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Maine Gay Task Force Newsletter, Vol.3, No.06 (June 1976)

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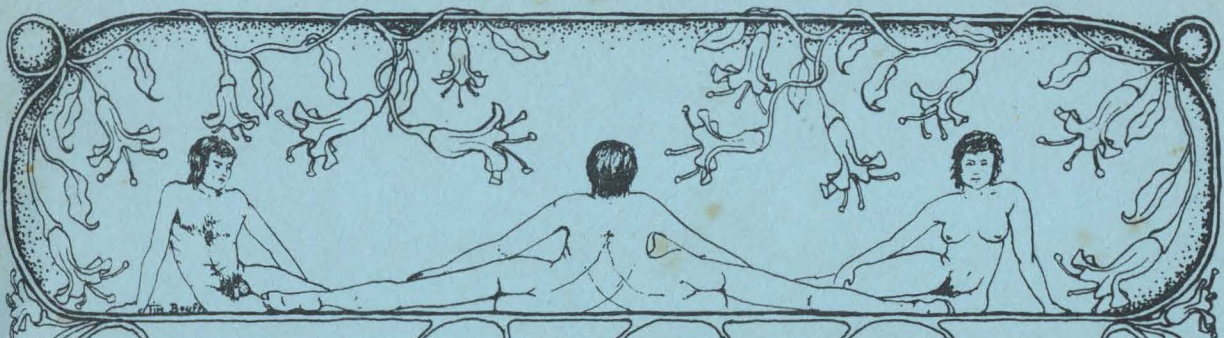
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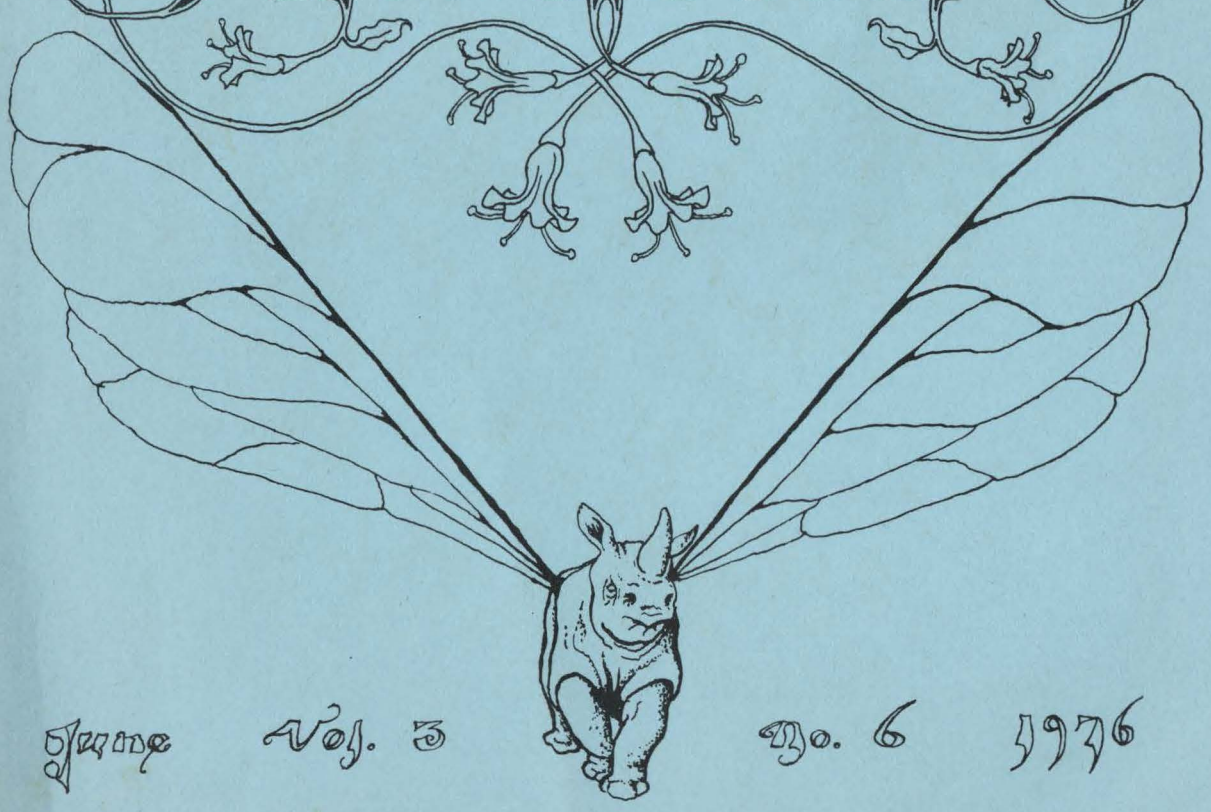
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Tom Hurley, Wendy Ashley, Stephen Leo, Stan Fortuna, Deborah Johnsen, Susan Breeding, and Tim Bouffard



Maine Gay Task Force
 Newsletter



June

Vol. 3

No. 6

1976

Maine Gay Task Force Newsletter

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NEWS SHORTS

ROME (*Gay Community News*)

Four members of the Italian Gay organization FUORI [Fronte Unitario Omosessuale Rivoluzionario Italiano] are planning to sue Pope Paul for \$250,000 after he condemned homosexual behavior. The four people accuse the Pontiff of "using slanderous and spiteful expressions" against Gay people after an article by the well-known French writer, Roger Peyrefitte, claimed that the Pope had had an affair with a young actor while he was Archbishop of Milan. The suit charges that the Pope's statement "wounded the personal reputations and dignity of the undersigned who are homosexual."

LOS ANGELES (*The Barb*)

Democratic presidential candidate Jimmy Carter said that he would be willing to issue an executive order banning discrimination against Gay people in housing, employment, immigration, and the military, with one exception: closeted people "in high security positions who might be subject to blackmail."

PITTSBURGH (*San Francisco*

Sentinel) The local chapter of the New American Movement has withdrawn its support of the Venceremos Brigade because of the latter's anti-Gay restrictions. NAM said that "the struggle against sexism and sexual philistinism in all its forms is a key component of the struggle for socialism."

WASHINGTON, D.C. (*Chicago Gay*

Life) The national lobby which was organized at the Advocate-sponsored conference in Chicago is now being incorporated in Washington, D.C. The name of the organization is the Gay Rights National Lobby, Inc. and you may join by sending \$15 to GRNL, Inc., 110 Maryland Ave., N.E., Room 201, Washington, D.C. 20002. If you join now, you can help select the board of directors who will be chosen sometime during the next two months.

CHAPEL HILL, -N.C. (*Newsletter*

of the Eastern [N.C.] Gay Alliance) An historical event took place in Chapel Hill on Saturday, April 24: the formation of North Carolina's first state-wide Gay

activist organization, the North Carolina Gay Union. Approximately 18 people from the three major geographic regions of the state met in the Carolina Union to discuss the purposes of the group and elect a temporary slate of officers.

PHILADELPHIA (*Gay Community News*) The newly-formed Gay Newspaper Association held its second meeting in three months in Philadelphia, May 8-9. The association, which consists of ten newspapers located in eight cities in the U.S. and Canada, was formed in February at a meeting in GCN's offices in Boston. This commitment to the pooling of resources represents the first time that a joint effort of this kind has been mounted among members of the Gay press. The current members have a combined circulation of over 100,000.

HALIFAX, N.S. (*The Body Politic*) A CBC radio station here has refused to air a public service announcement for a local Gay liberation group. The group, The Gay Alliance for Equality [GAE], tried to place an announcement publicizing its 'Gayline', a telephone information and counselling service which the group provides to the community. When it tried to submit its announcement, GAE was told by a

representative of CBH, the CBC outlet in Halifax, that the CBC has a national policy against accepting public announcements from homophile organizations.

WASHINGTON, D.C. (*ZAP, the newsletter of Homophiles of Penn State*) Anthropologist Margaret Mead, before a National Press Club Conference recently said, "Homosexuality is perfectly good for some people. Extreme heterosexuality is a perversion."

NEW YORK (*San Francisco Sentinel*) The Staten Island Ferry has come out of the closet. It's now OK to hold hands with someone of the same sex on this fabled vessel. The city's Marine and Aviation Dept. has issued a memorandum banning discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. Last October, a Gay Activists Alliance member had been threatened with arrest for embracing a friend while aboard the ferry.

PRINCETON, N.J. (*The Barb*) Princeton University's new

antidiscrimination policy bans discrimination against Gay people, according to the school's equal opportunity employment officer.

SACRAMENTO (*Gay Community News*) An *ad hoc* coalition of fundamentalist Christian groups has apparently come close to garnering the needed number of signatures to place a referendum on the California November ballot to repeal that state's recently enacted consenting sex law. The group, called the Family Lobby, announced at a Sacramento press conference in late April that it has gathered 280,000 out of the 320,000 signatures necessary and that more than 100,000 petitions are circulating in California. The legal deadline is June 25. A previous attempt to put the referendum on the ballot by an organization called the Coalition of Concerned Citizens [CCC] failed last year when the group was unable to gain the required number of signatures. The *Advocate* quoted San Francisco Gay political leader Jim Foster as saying, "Everybody better get clear on what this really means. If

this initiative wins, we probably won't see more consensual sex legislation in this state for the rest of our lives. This is it."

PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA (*The Body Politic*) The National Synod of the Reformed Church of South Africa has decided to break its ties with the Dutch Reform Church over disagreements on theological matters. Among the areas of differing opinion are attitudes on racism and homosexuality. A report recently issued by the Dutch Reformed Church suggested that homosexuals could be allowed to hold positions of preacher, deacon and church elder.

JOPLIN, MISSOURI (*Gay Community News*) After delays and threats of legal action, the *Joplin Globe* has agreed to run an ad which advertises a local Gay organization, *Pride*, as well as *Gayline*, a free telephone referral and crisis help. However, the newspaper also stipulated that it would run the display advertisement only if no other advertising was placed in the future. *Pride* is continuing to work to change this policy. Anyone interested in helping in the work of this group should contact Michael Shater, *Pride Legal Fund*, 207 W. Fourth St., Joplin, Mo. 64801.

NEW YORK (*Gay Community News*) The National Gay Task Force has called for a letter-writing campaign to "protest Lesbian invisibility in the National Women's Conference" which has been authorized as part of a U.S. Commission for International Women's Year. The Commission has been extended to March 31, 1978 and has a \$5,000,000 budget. People are urged to write both their congresspeople and to the Commission itself to protest the omission of Lesbians in the section of the funding bill [PL94-167] emphasizing "representation of low-income women, members of diverse racial, ethnic, and religious groups and women of all ages." Interested persons should write: Jill Ruckelshaus, National Commission on the Observance of International Women's Year [IWY], U.S. Department of State, Room 1004, Washington, D.C. 20520.

BOSTON (*Gay Community News*) The *Boston Globe* has refused to pay the *Tufts University Observer* for running a promotional ad because the student paper altered the language of the advertisement. The ad showed four *Globe* em-

ployees, three women and one man, and carried the headline "Newspapermen." The *Observer* changed the sexist head to "Newspaperpeople," to the displeasure of the *Globe*, which refused to pay the \$65 owed for the ad.

LOS ANGELES (*NewsWest*) Arbor

House has announced that next year it will publish a book co-authored by sports figure David Kopay which will deal in some depth with homosexuality. Kopay is a former running back for the NFL's Green Bay Packers, San Francisco 49ers and Washington Redskins. Kopay's recent announcement of his Gayness caused a major stir in the professional sports world. The book will include in personal terms letters from young men in and out of sports and will discuss in depth the quest for sexual identity among males from adolescence on, and the reaction of teachers, clergy, parents and spouses to the kind of dilemma and ultimate acknowledgement in Kopay's own experience.

PHILADELPHIA (*The Weekly Gazette*) In this Bicentennial era, let us remember that Thomas Jefferson, author of the famous phrase "life, lib-

erty, and the pursuit of happiness," also had a few words to say on homosexuality. Jefferson proposed that the penalty for homosexual behavior should be: castration for male homosexuals and for female homosexuals, the piercing of the nose cartilage with a large hole. That's just one in a series of Bicentennial tid bits...

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LETTERS TO THE NEWSLETTER

May 17, 1976

Dear Editor:

Please print our thanks to Tony N. of Congress St. for letting us use his apartment while attending Symposium III. It made our weekend so much more enjoyable.

We both enjoyed Symposium III very much as it was our first. It was a pleasure to meet so many nice and interesting people and have a good time together. Enjoyed sharing thoughts and feelings so freely with all of you.

Sincerely,
Ed & Ron
Sanford, Me.

May 5, 1976

GPA, SMLC, W-SC, MGTF

Dear Friends,

It was truly a great experience to me, attending and participating in Symposium III. How much I appreciate all your combined efforts to make the Symposium so successful once again. Congratulations to you all. (Also, hopefully, congratulations are in order for the final approval and arrival of the twice-delayed Maine Revised Criminal Code. It did really happen on May 1st. didn't it?)

Hearing the keynote speakers was especially rewarding to me. Thanks to Dolores Klaich for telling it like it is--and Richard Steinman for letting us know how it could be, based on his research into the way it is in Europe. Dr. Steinman's finding that Scandinavians have an inherent respect for their fellow citizen's privacy caused me to wonder how different things might have been here in our country if we fellow Americans had the same high regard for privacy. But, we are the way we are.

Dr. Steinman's work session on "Aging and Ageism Among Gay Men" was really beautiful. I'm

looking forward next year to a special session on the "Peter Principle" and "Sexual Hangups," ideas for future workshops originating in Richard Steinman's session. Tell Jonathan I finally remembered the "Peter Principle."

Thanks to Joe (Brooklyn) for George and Cecil's address in Bangor. Conviviality and closeness to so many good people are a great tonic to my spirit and life: Susan, Stan, Thayer, Bob, my Black Bearded Buddy. And special joy and love to the creator (Tim Bouffard) of those great drawings: some sharply commemorative, others rich in the varied Utopias of Fairyland.

Love,
Milo

Dear People-

I received the May issue of the MGTFN today and was very pleased with the new format.

The content of this issue indicates that Symposium III was a great success--congratulations to all of those who planned/participated in the conference.

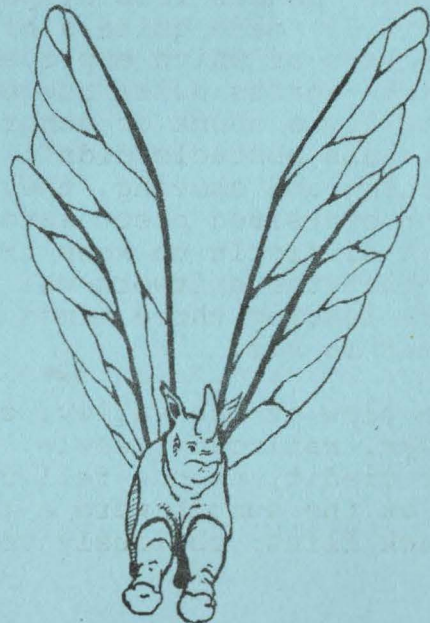
This letter is to notify you all that I'll be working this summer in Washington, D.C. on a Gay Rights project. Three of us (two women + myself) were selected to participate in a 10 wk. pro-

gram largely dealing with Title 34, an ordinance which prohibits all types of discrimination for all minorities/oppressed groups including Gay people.

Title 34 is the law, but it is not being enforced. We hope to work on that. In any case, I hope to commence my monthly column beginning either in June or July--I have yet to come up with an appropriate name for it--A.C./D.C.; Capital Isms; Capital Punishment; oh well, I'll be in touch.

I hope that you all are maintaining proper energy levels and are forging ahead to open new vistas of consciousness for the people of Maine--

your friend and mine,
Steve Bull



MT. CUTLER HIKE DRAWS THOUSANDS!!

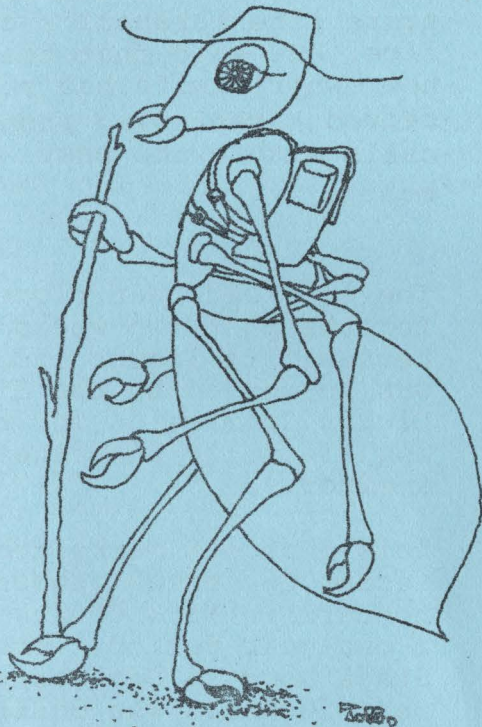
HIRAM, ME. As noted in the Newsletter of May, '76 a Gay hike was scheduled for Saturday, May 15. Consistent to form, the Newsletter was bulk-mailed out just two days before the event. If people have complaints with first-class delivery, one should try sending mail by fourth-class, to which our bulk-mailing permit is restricted.

Fifth-class mail, we suppose, is placed in corked bottles; postmarked, and tossed into the outgoing tide. Anyway, some people had contacted MGTf after the original notice in the April newsletter, and these people were able to get up to the month information and, happily, were part of the hike. In the future we'll experiment with earlier Newsletters or later events, or a combination, or whatever (see last paragraph.)

Saturday was pleasant with large white clouds slowly moving across the sky. Nine people met at the base of the mountain--a large hill to natives of Colorado, we guess--and without much ado, scaled the peak with a minimum of rest stops. On the summit we ate our lunch, which we'd lugged along. Donuts from Symposium III (bought as "day old" on April 21) made quite a hit with medium sized red ants; hundreds of which employed themselves by carrying great chunks across quite rugged terrain to their hole. Occasionally a chunk of donut was too big to negotiate the hole but this obstacle didn't phase the individual ants and, by pushing and shoving, they always managed to get even the most oversized piece into their tunnel. While it was somewhat difficult to keep track of individual ants, it appeared that the shitwork was malappropriated and that some ants were lugging three times as much donut as other ants. C'est la vie.

The view of the valley, complete with tiny town, winding river, railroad tressle, etc. was very enjoyable and, to our credit, no one fell off the granite ledge. Greeting us at the summit were a zillion or so mosquitoes and black flies; obviously very pleased to make our acquaint-

tance. At first it appeared that the multitudes of flying vermin might be an insurmountable obstacle, but after our novelty wore off, the insects affected a low-key posture and were almost forgotten. Sunning itself at the top was a 4 foot Eastern Racer snake, a good two inches in diameter. Its presence



elicited a degree of curiosity from the two-legged monsters, and it was definitely not amused by our probing. Not homophobic, mind you, just upset to have to interrupt a nice nap in the sun to deal with gawking hikers. Who could blame it?



The hike down the mountain was, as expected, very facile. At the base, we decided to return to Portland, where one hiker had invited the others for dinner (cooked incidentally, by the Cumberland County Curmudgeon, and it was delicious!)

* * * *

We've decided that, rather than rely on the Newsletter as a means of communication, we would like to be notified by mail or phone by persons who may be interested in outdoor events, so they can be phoned information on particular happenings. If you think that you'd like to be included in this phone network, drop us a card with your name and phone number. (We'll be discreet.) A suggested event for June will be listed elsewhere in this issue. See you there!



MGTF OUTINGS
Box 4542
Portland, ME, 04112
Phone 773-5530 weekdays.

RED CARPET CLUB IS VICTIM OF SUSPICIOUS FIRE

OLD ORCHARD BEACH--A fire of suspicious origin levelled the Red Carpet Club at 95 West Grand Ave. early Tuesday, May 25. The fire was fought for six hours.

A street box call came into the fire station at 5:50 a.m., and at the height of the fire all OOB firefighting units as well as units from Saco and Scarborough were involved. Beach fire chief Thomas Smith said several firefighters were overcome by dense smoke at the fire and were treated at the scene.

Firefighters were threatened twice during the fire--once when the building collapsed at about 6:30 and fell within inches of the Beach pumper, and later when three 500-pound compressed gas cylinders vented themselves and burned out but did not explode. There were no injuries reported.

The owner of the building, Denis Dancoes, purchased the club a week before the fire from its previous owner, Herschel Desjardins. Dancoes had been the tenant of the building for the past year.

An OOB police department official said the fire was of suspicious origin and will be investigated by the Beach police and the state fire marshall's office. He said that the new owner's wife had received threatening phone calls within the past month.

The club had been closed for the past two weeks because its liquor license was suspended by the State Liquor Commission for selling alcoholic beverages to a minor.

This incident marks the second Gay establishment to burn in York County in a one-year period. The Stage Door, a Gay bar/restaurant in Wells was destroyed in a suspicious fire on March 17, 1975.

U.S. MEDIA IGNORES GAY GOLD MEDAL-WINNING SKATER

[Editor's note: The following article, by Hugh Harrison, is from the NewsWest of April 30-May 14 (No. 26). Harrison is a Special Writer for NewsWest. Their address is: NewsWest, 373 N. Western Ave., Suite 203, Los Angeles, CA 90004.]

John Curry, Great Britain's first gold medal-winning ice skater, held a press conference the day following his February 11 win at the Winter Olympics in Innsbruck, Austria, and strongly hinted to international reporters that he is Gay.

Curry's revelation made front pages worldwide, *excepting the United States*. London papers carried banner headlines, the most lurid of which was the *Daily Mirror's* "Skater is Fag Queen." Dispatches from the Associated Press observers on the scene were never transmitted on American wire services. Thus, the story has remained unreported in this country until now.

Curry, 26, denied nothing when later confronted by hordes of persistent reporters. "My skating is what matters," he was quoted as saying. "It doesn't matter what other people think about my private life. That's my affair."

Three days later, at the Olympic Exhibition, Curry's entrance was first greeted by stunned silence. He had not been expected to show up after the horrified reactions from sports fans and press alike to his candid statements. But Curry's skating exhibition turned into a personal triumph, and he was accorded a standing ovation at its conclusion.

Christopher Brasher, reporting in the *London Observer* of February 15, commented that Curry "has spoken with the honesty of modern youth, and was prepared to admit that what is known as his 'life-style' has brought him many problems."

Brasher also quoted statements the skater made to an

AP reporter. "When he was only 17, a coach tried to root out what were considered [tendencies], and when Curry did not change, did not try to conform to the only model of sporting manliness allowed, the coach had beaten him-- 'literally beat me'."

Christie Blatchford, *Toronto Globe and Mail* columnist, remarked in her February 16 article on the amazing reception Curry got from the crowd at his exhibition: [There were] "deafening cheers, demands for two encores, flowers and waves from people who will never meet him."

"His had been an act of courage, and for a very few moments he was rewarded for it, as well as for his athletic abilities. This short time, more than all the many other good times, represented the magic that Olympics can work, the kind of spirit that was meant to exist in the Games. Everyone at the stadium should have known about Curry's sexual preferences, and, at another time, in another place, almost certainly would not have saluted him in the way that they did.

"Tomorrow they may smirk again, but yesterday they had the grace to behave with class."

John Curry's skating coach, Carlo Fassi [who also guided Dorothy Hamill to a gold medal victory for the United States], would not respond when *NewsWest* attempted to reach him at the Denver Ice Arena for verification of his protege's statements at Innsbruck. Ed Mosler, Curry's American sponsor, also refused to comment.

Monthblast has learned that John Curry returned to his residence in New York City following the Olympic victory, and is currently negotiating with several American ice arena shows.

THE CUMBERLAND COUNTY CURMUDGEON

By Susan W. Henderson

Heterosexual's Smarter Sibling

McCubbin, Bob, The Gay Question: A Marxist Appraisal,
New York, World View Publishers, 1976, 83pp., \$1.00

Talk about opportune occurrences! Last month, yours truly expressed the opinion that a good discussion of homosexuality from a Marxist perspective could be an interesting exercise. Well, lo and behold, there arrived in the mail this week The Gay Question. This book is a vast improvement over Heterosexual. It is written in clear language, easy to read. The author gives an overview of Gay history in the western world from prehistoric times to the present, interpreted according to Marx's theory of the development of human societies, and ends by declaring that "Gay people will be leaders in the struggle for socialism also." This book does not pretend to be objective history; it is a tract, and a credible specimen of the genre. The author belongs to the Workers World Party, a group about whom I know nothing. Judging from the work at hand, they appear to hold the views of the Bolsheviks at the time of the Russian Revolution. They of course believe that the time of capitalism in the cycle of history is almost over and that communism is the wave of the future. They also believe that the individual has the right to determine one's own sex life, and that the common interests of the working class throughout the world will overcome the worker's nationalism. Both of these ideas were acted upon in the early years of Lenin's regime and were later repealed by Stalin.

The book has its weaknesses. The chief one comes from trying to cram several years of history into a large pam-

HASSLES IN THE WILDE BLUE YONDER

[Editor's note: On May 23, 1975 during a Race Relations course conducted by the U.S. Air Force at Dover, Delaware, R.S. ("Skip") Keith, a Black enlistee in the Air Force, came out to his co-students as a homosexual. Several months and much media coverage later, Skip was featured in a photograph in the "celebrated" "I Am a Homosexual" *TIME* magazine cover story, dancing with Leonard Matlovitch in a Virginia Gay bar. (Matlovitch, of course, was that issue's cover.) The following excerpt is from a letter from Keith to Jonathan S., a friend who lives in Belfast, Me. It gives a "first-person" look at some of the consequences of being openly Gay in the U.S. Military.]

Dear Jonathan,

Sorry it has taken me so long to get this to you, but I am only just now getting caught up with my correspondence. I'm in class now--we're on a lunch break--taking a course in computer maintenance. It's taught at the Control Data Institute in Arlington, Va., which is only a few miles from my home.

I got a fully honorable discharge last September so I receive all the benefits including the G.I. Bill for school. The law firm of Wilmer, Cutler, and Pickering here in Washington is handling my case so I imagine that in a month or so we'll be going back to both the military and civilian courts. I did have an administrative board hearing at Dover, Del., before five officers on Sept. 10 and my lawyers argued that I should be retained in the Air Force under the provisions of AFR 39-10 that allows retention of Gays under "unusual circumstances when the airman's ability to perform military duties has not been compromised." After two hours of deliberation, the board decided to concur with the recommendations of my Squadron Commander's letter that I be given an Honorable Discharge for "homosexual tendencies" and on Sept. 22 I was discharged.

8 April 76

Getting back to how it all started...

I dropped the bomb in my Race Relations class before Matt's story hit the papers. The class was on a Friday; his story was printed the following Monday in the *New York Times* and I didn't hear about him until that following Thursday, May 29, having been away on a plane trip. He had heard about what I'd done from one of his lawyers, David Addlestone, and invited me to New York with him for Gay Pride Week in June. While in the city we did a number of interviews, one of which was Barry Farber's radio show on WOR. This really took the Air Force by surprise because while they were well aware of Matt, they really hadn't heard of me as an open Gay up to this point.. Because of this and some articles that the *Delaware State News* did on me, the Air Force finally sent me a letter indicating their intent to discharge me for "homosexual tendencies" in August. My military attorney (who worked very hard on my case) and I had 13 witnesses, mostly co-workers, men and women who testified they had worked with me, found me to be a good worker, and would be happy to continue to live and work with me. All of the men who were asked said they'd be happy to room with me in the barracks, except one. That, of course, was the man who moved out when I told him I am Gay. The hearing was long, from 11 to 6, and went well, under the circumstances.

As I said, I am now in the process of getting ready for the courts. I'm sure you realize, Jonathan, that I have just been able to touch upon a few of the high points and would love to give you greater detail. That will have to wait for a later letter or until I see you. But I will say that we got some great testimony and that the Air Force is going to have a very rough time sustaining the position that people will not want to live or work with Gays. Almost all of the reaction I've received has been positive, with people stopping me on base to say that they support me and question the position of the Air Force.

Things have been going pretty well for me over all, and

I expect them to get better. I'm a member of the National Gay Task Force and GAA/DC. Well, that's about it for now. I'll try and keep you posted on my situation with the Air Force as things progress. Hope this finds you well and things OK with you in Maine. Drop a line when you get a chance. Hope to see you soon.

Peace,
Skip

§ § § § § § § § § §

RAP GROUP UPDATE:

As mentioned in the May Newsletter, 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 women and men 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 MGTf office at 773-5530.

THE STATE STREET STRAW

By Peter Prizer

HOMOSEXUAL PURISTS who value form over function will want to relocate to the sole geopolitical subdivision in the world named in honor of our pride. That's right, if you want to lead a truly open Gay lifestyle, you'll have to move to Gay, and that's a small town in upper Michigan on the Keweenaw Peninsula, which juts into the southern portion of Lake Superior. But ideological fanatics of the heterosexual persuasion will have to settle for, or more accurately, resettle for, the only namesake on earth relevant to their particular proclivities: the town of Het, Laos. I'll take the Keweenaw Peninsula...

GLASS HOUSE DEP'T: Of all the dozens of Gay publications that come into our office--virtually all on an exchange basis--the one periodical that really impresses me as (almost) having it all together is the *Body Politic*. It's an *Avocate*-style format, published 6 times a year from Toronto, Ontario. Their address is: Box 7289, Stn. A, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5W 1X9. \$2.50 for 6

issues. Try it, you'll like reading it.

INFANTILE FASCINATION SYNDROME: One line of the lyrics of a popular Top 40 record goes: "Took my baby to the drive-in show..." Inasmuch as the male singer uses the pronoun 'she' to describe the baby, we'll assume it's a heterosexual-type relationship. While "Boogie Fever" may be contagious to all ages, I question the motives behind publicizing the fact that an obviously older man enjoys spending time in a dardened auto with extremely young children; some of whom can barely speak. Very odd, I think.

NUTS TO YOU: In Maine, the Liquor Commission has decreed that salted nuts and similar munchies that might encourage one to consume alcoholic beverages can not be offered free on tables or counters in bars and taverns. That's fine, but how about dealing with the common practice of increasing the noise level of music to almost force patrons to "dull" their auditory senses with alcohol?

HAVE A NICE JAY: Maine's new criminal code decriminal

izing small quantities of marijuana has been in effect for over a month now, and I'll be curious to see what sort of arguments the Maine Police Chiefs Assn. will dredge up to oppose this particular section of the new code. People in Maine may recall that the Chiefs were *very* organized in their efforts against the decriminalization measure and, it appeared, came close to defeating it. But perhaps their overblown (sic) lobbying was doomed from the start: during Senate debate on the grass roots segment of the proposed code, a *very* conservative Senator from way, way Downeast asked a younger Senator from Cumberland County if there might be, perhaps, some way he might "sample" the evil weed to see firsthand if it's as terrible as its critics contend. The younger Senator said, sure, have one of mine...The vote was lopsided in support of decriminalization...

THE PETER PRINCIPLE LIVES: A year ago, political cynics--myself included--were saying that Guv Jim Longley would use the Blaine House as a stepping stone to higher office. Well, the stepping-stones have proved slippery, and Jim Longley appears to be mired in Augusta, where even his gentlest crit-

ics would admit he's reached his personal level of incompetency. And you thought all those chic "pop-psych" paperbacks were a crock of road apples...

NOW IT CAN BE TOLD DEP'T:
The State of Maine appreciates me, and I've got a certificate to prove it. It reads, "State of Maine...CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION... Presented to Peter M. Prizer In Recognition of Jury Service Rendered in the Superior Court of the State of Maine.. For Conscientious Performance of an important Duty of Citizenship...On Behalf of the County of Lincoln." I, in turn, appreciate the State of Maine, or I wouldn't stay here. But, in lieu of a personal certificate, they'll have to take that on faith...

Believe it or not--and we think you'll believe this--the Newsletter will actually be mailed ONE day after the printed publication date!

We've done our share, the rest is in the stellar hands of the postal service!

Good luck!

WHAT? YOU? GAY? AND IN PRISON? WOW!

Did I hear you say you're Gay
in this jungle ruled by straights;
knowing damned well within the hell,
men feed their souls on hate?

Where each tick-tock of a tyrant's clock
is filled with eminent danger;
never knowing when your life may end,
with a knife-stroke from a stranger?

Where a moment of life is 60 beats of strife,
held fast by stone and steel;
where hateful rules enforced by fools
condemn the love you feel?

Where terror rings and violence sings,
amidst hundreds of hate-soured creeps;
and every night gnawing hunger bites,
as you toss and turn for sleep?

Where heavenly stars are shadowed by bars,
filling you with pangs of sorrow;
with heart afire each night you retire,
dreading the misery of tomorrow?

When you PROUDLY say that you are GAY,
In THIS Pandemonious Tower!
Honey, you're a star, a dynamite flower,
with the sweet fragrance of "GAY POWER".

-DAP

(There is now a Newsletter for Gays
in prison. The Newsletter is free
to all prisoners and interested peo-
ple. Write to: Ronald Endersby,
356 West 34th Street, New York 10001)

THE RAPPORTIVE REPORTER REPORTS

(SAY THAT TWICE)

By Wendy Ashley

On Feb. 27th, which is admittedly a while ago, Peter, Stan and I spoke with a group of ten who are themselves in the business of helping people. The three of us from MGTf had spoken to interested groups before. We and others had spoken to college classes, to church groups, in auditoriums, to human services groups, at conferences etc. I have been speaking out and up for five years now and my two co-talkers had been involved in some of the same speaking situations. In fact I had first met Peter in an auditorium at Bowdoin College where some of us were sitting on the edge of the stage speaking and he joined us from the front row. It was very scary there. But this talk was different. This was not going to be a scary talk.

One of the members of the group we were addressing "came out" or "forward" as a Lesbian during our introductions of ourselves. It was an emotional experience for her. I had a warm feeling for her as she showed her vulnerability, joy and sincerity in that process.

Four other members of the group "came out" as ministers, which in some circles might earn them disapproving responses. such as, unreal beings, dismissal, or "Hey! don't lay anything on me!" In that last line I was not intending to sound as if I was not aware that there would be ministers present, I was simply trying to be amusing. Goddess knows why. Indeed, we had had a previous meeting at Maine Medical Center with many of these same people and others where, Hera help me, I got sucked into a biblical exchange with a fundamentalist servant of God. I admit it, I had re-read the Rev. Troy Perry for the occasion. That exchange made it impossible for the rest of the group to learn what they felt they needed from the representatives of MGTf. Hence this second meeting.

Anyway--all of the people we were addressing at the meeting of Feb. 27th were counselors; psychiatric, ministerial or student, with some overlapping categories. Pardon the expression. And this group had all met because they were interested. Unlike some groups we had spoken to, we knew these people would be friendly, sympathetic or at least not openly hostile. I was the only openly hostile one there, a role I relish. In fact I recently gave myself the *Enquirer* test to find out which of the seven deadly sins was mine and "anger" was it--well actually it tied with "gluttony." My friends will not be surprized. Except maybe that I would take such a test. Or read the *Enquirer*.

You can tell I'm having a hard time getting away from the business of writing this into the business of reporting on that meeting. I volunteered to report on it. People have been waiting for months...some with apprehension. I know why. It's because of that anger I was telling you about. It is such a convenient motivator. It necessitates no self-discipline. One's emotions just push all the verbiage out front. I tell you, the problem with reporting on that meeting was just like what Gully Jimson says of the rich in Joyce Cary's *The Horse's Mouth*.

The people were nice. They were pleasant. They were liberal. They clucked with sympathy. They understood. We were all polite. No one yelled or accused or sneered. No one else was angry. One woman did admit quietly over lunch to me that she did find it hard to accept homosexuality and anyway hadn't Paul said it was wrong? I politely, I thought, reminded her that he also had pronounced a woman's speaking out in church as wrongful (so by intimation "Where did she get off?") She replied that that was surely simply cultural. "Aha!" I said. "Exactly! So is this!" (Hoping she'd see the light in my parallel.)

Essentially we were there trying to justify our existances, something dykes and fags do at least once a week. And they don't do it to keep in shape. Like the dishes, it becomes tiresome with routine. Formalizing it like this adds variety.

The problem is, how to get across to people who are in positions of helping Gay sisters and brothers that revulsion and fear of homosexuality is a cultural phenomenon-- that it is learned--that we are all very carefully taught-- that even Gay people must overcome the homophobia our society instills in us.

Did we get the message across? My feeling was that (especially among the psychiatrists) homosexuality is acceptable so long as the individual fag or dyke accepted his or her self. Anything else and you might have what they might call an identity problem. And I bet you can't guess which way they might try to sway you. I also felt that there was little accepting awareness of different lifestyles within the Gay community. Of course that brings us into class issues. It seemed to me that they felt middle-class respectable Gays were more OK than others.

Now I may be doing individuals in the group a disservice. Perhaps my hostility is begging for a place to settle. They did ask to meet with us. OK. I now volunteer to do a follow-up to see whether it enlightened them... whether they understood how it is that society makes us "sick." (And that last question can be taken anyway you like.)

Look for an interview with a counselor next month.

Yeegads--a deadline!



POST CARD SURVEY: PART 1

Congratulations on the new format. Art work is well done. Rural news is always welcome here. Peace.

[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.]

Ray
Eastport, ME

I prefer the size of this issue, May's, it's excellent, instead of the latter issues, too large. Yours truly, J.J.O.

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.

Comments: Well organized, more readable, informative, enjoy news shorts.

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

Suggestions: Cartoons, on time mailing.

Keep up the good work!

Central Maine Gay Alliance

Really excited about the new Newsletter. Terrific! Easy to read and to handle. Lots of interesting stuff. Many thanks. Much good luck to you in the future.

Watt and Gibson

I would like to say that your new type of publication is great as I have been a subscriber for just a short time and I find this new one quite an improvement over the previous one.

It's a great improvement.

T.P.

I also would like to say that this issue arrived late as I saw the hike notice in there and it was Monday, May 17th when I received the Newsletter.

Mucho better ho-rai--easier to read and keep around.

Anon.

Sincerely, A New Reader.

Yes, I do like new format! S.H.

Love your Newsletter and the new format. We're disabled so we find it easier to handle this way.

Keep up your good spirit and excellent work.

A & R

Dear People-

I enjoy your rag and look forward to receiving it each month--keep up the fine work!

L.

The new format a great improvement and much easier to read.

E.

Terrific--the new format is a definite improvement.

Thanks to MGTFN people & especially to Tim Bouffard.

S.B.

Hi, you-all;

As to the format of your re-styled Newsletter, I think it makes it very much easier reading--one's arms do not get so tired reading the interesting material, frequently at the bottom of the page. Very readable, and I much enjoy the tongue in cheek style of writing... similar to GCN of Boston, which I find hilarious...dry New England wit. Also, glad you are incorporating some features from other publications around the Nation...

would like the address of the Chicago Gay Life [343 S. Dearborn, Room 1719, Chicago 60604] since we never see it out here; also Minneapolis if that has a publication [Gay House Newsletter, 4419A Nicollet, ZIP 55409/Le' Sbeinformed, Lesbian Resource Center, 2104 Stevens Ave., ZIP 55404/Minnesota Committee For Gay Rights Newsletter, Box 4226, St. Anthony Falls Stn; ZIP 55414. All are monthly, with donation requested.]

Sincerely,

T.J.H.

San Francisco

Dear Friends:

I really appreciate your new format and continue to look forward to reading each issue. Keep up the fine work.

However, I would like to see more information about the central Maine/Bangor area. Perhaps a correspondent could be arranged for that area that could keep you informed of what's happening.

Thank you for the work you put into the Newsletter.

Sincerely,

L.G.

New York City

Good, easy to handle. Karen Bye's narrative is beautiful. Suggest you use business reply cards and save money on postage. Anon.

The new format really makes the Newsletter 'NEW.' It completes the identity. It's more it's own entity now. Please continue! As to the content--points of views, political direction, editorial policies, style of layout & graphics and contents of articles are what they are. What is most important to me is whether or not they are done well, with creativity, artistry, legibility and style. They are. Thank you for a great Newsletter.

R.J.T.

What a wonderful surprise on this month's Newsletter. It's great and keep up the good work. I wish I could be of some value in your work, but unfortunately I am no writer. This Sunday 5/16/76, I am on my way to Louisiana, am going back into the Merchant Marine, will be gone most of the summer, please keep my copy coming, will read on my return. P. S.

Hello,

When I opened the mail this morning, it took me a moment to figure out I was looking at the same good, old MGTFF Newsletter, but in a new format. It makes it even more of a pleasure to read. Nice job! Arthur, David and the Gang

Whew, May edition very impressive! The face lift is great (so much easier to read in public) and the articles are most interesting. Especially glad to see the article on Rural Gays.

MGTFF you're all right. I hope to spend some time with you people once graduation is out of the way. See you soon.

Keep up your book reviews and your coverage of various N.E. Conferences. Proudly, A.H.

Right on for Lesbians!

Anon.

Friends, I feel that the physical changes made in your newsletter enables the reader to better manipulate the pages and thus is more conducive to proper concentration. The writing is excellent. And we always mention your newsletter in our GAYCON PRESS NEWSLETTER in the hopes that copies can be secured by the prisoners that read us. I would also hope that you might consider giving our newsletter a plug in the MGTFF organization and newsletter. You might mention that our newsletter is sent FREE to all prisoners (all we ask is that they help us on postage.) So, I've given you some advice concerning your newsletter and solicited your help with/for ours.

for GAYCON PRESS
Ron E.

The new format is great, especially enjoy the artwork. Karen's column from CA is commendable and appreciated. Have enjoyed the stimulating and informative articles, editorials and regular columns. The Newsletter is terrific all around, now if you could only get it out on time...

Anon.

My compliments on the new Newsletter layout. I think the format is excellent - covering a wide variety of areas of interest. Since we are, ourselves, such a diversified group - cutting across all social & economic bounds, to be relevant a newsletter must cover a large area. This you do! And I've watched you get better at it. Keep up the good work!

P.D.

Dear Friends,

First, I appreciate very much getting the MGTF Newsletter.

Second, the new look of the Newsletter is a great improvement.

Third, Peter Prizer can do much better than to carry on a kutsie-pie vendetta against David Goodstein.

Fourth, do have more book reviews.

In gay spirits,

Barbara

Sisters & Brothers--You could print the MGTF Newsletter in white on black with ruffles & I would still enjoy it immensely. What I like most are its "think" pieces and the general tone of enlightenment & commitment. I also feel you strive for accuracy--something that, after its biased coverage on our recent Christopher Street Liberation Day [CSLD] '76 schism here, cannot be said always for Gay Community News, Boston...Please alert Susan Henderson to my series on Lily Tomlin in NewsWest #26 & #27, as I quote her from her "Lily Tomlin, We Love You." I'm assuming you get N.W. on exchange, no?...[Ed. note: Yes we do.] Please be advised that the CSLD split here has been resolved, by the way, and that there will be one big march (beginning noon, Sheridan Square, 6/27), a Rally (in Central Park's shell), and a Festival late in the afternoon in the Village, same day. We hope mobs of New Englanders will attend--and come back for the demonstrations directed at the Democrats beginning July 11!

Love, J.P.H.

One hundred percent improvement! The art work and format are most attractive and professional looking. We especially enjoyed the touches of humor! Congratulations on a job well done. J. & B., So. Bristol 26

The new format really makes the Newsletter 'NEW.' It completes the identity. It's more it's own entity now. Please continue! As to the content--points of views, political direction, editorial policies, style of layout & graphics and contents of articles are what they are. What is most important to me is whether or not they are done well, with creativity, artistry, legibility and style. They are. Thank you for a great Newsletter.

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Love, J.P.H.

One hundred percent improvement! The art work and format are most attractive and professional looking. We especially enjoyed the touches of humor! Congratulations on a job well done. J. & B., So. Bristol 26

New format is good.

Recently, a 3rd party mistakenly submitted detailed directions to my house, along with other information for an article. These directions were printed in correct detail, to my shock. It was, of course, the fault of the submitter and myself, but I would suggest that MGTF request some sort of release form signed by the person whose pertinent details are being published - it would help to avoid possibly serious or costly mistakes like that.

Phone numbers and first names are fairly anonymous bits of information, but street addresses, occupations, etc. can be used to bad ends, even in this somewhat enlightened day & age. Please print this.

Anne Onymous

Although I had seen previous issues of the Newsletter, this copy for May was my first. The new arrangement is great. Very pleased.

E. B.

New format is much better!
Anon.

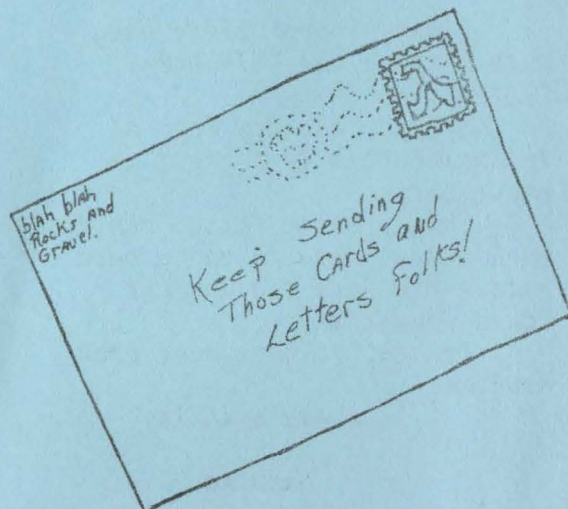
Dear Folks

I think the new format is much better than the old one. It is easier to read. The Newsletter is very well received by me and most people I know. You are doing a good job. It is important to get the Gay population together, for their is strength in numbers. The Newsletter is helping to get the community together.

I do like to see your comment on how the Gay image is portrayed in the media. The article on "Barney Miller" was very good. Until we change the stereotype homosexual image in the media, we will never be accepted in the straight world.

Continue on with the fine job you are doing! Do you need any help? Call me...

M.S.



UPDATE ON CAROL WHITEHEAD COURT FIGHT

As this Newsletter is printed, Carol, her family, her attorney Kim Matthews and the Maine Gay Task Force are awaiting the child-custody decision of Judge Harry Glassman. The trial itself, in which Carol's ex-husband was seeking to gain control over two young children from their previous marriage and return them to Georgia, was held on Tuesday, June 1. The verdict of Judge Glassman should be reached by June 7 or 8.

This marked the first time for the state where an open Lesbian mother fought for retention of her children.

[An article on the trial and the verdict will appear in the July Newsletter.]

* * * *

An appeal for funds in the May Newsletter was quite disappointing, although several generous people sent in a total of \$45.

Already a severe lack of funds have hampered Carol's defense. Witnesses whose testimony was crucial were not able to attend because of a lack of travelling expense funds. But now it is too late to affect the outcome of the trial, even with the most generous gift. But, regardless of the decision, Carol will owe her attorney several hundred dollars and there will be other expenses normally incurred with a court battle. And Carol is not a wealthy woman.

* * * *

Carol and the Maine Gay Task Force ask that all persons able to contribute--no matter how small--will please give

this short article serious thought. Your donation towards this worthy and vital effort will be greatly appreciated.

Contributions may be sent to: Carol Whitehead Defense Fund, c/o MGTf, PO Box 4542, Portland, Maine 04112.

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THE FIXER - A REVIEW

By Tim Bouffard

Malamud, Bernard; The Fixer; New York, Dell Publishing Co.; 1966, 271 pp., \$1.25.

We are social beings, therefore we are political beings. Our oppression comes from the structure of this society. The only way it can be dealt with is to become more aware of how it works and to influence change by being involved. Passively accepting oppression or ignoring it (somehow, some people do), is, in effect, taking on the role of the oppressor by oppressing oneself. This is the premise of the book The Fixer by Bernard Malamud. Although The Fixer is written specifically about the oppression of Jews, it can be applied to Gay oppression, Black oppression, or Native American oppression, etc. because it is about the same oppressor.

The story of Yakov Bok, a poor Russian Jew who fixes broken things - almost anything - for a living, is a frustrating, painful experience, and it is true. He is a man of little ambition. He repeats several times that he is not a political person. Like all oppressed people are taught, he values himself very little. He passively accepts the bone of a life thrown to him. Despite his insistence that he has little intelligence, he reads Spinoza, who also was a Jew, which perhaps sprouts the first embryo of awareness of Yakov's own oppression.

Because of the overbearing sexist attitudes of the orthodox Jewish religion, Bok feels that he is not as much of a man as he could be because his wife has not born children. He can not deal with this and harbors a great deal of resentment towards her until she can no longer tolerate his emotional hostility and leaves him for another man. She is labelled a "whore" and is a disgrace to her family.

His desire to start a new and better life influences him to travel from his shtetl (the name for small Jewish villages, which are separate from others) to Kiev, "the Jerusalem of Russia". Because he doesn't "look like a Jew", he passes for a gentile and lives in a part of Kiev forbidden to Jews. Certain circumstances enable him to get a well-paying regular job. Despite his more comfortable situation, he constantly fears that he will be found out.

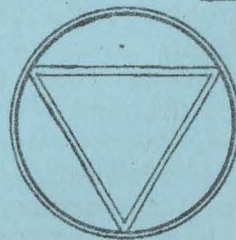
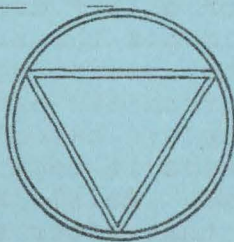
One day, a boy is found dead in a cave. Because of suspicions of the men that Yakov works with, his race is discovered and consequently is accused of the murder. He is arrested and put into prison to await trial. His lawyer, Bibikov, is murdered by the influence of the prosecution because he has discovered evidence that the boy was murdered by his own step-father, which, if made known to the public, would emancipate their scapegoat: the Jews, of which Yakov Bok is their most convenient choice.

Bok is kept in the prison for two years before he is allowed a trial. But during his imprisonment, a metamorphosis occurs: Yakov does not resign himself to his fate; he becomes aware of himself as a collective being, a part of the whole Jewish Race. He finally starts feeling the results of a lifetime of oppression: anger and hatred. He says one day, to a delirious vision of the dead Bibikov, "Something in myself has changed. I'm not the same man I was. I fear less and hate more." The Russian government however, becomes afraid because Jews from all around realize that Yakov is a scapegoat and some are becoming angry. Yakov is offered amnesty, but he refuses it because he has committed no crime to be pardoned from. Raisl, his ex-wife, visits him in prison. She tells him that after she had

left him, she became pregnant by another man. This creates a rudimentary awareness of how he is oppressive to women. His whole world has turned around. His values are changing. He knows now that "there's no such thing as an unpolitical person, especially a Jew." He goes on to say: "Where there's no fight for it, there's no freedom...If the state acts in ways that are abhorrent to human nature, it's the lesser evil to destroy it...In a sick country every step to health is an insult to those who live in its sickness."

The book ends here on a positive note: there is hope, strength and a proud determination developed by Yakov's metamorphosis. As he walks up the outside stairs to his trial, hundreds of Jews, awaiting his arrival, are chanting his name. Although the book ends here, history has recorded that Yakov was found guilty and imprisoned. Malamud does not choose to include this in the book; rather the book is involved with the destruction of an indifferent and passive attitude of the fixer to his fate and the development of a positive political consciousness: a necessary development towards any liberation. Malamud renders this transition to awareness with positive anger instead of muddled self-pity.

The Gay Movement can identify with The Fixer. There are a majority of Gay sisters and brothers who are indifferent to the value of resistance to tyranny and to the unhealthiness of being passive and blind to ones oppression by denying that you are oppressed--and therefore political. This is precisely why we are drugging, drinking and dancing our ways to passivity and blindness. But we all have the potential to change. We are all Yakov Bok because we all have the same oppressor.



UMPG STUDENT SENATE DEBATES/DETERMINES
THE GAY PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE BUDGET,
OR
TWENTY-ONE EGOS IN SEARCH OF MASSAGE

By Peter Prizer

THE BACKGROUND: The University of Maine, Portland/Gorham is a "commuter college" and therefore suffers from what may best accurately be called *terminal apathy*. When the clock strikes 4:30 p.m. and the university cranks up for its evening C.E.D. programs, the day students--which is to say the regular students--get onto the bus or into their cars or whatever and, to be polite, get the hell out. The students who remain on campus are those who are stuck on campus which means the residents at the Gorham dormitories. The undisputed myth suggests and casual observation confirms that great hoards of resident students are more heavily into beer blasts and good times than, say, the UMPG Student Senate elections, which traditionally draw around 4% of the eligible student vote. The UMPG Student Senate, in turn, decides which student organizations get funded and which ones don't, and it is here where the Gay People's Alliance [GPA] fits into this article.

MORE BACKGROUND: The utter degree of student apathy to Senate elections is such that almost anyone with the right connections (belonging to Sigma Nu fraternity) or in quest of peer admiration and/or ego satisfaction can usually get elected to the Student Senate. It would be inaccurate to assume that any election "debate" filters out the elitists, the axe-grinders, the class supremists, the ego trippers, or--to be fair--the genuinely competent person now and then.

AS THE CURTAIN RISES: It's 6:30 p.m. Thursday, May 7, 1976. For those attracted to irony that's exactly 350 years to the

day that the fast-dealing Dutch ripped-off what's known today as Manhattan Island from the Native Americans for \$24 worth of glittering junk. At least that's what the history books boast. But now it's 1976, and twenty-one UMPG Student Senators [note that I've capitalized] are seated around a rectangular table in the Gorham cafeteria. Mark, who just happens to be a member of Sigma Nu, is the Chairperson. He's cool (later on, when egos collide, he'll rap his gavel and intone, "OK, let's keep it cool, guys."), suave, politely impartial at delicate moments--moments when co-Senators are sponsoring funds for projects in which they're directly involved--and very convincing to the group when he's pushing his own favorite budgeting. When he speaks, the others listen. Senators who appear merely inadequate to the task or obviously biased from the outset will, eight hours later, come across as petty, third-rate clowns. But the evening is still early and the flagrant body language--pencils adroitly held between index fingers and heads in nodding agreement with the wisdom of Chairperson Mark--shows that they're very pleased to be called Senator (by each other.) The Chair is neat and crisp; Senators are recognized, Senators yield the floor, motions are seconded, roll-call votes are recorded (by a woman secretary.) But the pleasant facade turns sour as the evening wears on.

AMID THE GREAT DEBATE, CHUCK REVEALS HIS 'OPEN CAN' POLICY: At 9 p.m. there is a restlessness among the representatives of the Senate-funded campus groups who are waiting patiently to present their cases to the Senate. It is becoming obvious that the predetermined Senate agenda favors that body's Subcommittees, and that groups like GPA, the Women's Forum and the U.F.W. Support Group and others are at the end of the agenda, at the end of the money tube (the Senate has \$100,000 to allocate), and--insult upon insult--at the end of the evening. A middle-aged woman representing the Forum asks if she can address the Senate concerning the Forum's budget; it is getting late and she must return to her young children. After lengthy debate, it's decided she can, but the order of voting will not be changed. It's priorities they say. The evening begins to grind. A Senator named Chuck is obviously pleased to play the Archie Bunker of the group.

After he's recognized by the Chair, he begins, "Yeah, like I'm *glad* I'm finally recognized...getting back to this budget request for Project Impact...ah, I don't think the average student gives a shit about the *cultural activities* and the *academic activities* [classes] and all that bullshit. What the students really want are beer parties. You ever been to a party in Portland? What are they doing, huh? I'll tell you. They're all sitting around guzzling the suds! (laughter from other Senators.) They don't give a damn about Project Impact. I say it's about time we recognized the desires of the average students." And in the middle of the debate on funds for Project Impact, he offers an amendment to take \$1000 from the Project's proposed budget and spend it instead on *beer* for "Maine Day" at UMPG. Lengthly debate on his amendment follows, and it's narrowly defeated. The rep from Project Impact was visibly stunned, but dared not antagonize the Senate before it passed on the Project's final budget. Chuck rambles on about the benefits of beer for students. Shortly, a man from Sigma Nu who once asked Stephen Leo (GPA) for a date will solemnly intone, "Let's keep the language a little bit cleaner or it may sway some votes." It's getting late and the body language of the Senators indicates a different sort of role-playing. Now, with heads resting on hands and neckties loosened on several men, it's The Concerned Representatives Burning The Midnight Oil. The dedicated public servant routine, as they carve up the student till. Trivial or pointless issues are more-than-adequately pursued by Senators; no one will accuse them of shirking their mandated duty. "Fiscal Responsibility," repeats a Sigma Nu man named Marc who wears a white dress shirt and long black tie. He's brought an electric adding machine, which he pokes at from time to time. Among his Sigma Nu brothers he's known as The Count, and he has COUNT on his sports car's license plates. Very chic. The Count is impressed with his logic; he speaks often, and on many issues. Perhaps Project Impact should charge the public double for events, he says as he taps out some figures on the adding machine and proposes slashing their budget by \$3000, or about 45%. Certainly, he assures the rest of the nodding Senators, the three thou can be recovered by increased fees for the public. He's cool, controlled, in charge. He should

be: half or more of the Senate is either Sigma Nu men or women in relationships with Sigma Nu men. A cozy student senate. 'As expected, the Senate butchers the 1976-77 budget of Project Impact. The P.I. rep shakes his head and leaves. If I were forced to wager big money, I'd say at least four of the men are closet cases; they will be certain to vote against the GPA budget to maintain their het facade. Patri-archal insight: as if on cue, 3 woman Senators begin clearing the dirty glasses and ash trays from the meeting table during a five-minute break. Male Senators lounge in their chairs or idly stroll off while the tables are dutifully cleaned...

THE SHOW MUST GO ON: Finally, the Chair announces the GPA budget. Chairperson Mark, in a speech reminiscent of Jesus distributing the loaves, proposes that \$100 be allotted. The original request was \$250, with \$150 of that for a professional workshop on counseling. Mark, who's also head of the appropriations committee, which has omitted the counseling funds, opens the debate. It is 2:30 a.m. Fortunately, Chuck and his \$1000-for-beer proposal have long since left; in fact, several Senators have left, and friends have taken their seats as voting members. The Count, looking seriously complexed/concerned, is not too sure that the Senate should be in the business of funding counseling services. After all, he says, isn't there a resident campus psychologist for students with "problems?" Two hours earlier this person had strenuously argued for budgeting a paid legal rep to counsel students in legal trouble with, say, their landlords. A homophobic closet case named Mike makes a motion to table the entire budget. "As a member of the student Senate, I don't think the (GPA) is something the student Senate should be backing." His het facade is intact. But the proposal is too harsh and is voted down. (Besides, 6 GPA members are watching.) Liberal Andrew addresses himself to the \$150 for counseling. "My liberal instincts tell me that we should fund this counseling workshop..." Not a queer-lover, mind you; just a hopeless liberal. The debate continues, and the majority speaking supports the total \$250 budget. Then the vote: 8 for; 10 opposed; 3 abstained. If adept at nothing else, the Sigma Nu people are skilled at casting votes to "narrowly" defeat

propositions that the majority of the Senate, which is to say the Sigma Nu clique, opposes. The \$250 defeated, the debate returns to the original \$100 favored by the Chair. The measley \$100 barely passes. It is an eyeopener, even at 3 a.m., to see a group of openly elitist, narrow-minded, (close-minded in some cases) establishment kiss-asses throw their thumbs down on issues and ideas they are incapable of understanding. And this was true the entire night.

HERE WE GO AGAIN!: Several days later, after formal complaints that not all groups had been properly informed of the budget meeting, University President Miller declared the entire evening's activities null and void. A new budget meeting has been scheduled for the Fall. Meanwhile, the prospect of a future encore from this gang of... (whatever) is not a pleasant thought. One thing for certain: in no way will the majority of the individuals on the Student Senate be more prepared by next Fall to deal with similar issues before them. It's the old Emperor's Clothes routine and these people don't even comprehend when the obvious is clearly pointed out. You can dress 'em up but ya can't take 'em out!

POLITICAL FOOTNOTES

On Tuesday, June 8, Maine will hold its primary election. A small crowd of candidates are running in the First District Democratic primary and, in the Second District, the Democratic opponent of Rep. Cohen will most likely be a homophobic man from Sabattus. MGTf contacted two candidates in the First District, who hope to oppose Rep. Emery, and asked them what their feelings were on H.R. 5452, the Federal Gay Rights Bill.

Rick Barton has yet to respond.

Bruce Reeves issued the following statement on June 3, signed by staffperson Terry Ann Lunt-Aucoin in the MGTf office: "I unequivocally support Ms. Abzug's bill, H.R. 5452 prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual or affectional preference; all persons have the right to live a life of dignity regardless of sexual preference."

GAYS PICKET WELLS-OGUNQUIT

On 31 May 1975, 25 Gay persons and one German Shephard picketed the Town Hall in Wells and Valerie's in Ogunquit. Readers of the Maine Gay Task Force Newsletter will remember the role of the Wells Board of Selectpersons in denying a liquor license to the Stage Door. The picketing of Valerie's was the result of their discriminatory policy toward Gays, who compose 80 to 90% of their clientele.

Signs carried by the picketers read, "A Lesbian is the Rage of All Women," "Gay and Proud," "Homophobia, Sexism, Racism All Come From 'the MAN'," among other sentiments. A recent letter in the *Portland Press Herald*, referring to "debauchery societies with fancy names" (not an exact quote) was riposted to with a sign that announced "The All-College Southern Maine Debauchery and Chowder Society." Obli, the German Shephard, wore a sign that said, "Me Too;" his human, Steve Irving of Seacoast Area Gay Alliance, carried a companion piece reading, "Not All of Us Walk Poodles."

The picket was organized by SAGA, with co-operation by MGTF; also participating were persons from Worcester, MA, and Quebec. The Wells Town Hall was picketed from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There were a few spectators, mostly young people; some heckling, but also some show of support. Police confiscated an anti-Gay sign because those who held it did not have a permit to demonstrate. The Wells police kept good order among the spectators.

Picketing at Valerie's began at 5:00 p.m. and ran until 8:00. Here the situation was much more tense. The crowd, again mostly young people, was bigger and more vocal, and the police more indulgent with them. The police again confiscated signs, but made little or no effort to find the source of eggs, pebbles, and pennies thrown at demonstrators. Constantine Ganalles, owner of Valerie's, attempted to run down Susan W. Henderson of MGTF as she walked behind his car, but his intended victim was too quick for him. Fortunately, no further violence occurred.

It is not known at this time whether further demonstrations or other actions against Wells-Ogunquit will take place. Readers of MGTFN are reminded that the towns are being boycotted by SAGA and MGTF. All Gays and well-wishers are urged to support the boycott. Don't oppress yourselves.

-MGTF News...one year ago this month

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MY LIFE IN THE PIN-BALL JUNGLE

By Anon.

[Editor's note: The Newsletter staff were not aware that the person relating this account had, almost immediately prior to the interview, lost \$5.50 to a certain pin-ball machine (with no matches.) Our transcript is, therefore, particularly garbled or, to put it kindly, somewhat incoherent. We apologize to our readers and ask for their patience. Thank you.]

"First, let me assure readers that this account won't be oppressive to individuals who, as we say, follow the silver ball. That's certainly not intended. It may be very cruel, though, to painfully remind them--you?--of those past heartbreaks which only time can erase: the medium size fortune in quarters that disappeared forever past the 'slot with no conscience'; the hours--literally--of exasperation as the ball sailed *untouched* through the flipper 'strike zone'; the untimely TILTs which erased all the scores and hence the free games at a time when one could least afford it, both financially and emotionally; or worse, having seven games in the machine as the proprietor of the house began turning the lights out for the night. I could go on...the outrages are legend.

"I suppose that at some time, pin-balls, like every other amusement/addiction, were relatively pleasant and

relatively non-aggravating. But like they say, the times have changed, and the smiling, heads-up, turn-the-other-cheek type of philosophy has been brutally clubbed by today's s.o.p. of cynicism, and pin-balls aren't excluded from this phenomenon. Where 35,000 points with up to four balls might have won a free game years ago, today one has but three balls to make 50, 65 or 72,000 points. The motorcycle, beer-guzzling, generally 'unsavory types' (my apologies to the unsavory people) may have been the mainstay of pin-balls of past, but today the crowd has altered slightly: the clerical, white-collar class with their often imbued dogma of 'rip off the other person lest they rip you off' have politely elbowed their way into the pin-ball scene. Lawyers, bankers, consumer-advocacy attorneys (ha! What irony!) and the like are all into pin-balls. The owners of the machines have taken note, and adjusted their pin-balls accordingly. Especially deadly are the bankers, who get paid to appreciate that 4 quarters equal \$1.

"Thus, lately, a real menagerie of livelihoods and lifestyles meet up at the pin-ball machine. And interestingly enough, except under VERY unusual circumstances, the overriding hostility towards the machine (I've seen individuals kicking it with their feet) supercedes any blatant ill-will towards players whose apparent lifestyle does not conform to the stereotype. Bisexuals, heterosexuals, homosexuals, radicals, birchers, anarchists, capitalists, socialists, liberals, Freemasons, pigs, thugs, Burger King patrons, bomb-throwers, church-goers...all identify with one common bond: Beat the machine! And at all costs.

"But that's seldom. The machine we're talking about is more ruthless and conniving than those of Mayor Daley or Frank Rizzo. This machine, with no apparent exchange of favor, does not rip you off in a subtle manner. It will boast GAME OVER...GAME OVER as your lucky 1976 Bicentennial quarter rests peacefully among mounds of others in that great piggy-bank beneath the action. My worst experience with a pin-ball was on a Saturday afternoon last June...

"But getting back to this interview, I've got another gripe: the law of gravity works for the quarters you feed

the machine, but you can forget about even the most basic fundamentals of physics when the ball's in play. It has a reality all its own. Rolling downhill towards the player, I've seen the ball strike an obstacle and travel uphill to a point *beyond* its original starting point! At first, this seeming contradiction may amuse players but later, as they become more jaded to even the most obvious violations of basic laws of the universe, nothing, and I mean *nothing*, will surprise. I've heard of UFOs landing in New Jersey pin-ball arcades; virtually ignored as they conduct radiation tests and take floor samples. In fact, one person I know swears that pin-ball machines are really Martians-- infiltrating the earth, spying on people and draining their resources. This should be further investigated.

"What makes us pin-ball players tick? I'm not sure, but to get an idea, try offering a player a ten dollar bill if he/she will abandon the game and, instead, turn their backs on the travelling ball. Good luck! I've heard where pin-ballers were the last to leave burning buildings. One celebrated player beat both the law and the machine as he racked up 140,000 bonus points during a bomb scare at Orono as the campus police were attempting to clear the field house. (He stayed.) Perhaps the saddest tale of woe I've heard through the pin-ball grapevine resulted from the Great Northeast Blackout of 1965. Supposedly there was a player in Brooklyn who, just 100 points short of twelve free games, 'saw' the entire environment go dark...for up to 12 hours. When the power was restored, the machine, sensing that something odd had occurred, did what the machines usually do when the routine is altered--however slightly: it returned the score to 00,000. New game; new quarter!

"I suppose that during Armageddon, all the world's pin-ball machines will TILT and return to zero, waiting, of course, for the millennium when the land creatures will have evolved sufficiently to invent round discs to feed the machines. My God, how absolutely grim...

[The remainder of the interview was, in the opinion of the editors, too depressing to print. Coming next month: the 'best' and worst of the Portland area pin-balls.]

ADVERTISING INFO.

The staff of the Newsletter has announced the following policy for accepting commercial advertising--

Approved rates are \$3 per column inch, graphics included, with a 10% discount for three consecutive ads and a 15% discount for six consecutive ads. No ads will be taken that are insulting to people or to the environment. This policy applies only to regular commercial advertisers. The staff reserves the right to reject any ad.

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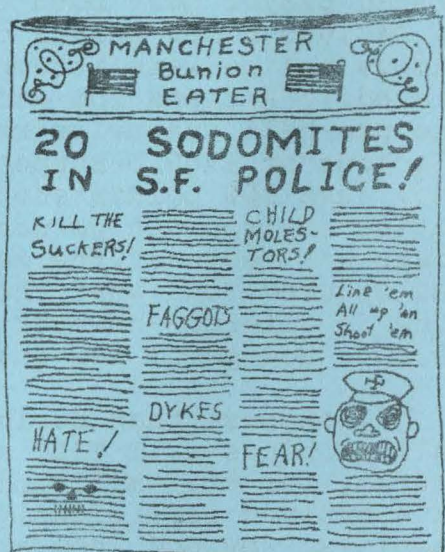
The following is from *The Reporter*, the Seacoast Area Gay Alliance [SAGA] Newsletter:

According to a news note in last Monday's *Boston Globe* (April 19), San Francisco Police Chief Charles Gain has urged 20 'closet' homosexuals on the force to come out. He promised them his full support. Gain wants the force to reflect the community's composition, including its homosexual population. "The fact is that we will hire Gays the

same as we hire anyone else," he said.

MEANWHILE, the Manchester (N.H.) *Union-Leader* ran the same story about Chief Gain in greater length, relying entirely on the fairly objective, if not positive UPI release. The story ended with Chief Gain saying that a good police department should teach not only crime fighting but "how to deal with human beings."

Oh yes, the Loeb headline for the wire-service article was:



ODDS & ENDS

LEWISTON AND BANGOR AREA PEOPLE: Last month in this space the editors attempted to inveigle onto these pages some monthly (or so) correspondence from self-appointed representative(s) of these areas by assuring prospective contributors that they would earn no money in their spare time.

It is now apparent that the offer of monetary paucity was insufficient motivation. The editors, jolted back to reality by the utter lack of Central Maine people thronging to our door/phone, have agreed to add the following "pot sweetener" as an inducement they feel no one can refuse: future correspondents, by remaining anonymous, can be guaranteed NO FAME or NOTORIETY, as well as earning no money in their spare time!

The editors are so confident of the appeal of their new offer that

special operators are now standing by at the MGTf phone bank; awaiting the flood of calls that are certain to pour in.

[Once again, that number is 773-5530.]

Readers may recognize the art work on the cover as being that of Tim Bouffard, the MGTf artist-in-semi-residence. Although Tim will shortly be attending the art school at Franconia College in New Hampshire, he's indicated that he'll find time to send us a new cover for each successive Newsletter.

We wish Tim well at Franconia and thank him for his continued generosity.

By the way, the two large stainless steel (?) serving trays used at Symposium III are still gathering dust in the MGTf office at 193 Middle Street, Portland. Would either the owners or someone who may know who the owners are contact us? Thanks.

Miriam Dyak will soon be instructing classes entitled Yoga and Healing Herbs.

"Basic Yoga Asanas" will meet in Portland for ten sessions: twice a week, on Monday and Thursday afternoons from 3:30-5:30 p.m. The class will begin Monday, June 21 and end July 22. Cost for the ten sessions is \$20. For information call Miriam at 688-4432 or call the Other Program at UMPG, 773-2981.

"Healing Herbs", also instructed by Miriam Dyak, will run from Thursday, June 17 to August 5. The time will be from 7 to 9 p.m. at 20 Federal Street in Brunswick. Cost for the eight week class will be \$20.

LISTING OF AREA GAY GROUPS:

Central Maine Gay Alliance
PO Box 2242
Augusta, Maine 04330

Maine Gay Task Force
PO Box 4542
Portland, Maine 04112

Seacoast Area Gay Alliance
PO Box 1424
Portsmouth, N.H. 03801

The Gay People's Alliance at UMPG and the Wilde-Stein Club at Orono do not schedule

regular meetings during the summer. GPA's mailing address is 92 Bedford St., Portland 04103, and W-SC's is c/o Memorial Union, UMO, Orono, ME. 04473.

The Women's Counseling Service, at Room 23, 72 Front Street in Bath; 443-9531, continues to offer counseling to all women in the Bath/Brunswick area and are particularly concerned with making their service available to low-income women. In addition to one-to-one counseling for women who want help and support in structuring their lives, building stronger identities and dealing with crisis situations, the service offers pro-se divorce information and counseling, abortion counseling, a referral service for women seeking medical, therapeutic and legal help in the area, and they have a growing library of books on women, psychology, and feminism.

To continue their work, they need our generous financial help now. They must meet their phone, utility and office rental expenses and continue to publicize their services. If you would like to know more about WCS or become involved in the work they're doing in addition to your financial contribution, please feel free to call them at the above address.

BOSTON GAY PRIDE PARADE

Saturday, June 19, will be the date of the annual New England Gay Pride Parade through the streets of downtown Boston, which for many is the highlight of Gay Pride Week.

As usual, there will be marchers representing all sections of New England; MGTF and other Maine Gay groups will also be in the parade.

Needless to say, the march is a fine time to demonstrate solidarity with our Gay sisters and brothers across the region, as well as a *very* personal high for many of the participants.

MGTF will be coordinating a car-pool to Boston. If anyone thinks they might be in need of a ride or may be able to provide transportation for people without, would they please call the MGTF office weekdays (and soon) so we can work out a schedule of rides.

This will be a fine time to resurrect all those Gay buttons and banners that have

quite possibly been gathering dust somewhere...

So get in touch, and we'll march as a Maine group on the 19th!!

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GAY DANCE IN ORONO THRES FRAT RATS

On May 1 the Wilde-Stein Club at UMO sponsored a Gay dance on campus which was attended by approximately 50 members of what was believed to be Sigma Nu fraternity. Those who were unable to personally attend the dance stared into the hall through the windows.

John Frank of the Wilde-Stein Club told the Newsletter that apparently the fraternity men were at the dance as part of an initiation "rite." None of the men were dancing.

After a short while the men inside the dance room left, along with the window-peekers.

CALENDAR



Saturday, June 19: Gay Pride Parade, Boston. The Portland area car-pool will meet in front of the NGTF office at 193 Middle St., Portland. If you'd like a ride, be there at 9 a.m., or call us at 773-5530.

Sunday, June 27: Lesbian and Gay Pride Parade in New York City. Marchers should assemble at 7th and Christopher St. at noon.

Saturday, July 3: MGTF outing to the Lincoln County area. For more info, call the office weekdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Soon!

Saturday, July 10: The Lesbian Caucus at Orono will sponsor a dance for women and men at the MCA Center on campus. 8-12 midnight. Please bring your own beverage.

Sunday, July 11: MGTF July meeting at 193 Middle in Portland. 1 p.m.; 4th floor. Business and general rap.

Sunday, July 11: Mass Gay March and Rally at Madison Square Garden, site of Democratic National convention.

THE YELLOW STAR AND THE PINK TRIANGLE

[Editor's note: The following article by Ira Glasser first appeared in the *New York Times* on September 10, 1975. It was subsequently the subject of a press release from the National Coalition of Gay Activists. Ira Glasser is executive director of the New York Civil Liberties Union.]

By now nearly everyone knows about the Danes' resistance to Nazi anti-Semitism during World War II, and how their resistance spared almost all Danish Jews from the barbarism that took the lives of six million other Jews. The Danish resistance was perhaps best symbolized by the reported willingness of King Christian X to appear in public wearing a yellow Star of David as a sign of fellowship with the persecuted minority.

Yet while this brave stand was being made to save the Jews of Denmark, another segment of the population was systematically hunted down and sent to the death camps: Denmark's homosexuals.

And Denmark was not unique: Many thousands of German, French, Polish, Hungarian and other European homosexuals were also interned and executed.

In the concentration camps where the Jews were compelled to wear yellow stars, the homosexuals were forced to wear pink triangles, and were treated as the lowest of the low by the Nazis.

Nearly a quarter of a million homosexuals were executed by the Nazis between 1937 and 1945, along with the six million Jews. Today, the moral revulsion against the holocaust remains strong, though perhaps not strong enough. Many know about the yellow star, but the pink triangle still lies buried as a virtual historical secret.

As a result, there is a tolerance among good people of discrimination against homosexuals that is similar to the tolerance of anti-Semitism that was so pervasive in Europe before the holocaust and that, at least according to some scholars, created a hospitable climate for the destruction of European Jews.

Today, such discrimination based on religion--or race or sex or creed or national origin--is not officially tolerated. Though it still occurs, it is outlawed by Federal and local laws, and is thus discouraged.

In New York City, for example, discrimination in employment, housing or public accommodations based on race, religion or sex is illegal. But the same kind of discrimination against homosexuals is permitted.

Four years ago a civil rights bill to bar discrimination against homosexuals in employment, housing and public accommodations was introduced in the City Council.

If the bill had passed, official tolerance for bigotry based on people's sexual preference would have been ended. But the bill did not pass. Five times it has been introduced, and five times it has failed.

Just as the Jews of Europe had to hide or perish, so many homosexuals today must hide to avoid the penalties of "coming out" in the open: loss of job, harassment and abuse, even rejection by family and friends.

During World War II, no king, no premier, no president, no prominent citizen came forward wearing a pink triangle, as it is said the yellow Star of David was worn by the King of Denmark.

Today, and every day until discrimination is ended, the pink triangle is being worn not only by homosexuals, but also by those who believe that the tolerance of good people is what permits bigotry to persist. The City Councils across the nation, it is hoped, will get the message this time.

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The Native American Solidarity Committee is a group of people working to build support for the rights of Native peoples to independence and sovereignty--rights which were guaranteed by treaties made between the U.S. Government and Indian nations. The Native American Solidarity Newsletter is available, at \$3 a year, at: N.A.S.C. Newsletter
c/o Prison Law Collective
558 Capp Street
San Francisco, CA
94110

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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, PO BOX 4542, Portland, Maine 04112

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SUBSCRIBE TO GAY COMMUNITY NEWS, a non-sexist, non-exploitative publication of news, features and opinion. \$12 a year, for 52 weeks (1 yr.) Mailed in no-peek envelope. "GCN," 22 Bromfield Street, Boston, MA 02108

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

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

&&& &&& &&& &&& &&&

FOR a copy of Jade & Sarsaparilla's album @5.00 per copy + 50¢ postage write to: Submaureen Records, Box 147, Hyannisport, Mass. 02647

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DEADLINE FOR JULY NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY JUNE 25, 1976

PUBLICATION DATE: JULY 4

A GAY BROTHER at the Maine State Prison wishes to correspond with other Gay people. Contact Dave Harris, Box A, Thomaston, Maine 04861.

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GAY MAN 36, would like to hear from and meet other Gay people, any age group, especially in So. Me. and York County area, for making of new friends.

WRITE TO: Ron
c/o MGTFN
Box 4542
Portland, Me 04112

Professional female vocalist looking for a flashy show-band already in progress or would like to put one together. I have been on the road, very showy on stage, have excellent references and a superb booking agent in Lowell, Mass. Should be able to do top 40 and 50's and 60's also very educational musicians more than welcome. Please call: 773-5235 or write:

Rosanna Morelli
146 Washington Ave.
Portland, Maine
04101

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GAY MAN, 25, recently returned from New York wishes to meet Gay people in the Portland/York County area. Write to Bernie, c/o MGTFN, Box 4542, Portland, Me. 04112

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(Cont.'d inside back cover)

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