEW

SISTER GIN

By June Arnold, Daughters Press. \$4.00.

Reviewed by Jennifer Woodul

In the last six to eight years, women in droves have separated themselves--consciously, and as far as possible--from the dominant male culture. We've made political commitments which start from a base of woman-identification. We've talked a lot about woman-identification--but many of us were too recent escapees from the dominant culture to know what that really meant.

Things are a little different now. We've moved beyond consciousness-raising, where we found strength. We know what our needs are and create concrete structures to meet them. We've been working on our politics together for a long time, realizing that we always are needing to do more work on our politics. We've become clearer on the things we want to keep and the things we want to do away with.

For some time now, I've been intrigued by what exactly it is that we're learning. How is it that we're changing, and having lived with women *only* for several years now, how are we different than we were? What are the component parts of this new culture we're creating--this new place that we're living in rather than just trying on. I wait for statements that flow naturally out of that culture, that speak uncontrivedly about the way we see women, feel about ourselves. I want to hear romantic statements about the good times, but I also want to hear about the way we have to struggle with ourselves and with each other. I want to hear about the joy of discovering each other, but I also want an honest treatment of the elements that frequently divide us. I want to hear about our confidence and health, but what about our intermittent backsliding and insecurities?

Mostly I want to hear about how our consciousness changes, how we are in process and we never expect to *arrive*--except at plateaus, which are only stopping places to rest up for the next changes.

I've just read a book that begins to respond to all these needs. *Sister Gin* knocked me out. My purpose here is to get you to read the book. I'm not particularly interested in writing a "balanced" review. My overall reaction is strongly positive. The task is to say why.

Sister Gin impressed me as the finest novel I've read that has sprung out of political Lesbian consciousness. Strangely enough, it's not about young separatist dykes; the characters are old women in the process of change. Thankfully, there are no obviously didactic episodes in order to drive home political points; our most forceful, exciting political discussions and struggles do not often a novel make. Yet there is no art vs. politics separation.

The focus is on a Lesbian couple of 15 years standing, and it extends to the various other women that directly touch their lives. The main character, Su, is liberal, conscientious, thin, methodical, menopausal, dissatisfied, and drinks a good deal. She's a well-reputed writer of book reviews for the principal paper of Wilmington, North Carolina. She has worked herself up from humble origins (lower-middle-class-one-quarter-Jewish) to a position of respect in a town heavily influenced by its Southern aristocratic WASP leadership. Her lover, Bettina, is herself a daughter of a fine old family. She is a radical when jobless, conservatively self-protective when employed. Her oppression as a fat woman encourages a house-bound existence; her class privilege makes it feasible--psychologically and economically. She drinks a great deal.

This is no fantasy-light Lesbian relationship. Conflict is sharp and incessant. Old resentments have become habit, liquor provides both the source and resolution of painful skirmishes, there are no tools for understanding what's gone wrong. The women love each other. But the source of their love can only be traced to memories; mutual

frustration and misunderstanding have long since forced them to search their history for the rationale of their relationship. Day-to-day contradiction deepen, but some need holds them together.

The other characters are the mothers of the two women, an 80 year-old friend of the family with whom Su falls in love and has a brief love affair, the woman who has worked for Bettina's family for decades (the only Black character, Miss May), a young woman with feminist leanings, and several other old women who have played bridge and drunk together for years. Some of these are women who consider the League of Women Voters to be radical because it supports the ERA. Ironically, they are the same ones who organize a secret committee to seek out and punish rapists--a vigilante squad of old women disguised in yellow wigs and choir robes. (The same ones, indeed, who complain that a lifetime of *high heels* has produced a permanently shortened tendon.) Most all of them drink--to pass the time, to ease communication, to kill pain, to slough off fear--liberating bolder ideas.

The striking thing about this novel is that it tells about women from a *perspective* of woman-identification rather than merely portraying woman-identified characters. Oh relief, oh genius, oh merciful distance from where we live that shows us what we've learned!

Classism, racism, ageism divide the women in *Sister Gin* --confusing, affecting their behavior. Still, strong Southern traditions of propriety have compelled the white women to become used to speaking for each other--transmitting each other's needs, explaining each other's pains and silences. It's Su who reinterprets that customary concern as an outgrowth of their shared identity. And when Su realizes that she (they) cannot speak for Miss May, it's with a positive commitment to let May speak for herself. The common oppression the white women share brings them together to seek vengeance against male violence toward *all women*, against patriarchal injustice to all people.

The women here have renamed menopause a new beginning, and not an end. Age has been called beautiful, and its accompanying physical changes inspire desire, respect, and appreciation, not fear. Body fat has been renamed a positive weight for a woman--for as Bettina knuckles under to society's dictates, she senses personal loss, hollow victory. Trying to feel the triumph promised to one who will starve for it turns out to be a frustrating experience, irrelevant to her own needs. To be deaf, to be fat, to be old, to be afraid, to be young, to be alone, even to be drunk is no tragedy here. An understanding of each other's plight in relation to a woman-hating world has made us believers in our own beauty, supporters of changes, strugglers with pain, misunderstanding, and failures. We cannot really afford to name any woman a tragedy.

Finally, there is no resolution. There is a tracing of a change of consciousness. Hollow feelings of dissatisfaction lead to bold feelings of exploration followed by a forceful episode of direct action dissolving in despair and confusion, finally growing into certainty of righteous anger--knowing all along that it is only the beginning.

I urge you women to read this book. I congratulate June and the other women of Daughters. Cover to cover--interior design, composition, and *words*--you do nice work.

[Editor's note: The above article originally appeared in The Lesbian Tide of July/August 1976. A feminist Lesbian publication, Lesbian Tide consists of news, analysis, interviews and poetry. \$5/yr. from the The Lesbian Tide Collective, c/o The Woman's Building, 1727 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. \$1. per single issue.]

CONFIDENTIAL GAY DRUG AND ALCOHOL RAP GROUP-meets Monday evening 6:30 at the Community Resource Center, 68 High St. Portland. 773-5530 for info.

BOOK REVIEW

GAY SPIRIT

By David Loovis, Grove Press, 1974. 172pp, \$1.95 (paper).
(also available in hardcover).

Reviewed by Bill Gordon

How can anyone seriously review a book that concludes with a bed scene between the author and his lover wherein Loovis states about the book "It's a spoof of all those 'Senuous' books, but serious too."? Subtitled "A Guide to Becoming a Sensuous Homosexual," Gay Spirit purports to be a healthy, aware, self-improvement course for Gay men who wish to become happy homosexuals. As Loovis intones, "You want to be a complete homosexual, don't you?"

Yet there is something basically wrong with the first national best-seller about male homosexual lovemaking: it's *tacky*. To be more precise, its ideas are outmoded and at times even harmful; not so much in the semi-clinical descriptions of sexual activity but rather in its advice on the finding, creating, building and sustaining of Gay male relationships.

If this book were to be taken seriously by any substantial number of people, it could throw Gay consciousness back into the '50's. In that very same final chapter entitled "Fulfilled" Loovis writes about his again-found lover "You recall Dennis. Well, he's back, and he's in bed with me again. I'm proud of winning Dennis. He had two people contesting for his love...But I won Dennis!" This sort of self-righteous ego inflation (which is typical of the entire book) puts poor Dennis on the level of money won in a poker game. Also, I think it's safe to assume by now that a Gay man with any awareness of successfully working out a relationship realizes that owning, possessing or otherwise controlling one's partner robs both of their independence and spirit of free will. This results in antagonistic feelings from the always submissive half that may often be strong

enough to break up the relationship.

This book is also guilty of gross elitism. In order to make yourself appear attractive enough to *win* a lover, you must spend massive sums of money for the right clothes, a car is required for those weekend excursions (to get away from it all), regular cocktail and/or pot hours are advised, occasional purchases of original art can spark up your love lives, the performing arts are preferable to films, literature and even recorded music, etc., ad nauseum. In general Loovis obviously is saying that a Gay male relationship is able to survive only if each partner has an income in the \$15,000+ bracket. And all this from a chapter that begins "Few human relationships are as beleaguered by devils within and without as gay love affairs..." Loovis's suggestions are anything but an act of exorcism.

In the chapter on cruising, where Loovis is wise to concede that a one-night affair may result in a long-term relationship, the author has a decided preference for bars, parks, restrooms, truck-stops, etc. as the place to meet someone. He cannot advise on the equally substantial meetings that might occur, say, in a classroom, at work, through friends, or even a Gay organization. (And yes, there is no mention anywhere of the importance of Gay friends --again, in typical outmoded style, Gay relationships must appear to be restricted only to "tricks" and lovers.)

Need a clever line to begin a relationship? Try this one (over the department store counter): "How much do you charge...[pause]...for this tie?"

The book amounts to only 172 pages--with a lot of blank spaces everywhere. For such an unexplored and misunderstood subject as Gay male relationships, this is indeed not nearly enough. I met Loovis this past spring at the New England Gay Conference in Worcester, Massachusetts. In his three-piece suit and ever-present pipe, he talked to me and a Lesbian friend for a few minutes. His condescension, air of superiority and downright evasion of any substantial questions asked are well exhibited in his disastrous book.

If anyone still "in the closet" were to ever see this book, they'd undoubtedly be so turned off by the transitory picture of Gay life presented therein to not only close the door but lock it as well.

Gay Spirit might be a nice, nasty present to give to a hopeless homophobe; it could be somewhat effective as a kindling helper on a cold Maine night; or if you're into starting a library of Gay literature I'd suggest placing this tome amongst those old curiosity pieces from preliberation days such as the script of "Boys in the Band."

~ Maine ~
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Newsletter Meetings

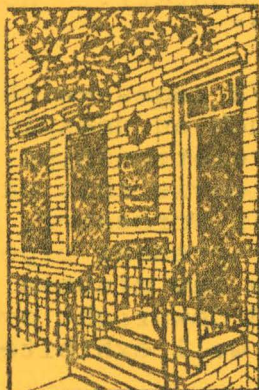
The next general meeting of the MGTN Newsletter will be held on Tuesday, October 19 at 7:30PM at a staff member's apartment in Portland.

Everyone who has an interest in the publication is welcome to attend and contribute to the discussion.

For directions and more information, please call 773-5530 weekdays.

Newsletter meetings are often interesting (at least that's what we think.) If you'd like to contribute your ideas and comments to MGTN, then this is the time to do it!


Oscar
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Bookshop
15 Christopher St
New York 10014
(212) 255-8097



RITA MAE BROWN AND CHARLOTTE BUNCH TO SPEAK AT ORONO

(Information supplied by Diane Elze of the Lesbian Caucus)

It's our great pleasure to announce that RITA MAE BROWN and CHARLOTTE BUNCH will be giving a joint lecture at the University of Maine at Orono. The lecture is being sponsored by the Distinguished Lecture Series.

DATE: November 1, 1976

TIME: 8:00 P.M.

PLACE: Hauck Auditorium, Memorial Union, UMO

ADMISSION: Free

Furthermore, Rita Mae Brown and Charlotte Bunch will be campus the next morning to participate in a discussion with those people who would be interested in rapping with them. The discussion will take place at 10 A.M., November 2, in the Bangor Lounge of the Memorial Union.

Newsletter readers may recall Brown's September article "The Shape of Things To Come" and Bunch's August essay "Perspectives '76."

The joint lecture will take place in a facility with a seating capacity of 600. To ensure yourself a seat, you may want to get there early.

It is hoped that everyone will be able to stay for the discussion. If you need a place to stay, please drop a note to the address below and the Orono Women's Center will try to accomodate you.

And please - tell all your friends and, if you can, put up notices in your area.

Diane Elze

c/o Orono Student Government

Memorial Union

University of Maine

Orono, ME 04473 Phone: 581-7801

RYTA MAE BROWN

Not only has Rita Mae Brown been a well-known Lesbian feminist political activist for nine years, but she is also an accomplished novelist, poet, filmmaker and political writer as well. As early as 1968, she was the Administrative Coordinator for the National Organization for Women. Since then, she has co-founded a variety of feminist organizations including a feminist theatre, a newspaper collective, and, most recently, Sagaris, an independent institute for the study of feminist theory and issues. Ms. Brown has been a visiting faculty member at Goddard College in Vermont, a visiting Fellow of the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, D.C., and a lecturer in Sociology at Federal City College, Washington, D.C. In addition, she was a member of the faculty at Sagaris in 1975. She is presently on the Steering Committee of the National Women's Political Caucus.

Her published works include two novels, Rubyfruit Jungle (Daughters Press) and In Her Day (to be released later this year), and two widely-acclaimed books of poetry, The Hand That Cradles The Rock (New York University Press, 1971) and Songs to a Handsome Woman (Diana Press). A collection of her political articles, The Plain Brown Rapper, is scheduled to be released later this year.

Her articles and poetry have appeared in such well-known anthologies as Sisterhood Is Powerful (Random House); The New Woman (Bobbs-Merrill); Women: The New Voice (Bantam); No More Masks! An anthology of Poems by Women; Women's Liberation (Dell); Class and Feminism (Diana Press); and Out of the Closets (Douglas), and in the following periodicals: MS Magazine; Women: A Journal of Liberation; Off Our Backs; The Furies; Quest: A Feminist Quarterly; and Aphra. Various works have been translated into Japanese, French, and Spanish for foreign publication.

Rita Mae Brown's proposed lecture on the relationship of art to politics will be accompanied by some reading from her own poetical works. Not only will she have an appeal to feminists and to all persons involved in social change, but she will also be of interest to individuals in art, literature,

poetry, sociology and political science, for she uniquely combines the perspective of all these areas of study.

CHARLOTTE BUNCH

Lesbian, feminist, theorist, activist, author, editor, teacher--Charlotte Bunch is a living experience of nearly every phase of the Women's Movement in America. With a background that includes extensive travel, study and speaking in Asia, Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and Australia, she is as well-versed in international politics as she is in the internal struggles and ramifications of the new feminism.

Bunch was one of the founders of Women's Liberation in Washington, D.C.; a founder-writer for The Furies, one of the earliest Lesbian feminist collectives in the United States; an organizer for the First National Women's Liberation Movement and a women's seminar series in Cleveland, Ohio in 1969; an organizer of the first D.C. women's center in 1970; an organizer of a conference of Indochinese and North American women in Toronto in 1971; and a participant in the first International Feminist Planning Conference called by N.O.W. in 1973. She has been a participant, speaker and writer for numerous seminars and discussions covering topics from religion to politics, and has taught courses in feminist theory at American University and at the Sagaris Feminist Institute.

Presently, she is a Resident Fellow at the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, D.C.; an editor of Quest: A Feminist Quarterly; teaches feminist theory at George Washington University for the graduate program in Women's Studies; and is writing a book on feminist political theory.

Her published works include: "The Reform Tool-Kit," an essay on the role of reform in the radical feminist movement; Class and Feminism (Diana Press); Women Remembered (Diana Press); "Asian Women in Revolution: China and Vietnam"; and The New Women: A Motive Anthology on Women's Liberation.

Her essays and articles have appeared in nearly every major feminist journal and newspaper in the United States.

In her travels, Bunch has made contacts with the women's movement all over the world. Not only will she have an appeal to women on this campus and in the community, but to anyone interested in the international milieu.



Break Out of the Sex-Role Prison

High School Women's Liberation is a collection of over 20 articles about young women's liberation.

Included are several book reviews, poetry by young women, and discussions about the school scene, sexism in textbooks, sports, lesbianism, black women, sexuality, legal rights, and music. Lavishly illustrated, it is the best resource for young women available anywhere.

Order from Youth Liberation, 2007 Wash-
tenaw Ave., Dept. W, Ann Arbor Mi. 48104.
\$1.25 each.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE MAINE GAY TASK FORCE NEWSLETTER

PO BOX 4542 PORTLAND MAINE 04112

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MAINE LESBIAN FEMINISTS

The third statewide gathering of Maine Lesbian Feminists will be held on October 16 in Bangor. The all-day gathering will be followed by a Kay Gardner concert in Orono that evening.

MLF statewide gatherings are held every two months in varying locations across the state. Local groups in Augusta, Bangor, Belfast, Brunswick and Portland meet according to local interest in the interims.

For details about the October 16 gathering or for information on Lesbian activities near you, write to Maine Lesbian Feminists (or MLF), PO Box 125, Belfast, Maine 04915.

KAY GARDNER CONCERT

Lesbian feminist musician Kay Gardner will give a concert on Saturday, October 16, at 8PM in the Damn Yankee Room in Memorial Union, University of Maine, Orono.

The admission is free but the seating capacity is only 200...so arrive early!



YOUR CRITICAL DAYS AND HOW TO CALCULATE THEM: A simple way to calculate your personal biorhythms... (biorhythms are used to make people more aware of their mental, emotional and physical energy levels, and to determine when these energy cycles are in harmony or conflicting; they are used extensively in Japan)... a pocket calculator would be handy:

ONE: How many days have you lived?

1. Write down your age in years at your last birthday.
2. Multiply the figure by 365.
3. Count the number of leap years (a leap year can be exactly divided by four and come out even. Leap years occur every four years.) Count the number of leap years that you have lived through, and add one day to the figure in step 2 for every Feb. 29 that you have lived.
4. Count the days since your last birthday and add the result to the step 3 figure. You now have the number of days that you have lived.

TWO: THE PHYSICAL CYCLE

5. Divide the number of days you have lived by 23, the number of days in the physical cycle.

6. Take the answer and disregard all the numbers to the left of the decimal point.
7. Multiply the remaining number, including the decimal point, by 23.
8. This is the current day of your physical cycle. If it is from 2 to 12, it is a good day. From 13 to 23 is a poor day.

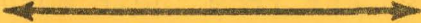
THREE: THE SENSITIVITY CYCLE

9. Divide the number of days you have lived by 28, the number of days in the sensitivity cycle.
10. Take the answer and disregard all the numbers to the left of the decimal point.
11. Multiply the remaining number, plus the decimal point, by 28.
12. This is the current day of your sensitivity cycle. From 2 to 14 is a good day; from 16 to 28 are poor days. Days 1 and 15 are very critical.

FOUR: THE INTELLECTUAL CYCLE

13. Divide the number of days you have lived by 33, the number of days in the intellectual cycle.
14. Disregard all the numbers to the left of the decimal point and multiply by 33.
15. This is the current day of your intellectual cycle. 2 to 16 is good; 18 to 33 are poor. 2 and 17 are critical.

ODDS 'n ENDS



PHILADELPHIA COFFEEHOUSE-- Beginning on Friday, September 17, the Philadelphia Gay Coffeehouse will be open two evenings each week, both Fridays and Saturdays, says the *Gay-zette*. The Coffeehouse is located at 326 Kater St., off South Street. For further information, persons are asked to contact one of the Coffeehouse Coordinators, or a message may be left with the Gay Switchboard, 928-1919, and your call will be returned.

FREE PERFORMANCES--The Profile Theatre of Portland has announced its October schedule for free performances for low-income and handicapped residents of Portland. Made possible by a grant from the Portland Community Development Program, the performances will be held Wednesday October 6 and 20, as well as every Thursday through Sunday. Wednesday through Saturday, performances are at 8:15PM. For the month of October, the classic French comedy, *THE MISER*, by Molière will be perform-

ed. For eligibility requirements and reservations, call the Profile Theatre at 774-0465 or We Who Care at 772-6395. In addition, free theatre workshops will be continuing each Monday night at 7:30PM. For details call 774-0465.

CITIZENS BLAND RADIO--CB's are apparently the latest rage in male Gay meeting areas, reports *Gay Community News*. In at least two gathering spots--in St. Louis and Key Biscayne, Fla.--patrols of Gay men have been using CB radios to warn of harassment, muggings and the like in view of police inaction. Among the names of the CB handles in St. Louis are "Swampfox," "Pincher," "Sugar Bear" and "Pancake."

LAMBDA BOUNDARY MARKER DISCOVERED--A discovery of an unusual rock may have solved the long-standing controversy between Rockland and Rockport concerning jurisdiction rights over the valuable Treadway-Samoset Resort. In July, 1976, two beach strollers found a boulder resembling a landmark used over 200 years ago to define the line separating the two towns. A line drawn from the boulder to a survey stake on the hotel

grounds put Samoset in Rockport. Rockland has claimed the valuable property comes under its jurisdiction. On the rock was found two markings which appeared to be the Greek letters "lambda" and "kai." A surveyor marked a boulder with the same Greek letters on Jan. 13, 1791 to define the town line.

A SUBSCRIBER IN CALIFORNIA sent in the following quotation...

We will make no moral progress until cruelty is properly viewed as a weakness, not as a strength.

IN CONGRESS, when a bill has 25 co-sponsors, it is reintroduced with the identical wording but with a new number so that more Representatives can be listed as co-sponsoring the legislation. The national Gay Rights Bill was re-introduced by Rep. Bella Abzug of New York on May 20, 1976, with four new co-sponsors who were not listed on HR 5452. The new bill number is HR 13928.

JARLSBERG CHEESE BOYCOTT-- Companies whose true expertise is in marketing, not nutrition, have been selling infant formula to new mothers in Africa. Thousands

of babies deprived of the nourishment from their mothers' breasts are malnourished, dying or already dead. A documentary film called "Bottle Babies" shows scenes of an infant graveyard with baby bottles and crushed cans of infant formula planted on many of the small mounds. A Swiss citizens' group has issued a report entitled "Nestle Kills Babies." The Maine Feminist Health Project recommends a boycott of Nestle products, including Nestle Jarlsberg cheese.

SPECIAL SERVICES--In honor of Gay Pride Week, the entire service at the First Unitarian Church of Pittsburgh, Pa. was devoted to a presentation on Gay oppression and Gay rights. The Rev. James A. Hobart and two members of the congregation read from the report of the church's subcommittee on homosexual rights and called for "massive opposition" to Pennsylvania's Senate Bill 743 which would severely restrict employment opportunities for state Gay people.

TO BEEP OR NOT TO BEEP-- The Village Voice reports that the Federal Communications Commission is pondering the future of the "beep

...beep...beeps" that appear by law every 12 to 15 seconds whenever the other party is taping your phone conversation. But when the beeps first appeared in 1948 more and more exceptions have been made with the recording warning (mostly by the Secret Service, the Pentagon and private citizens) that the Commission rule has become, according to the FCC, "totally unenforceable." The FCC has asked all the large corporations like State Farm Insurance, NBC, ITT, Dictaphone and AT&T what they think about the beeps (they'd like to see them done away with or that their corporation should be the one exception) but they say they also want to hear from the people about bleeping the beep. If you're into it, your comments should be sent to: FCC, 1919 M St., N.W. Washington, D.C. 20554. Refer to docket #20840.

NEW YORK DANCES--The Gay Activists Alliance (GAA) will join with the West Side Discussion Group in co-sponsoring the second in its 1976-77 series of dances for Gay women and men Saturday October 9th from

9:00PM until 3AM at 37 Ninth Avenue, at 14th St., New York City. After October 9th the dances will continue every second Saturday of each month through June 1977.

Women's Nights at the West Side Discussion Group from October 6th through November 3rd will deal primarily with personal and psychological issues of interest to Lesbians.

AS A PUBLIC SERVICE FOR FRANK RIZZO...In order to insure speedy and convenient local distribution of the *Philadelphia Gay News*, lavender vending machines for the paper are being purchased and placed in locations throughout Center City. The first area to receive the machines was Spruce Street. An added advantage of the vending machines is their potential for use as a public signboard. On the lower front panel of each machine are slots in which advertisements and announcement cards can be inserted. These spaces are available to all Gay organizations on a first-come, first-serve basis.

[Have an item for this column?
Share it with the readers!
c/o Odds 'n Ends, MGTFN, Box
4542, Portland, ME 04112.]



WOULD LIKE to get in contact with Gay People in the Northern part of Maine for friendship. Please write and I'll get in touch.

R. Thibodeau
80 St. Thomas Street
Madawaska, Maine 04756

* * *

GAY MAN in Lewiston, Maine is interested in meeting others--any age, any race--for fun and possible relationship. A non-smoker and non-drinker, my interests include electronics, movies and writing novels. I'm 5'6", 22 years, 175 lbs. Write to Mark Allyn, PO Box 3083, Lewiston, Maine 04240.

* * *

Companionless bi-sexual male would like to hear from lonely or not so lonely Gay people in southern and central Maine. Reply to Don, c/o MGTFN, PO Box 4542, Portland, ME 04112..

* * *

MALE, 25, would like to meet and correspond with other Gay people in the Greater Portland area. Please write.



to Steve, c/o MGTFN, PO Box 4542, Portland, Maine 04112.

* * *

FEMINIST WOMEN--Gay and non-Gay--and CHILD are looking for women to share house in Brunswick. Contact Nan at 443-9531..

* * *

Gay is Good

The Confidential Gay Drug and Alcohol Rap Group is meeting every Monday evening at 6:30 at the Community Resource Center, located at 68 High Street in Portland. If you think that alcohol or other drug is a negative influence on your day-to-day life, then it may be a good idea to drop by and check out this very friendly and relaxed group.

In sharing there is strength.



• ■ ■ **B I T S** ■ ■ •

(Cont.'d from back cover)

Design: any design

Must Include: the words, DYKE, a quarterly. First anniversary Issue, Winter 1976-77 (DYKE must be in caps)

Colors: up to four colors; do not use light blue

Size: final print 17"x22"

Artists: Lesbians only

Deadline: October 31, 1976

Send original artwork or slide. If you want your work returned, please send return postage. Tomato Publications will pay \$100 for the poster used as the anniversary issue. Artwork and graphics will also be gratefully considered for use in other issues. We pay for all work that we print. All work should be sent to: Tomato Publications, 70 Barrow St., New York, NY 10014.

* * *

A GAY MAN living near Dexter, ME would like to write to others in Cetral Maine area. Write to: Henry, c/o MGTF, Box 4542, Portland, Maine 04112.

* * *

BITS are FREE! Write: BITS c/o MGTFN, Box 4542, Portland, ME 04112



MGTFN, Box 4542, Portland, ME 04112



• ■ ■ **B I T S** ■ ■ •

FOR SALE: 1952 Plymouth, mech. good, needs some body work-\$350. Also twin boxspring and mattress, nightstand, bookcase, asst. dishes and rugs. Call: 773-0377 Portland.

* * *

Gay people interested in forming a group in the southern York County area are asked to write: Chris Wright, P.O.Box 478, Berwick Maine 03901 or call Alan at 698-5535.

* * *

The following is a list of people in prison who would appreciate correspondence with Gay people on the outside:

George H. Deputy #143-263
P.O.Box 787
Lucasville, Ohio 45648

Thomas Maxwell #26313
Unit D
Pembroke Station
Danbury, Conn. 06810

Jimmy Hall #006827
East Unit M-3-S-15
Box 747
Starke, Fla. 32091

"BITS" are run for 2 consecutive months. Mail yours today.



tive months. Mail yours today.



• ■ ■ **B I T S** ■ ■ •

DEADLINE FOR NOVEMBER NEWS-LETTER:

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1976

PUBLICATION DATE:

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1976

* * *

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

* * *

SUBSCRIBE TO GAY COMMUNITY NEWS--

A non-sexist, non-exploitative publication of news, features and opinion. \$15/year; 52 copies. Mailed in no-peek envelopes. To: "GCN," 22 Bromfield St., Boston, Massachusetts 02108.

* * *

The Maine Issue, the statewide paper for working people, is looking for writers, artists, photographers, local reporters and distributors. All are volunteer, although commissions are arranged for distributors. The Maine Issue, published monthly by the Maine



• ■ ■ **B I T S** ■ ■ •

Organizing Committee, reports on Mainers who are trying to bring about progressive changes. Supported by subscribers and by a sustainer program, the paper is a forum for ideas and discussion on the problems of our society and what it is people are doing about it. If you would like to help or subscribe, write: Maine Issue, Box 433, Portland, Maine 04112.

* * *

SUBSCRIBERS to the Gaycon Press Newsletter receive poetry, information, articles on various prisoners in various prisons around the country. \$4/yr. for 12 copies. To: Gaycon Press Newsletter, c/o Ron Endersby, Editor, 1 East 3rd Street, NY, NY 10003.

* * *

DYKE, a quarterly magazine of Lesbian culture and analysis, is searching for an original poster design by a Lesbian. We will select a poster design which we will print and distribute as our first anniversary issue, Winter 1976-77. Guidelines:

Medium: any two dimensional medium

Process: printed by offset

Subject: any subject

(Cont.'d inside back cover)

