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Maine Gay Task Force Newsletter, Vol.3, No.08 (August 1976)

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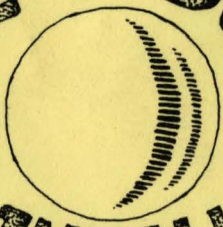
Maine Gay Gash Force Newsletter

35¢
Vol. 3 No. 8
19 August 76

! EXCLUSIVE !
DISCOVERY of LONG-LOST
HISTORICAL NUDE CENTERFOLD
of Frederick ^{the} Great !

POOP ON POPE PAUL

**FANCY
DANGER
REVUE**

FREE DOPE
on

PINBALLS

Tim Buffard

NEWS STORIES YOU'LL NEVER SEE

INNOCENT Radicals
CORRUPTED in N.Y.C.

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NOTE TO READERS

Recently, sad to say, the people at the local post office branch have been systematically draining the Task Force Newsletter of considerable sums of legal tender through a clever scheme widely known as "High Cost Services", or HCS for short. HCS includes the whole spectrum of not-so-petty rip-offs from 4 ounce envelopes to providing increasingly expensive address corrections.

There is nothing to do about the high rate of mailing materials; as it is our 4th class permit saves us 40¢ per newsletter per mailing over the 1st class rate. However, we do stamp the Newsletter envelopes "Address Correction Requested" because 4th class mail is not forwarded when a subscriber changes residences--the undelivered newsletters are tossed into the circular file. But with our little request, the post office in your town sends us a post card with your correct address, but the Newsletter still goes on the rubbish heap.

What is getting to be a money hassle is that the cost for this HCS--the address correction--has risen in cost from 10¢ to 13¢ to 25¢ in two weeks. When 2 or 3 address corrections arrive each day, small pocket change and occasion-

al dollar bills are chewed up by the U.S. Postal Service.

This added expense to the Newsletter is basically unnecessary. If people who change mailing addresses would take the small time to drop us a post card or short note or phone call (if local or on a Watts line) and inform us of the address change, we could cut down on the post office rip-offs and you would be assured of receiving the correctly-addressed Newsletter.

If we could afford to mail first class, we'd say the hell with it and let the post office earn their postage by forwarding the envelope to you. But we can't and we don't.

So Please! Dear Readers--a 9¢ post card or phone call saves us 25¢, and your delivery of the Newsletter is uninterrupted.

* * * * *

If you're staying in the New York area and have an uncontrollable urge to spend time perusing the pages of MGTFN, you can purchase the Newsletter at the Oscar Wilde Memorial Book Shop at 15 Christopher Street in the Village. The bookshop, in existence since 1967, contains an excellent selection of Gay and Lesbian-Feminist materials.

* * * * *

NEWS SHORTS

NEW ORLEANS (*Closet Door*) -- Members of the Gay community of New Orleans are organizing a badly needed Gay Service Center for the metropolitan area. The general purpose of the Center is to provide services to the Gay community, initially by providing space for events to be planned and happen in, and by providing the concerned people to work to make things happen for the Gay community. Promotion of the Center is being handled by a public relations committee. They are placing ads, gaining public service time on radio stations and soliciting the general support and acceptance of the Center. Their mailing address is: Box 51315, New Orleans, La.

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (*San Francisco Chronicle*) -- G. Harrold Carswell whose U.S. Supreme Court nomination was rejected by the Senate in 1970, was indicted by a grand jury on June 30 on charges of attempting a homosexual act with a plain-clothes vice officer. The two-count indictment charged that Carswell committed battery on a vice squad officer and attempted an "unnatural

and lascivious act" with the officer. Carswell has been in seclusion at Tallahassee Memorial Hospital for treatment for "nervous exhaustion and depression."

WASHINGTON (*Ohio East Gay News*) -- National Public Radio [NPR] offered recently a well-produced, positive documentary entitled "Homosexuality Goes to School" to its 181 member stations, as part of the *Options in Education* series. According to an NPR information official, only 11 or 12 stations that normally carry the series declined the program, while four that do not decided to pick it up. According to NPR, the response has been "overwhelmingly positive."

EDMONTON, Alta. (*The Body Politic*) -- The formation of a Gay caucus within the Progressive Conservative Party was announced in this city May 3 by party member and caucus spokesperson Wayne Madden. Madden said that the caucus will campaign for a change in party policy on Gay rights, urging the party, its leaders, candidates and MPs to adopt a favourable stance. Tactics will include briefs on key issues, letter-writing campaigns, and the introduction

Boston's mayor Kevin White issued an executive order banning anti-Gay discrimination in that city.

NEW YORK (*Gay Community News*) -- Well over a thousand Lesbians and Gay men overcame the lure of a day at the beach and marched 25 blocks in the sweltering heat to a site near Madison Square Garden to demand repeal of the sodomy laws and for the passage of Gay civil rights legislation. The march, sponsored by the New York State Coalition of Gay Organizations [NYSCGO], and coinciding with the Democratic convention, was billed by its organizers as the "largest strictly political demonstration in Gay liberation history." The broad-based NYSCGO march and the rally that followed were the kick-off of four days of demonstrations during the course of the convention, sponsored by the National Coalition of Gay Activists.

LOS ANGELES (*Newswest*) -- Undaunted by flack from Gay activists over last season's Lesbian-themed "Police Woman" episode, Columbia Studios have already filmed a show dealing with homosexuality for the '76-

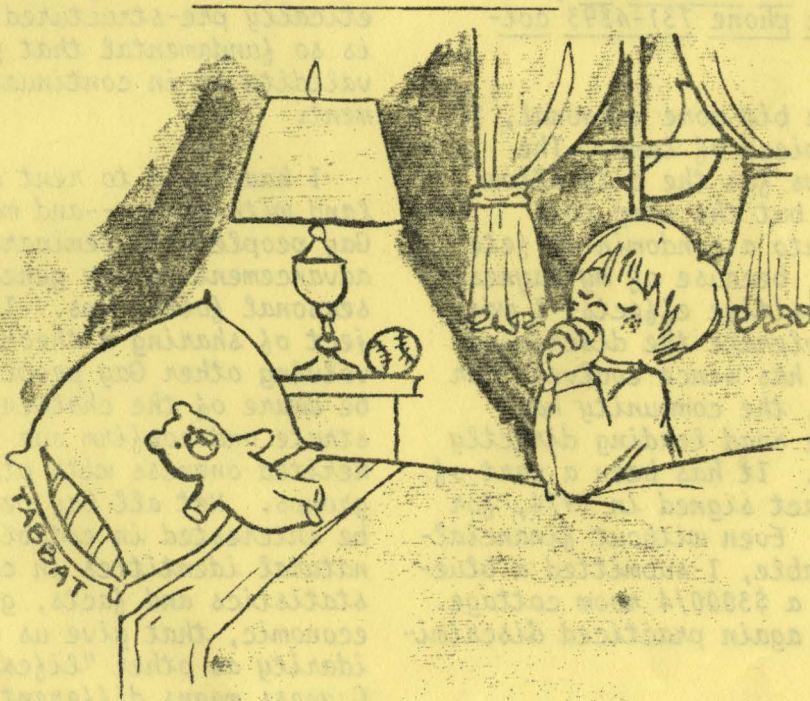
'77 season on NBC. Carol Lynley stars in "Trial By Prejudice," a segment in which series regular Angie Dickinson is accused of unprofessional conduct while investigating an alleged morals violation. The episode will be aired sometime in the Fall.

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (*Lancaster [Pa.] Gay Era*) -- Demonstrators yelled, "Gays have rights, too!" in the first Gay demonstration in the state of Maryland. The demonstration, organized by Baltimore Gay Alliance [BGA], was initiated by the defeat of two Maryland bills, one of which would have repealed the state's sodomy statutes, and a civil rights bill. Thirty-five demonstrators gathered at the steps of the State Capitol in April to protest the scuttling of the bills.

SAN FRANCISCO (*Bay Area Reporter [B.A.R.]*) -- The Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Company [PT&T] was found guilty of discrimination against Gay persons, in employment, here on May 28th. In response to charges filed against PT&T by The Pride Foundation, the San Francisco Human Rights

Commission held a Show Cause hearing which found that PT&T had a written policy against hiring "manifest" homosexuals. PT&T has been ordered to "develop" a new policy consistent with San Francisco's anti-discrimination ordinances. If they fail to do that within the given 30 days, the PT&T may have to remove all its telephones from public property.

HOUSTON (Newsletter of the Mississippi Gay Alliance) -- Gay people here are serious about getting the city's Commissioner Court to recognize Gay rights, reports the Advocate. Each week a Gay person goes to the county Commissioner, announces their sexual orientation and appeals for protective legislation. The program is now in its sixteenth week.



"And God bless Uncle Harry and his roommate Jack,
who we're not supposed to talk about."

from CHRISTOPHER STREET vol 1 no 1

LETTERS TO THE NEWSLETTER

Dear People,

Gay trailer owner urgently needs place to park trailer. Willing to have other Gay people use it as camp, in exchange for leaving it on property. Also, Gay people could camp on my land in N.H. as another exchange.

Also, seeking someone to haul it--if you are interested in helping or hauling--contact Ann M. Cotter, 98 Calumet St., Boston, or phone 731-4893 collect.

To be a bit more personal, I bought a piece of land. The zoning laws for the city allow trailers, but the camp lots evolved into a condominium fete. Therefore, because of my Gayness and its positive effects--I was able to tolerate the discrimination that has since evolved. For two years, the community has closed the road leading directly to my lot. It has been a part of the contract signed in 1974, for road use. Even without financially being able, I submitted a blueprint for a \$3000/4 room cottage. They once again practiced discrimination.

In the beginning of the purchase, I asked the neighborhood woodcutter to remove some trees-- I mentioned my favorite tree, a

huge spruce--and asked that it not be cut down. It was. Neither the woodcutter or the phone company cared to confess.

All in a day's work toward the advancement of the Gay consciousness. I am happy to note that my psyche has earned a sort of tolerance.

Often, through the media, Gay people can assist each other, for some problem solving.

I admit that my theories of genetically pre-structured Gay psyche is so fundamental that proving the validity is in continual advancement.

I had hoped to rent a piece of land with option--and maybe have Gay people hold seminars for the advancement of Gay genetics with seasonal follow-ups. It is a project of sharing a theory and involving other Gay people who might be aware of the challenge to illustrate and confirm our natural inherited oneness with other human groups. Not all Gay people would be interested in establishing our natural identities in cohesion with statistics and facts, genetic and economic, that give us as much solidarity as other "lifestyles." Gayness means different and various feelings to each of us. Personally, I found my interest and awareness continually expanding--especially through harassments. When times

are calm, living is enjoyable and easy. But when adversaries deliberately direct destructive, confusing or ignorant tactics at the strong and able, the results can be nothing less than beautiful. To find from within the Gay psyche, a joy and strength, a perception of self and the sharing of being and becoming--the tune of heart-beat and soul salvation--founded on basic human caring, is simple and open; we regain ourselves.

We, as Gay people, are the most free when we have established our natural and desirable consciousness. No other group of people on this earth has before accomplished a feat of such size. Establishing our identities, in full view of those who would deprive us of the august responsibility to be our sane, functioning selves. Gaining control of our lives and steadily allowing our psyches to merge and mingle--now defining for a doubting public, in a country which not only aspires to reach freedom for every citizen. Illustrating to the world at large the multiple constructive, creative forces of a free society.

The balance, in our favor, does not only need forces of numbers--but out of the limelight come the individuals who comprehend the growth abilities of daring to enter the fold, passing through the by-path while more choose to travel the highway.

The clarity of our positive as Gay women and men ties in not only to genetic forces but assists the heterosexual in their control of our population through utilization of the Gay option.

I don't know that I'll ever locate a home for my trailer, if it happens I'll owe it to the Gay people who consider the overall position of Gays, rather than likes/or other feelings for individual members. Every group becomes public as it grows, and often the potential for diversity and disparity and infiltration does also. Those of us who are truly Gay establish avenues of cohesion--regardless...

Even though I enjoy entertaining adversaries of Gay rights--just watching a grim, distrusting expression become smiling, even when the adversary attempts not to like the Gay lifestyle--it's hard for such not to smile over a spontaneous statement or act which causes the consciousness to become less on the offensive/defensive.

Sincerely,

Boston

Ann M. Cotter

To the Newsletter,

We love the new format of the Newsletter--it compliments the already excellent publication. The Symposium was great! I feel it is essential for us to realize what strength we have in numbers and to share experiences, thoughts and ideas so we can maintain a realistic perspective on things.

J & J

CONCORD, N.H.

To the Newsletter:

We have appreciated getting your consistently good Newsletter. Your stability is most impressive.

We see to it that your writing gets good exposure at our Center.

Roger Troen,

PORTLAND Oregon GLF

Dear Editor,

I thank the Staff (or any individuals responsible) for taking a great enough interest in Sybil's

for writing an editorial on it in your July Newsletter.

This letter is not written to argue any points that might have been raised either in the Newsletter or due to events that took place here, but to dispell rumors that are a product of this. We regret any bad feelings or misunderstandings that may have resulted from this, and wish to set the record Gay. Sybil's is a Gay Bar/Rest./Disc0 and always will be.

We appreciate the support that the MGTf and individuals involved in contributing art work to us. A special thanks to Tim Bouffard for designing our Menus and T-shirts, and also to Kim Burch for manufacturing our T-shirts and painting the art deco on the back wall. We display many forms of art and wish that no labels be attached to them other than that of art.

There are a lot of changes taking place at Sybil's, but it is not going Straight. The change is a more involved program for entertainment.

Sincerely,

SYBIL'S

PORTLAND 135 Middle Street

+++ +++ +++

THE CUMBERLAND COUNTY CURMUDGEON

By Susan W. Henderson

The Fancy Dancer - A Review

Warren, Patricia Nell, The Fancy Dancer, New York, William Morrow and Co., 1976, 287 pp., \$7.95.

Patricia Nell Warren has grown a lot since The Front Runner, one discovers when one reads her latest effort. The Fancy Dancer is about a young Catholic priest in a small Montana town who is seduced (or brought out, whichever you prefer) by an American Indian. Tricky subject matter, this. If handled well, it can be the stuff of great literature; if not, it can easily descend to pure pulp. It is to Warren's credit that, while she by no means attains the former, she manages to avoid the latter.

The development of the plot is good. Some of the early passages about the prairie evoke the sort of wide-open-loneliness feeling one gets when reading Willa Cather. The story line, basically, is that Father Tom Meeker, the protagonist, is having problems but coping pretty well as a new assistant priest in a rural town, until he sets out to counsel the town reprobate, Vidal Stump (ex-con, college dropout, heavy drinker, street fighter, etc.) and promptly falls in love and eventually into bed with him. At this point the leader becomes the led and Father Tom discovers the Gay community and his Gay self that he never was able to admit to his consciousness before. However, his heretofore straightforward life becomes speedily complicated by the paranoia and deceptions that Gay people have to practice to survive, especially in small towns, and especially if they are priests.

Happily, an ad in the Advocate leads our hero to a Dignity chapter in Denver, where lo and behold one of the counselors is his best friend from the seminary, with whom he was in love but never realized it. Lest the reader think

that the novel degenerates into melodrama at this point, it doesn't quite. The scene at the Dignity mass, where a troupe of dancers acts out the crucifixion of Christ the Divine Lover by straight society, is the most moving in the book. It indicates what could have been done with this material but wasn't. The conflict between the Gay Christian humanists in Dignity and the Church hierarchy, whose cut-and-dried attitude conceals a gut fear of sexuality, could have been made into a confrontation worthy of The Brothers Karamazov. Instead, the possibility is sidetracked in favor of a saccharine, too-pat Happy Ending. One shouldn't complain, I suppose. After so many years of Gay suicides and other Tragedies, a Gay novel with a happy ending is a welcome change. However, it is dissapointing when a story that could have been Dostoyevsky turns out to be "The Outcasts of Poker Flat."

Nevertheless, Warren is improving. One of the worst faults of Front Runner was the absence of any sympathetic female character. In fact, her attempt at portraying a Lesbian feminist was a total disaster. In Fancy Dancer we have a delightful though minor character, Clàire Faux, an older woman who we are not told, but encouraged to believe, is a Lesbian. Claire's lover of many years dies, and to fill the space in her life the survivor organizes a crafts co-op and uses her land to give it work and living space; a fitting outgrowth of the life together of the lovers, who were craftspeople. Warren is still unable to deal with "effeminacy" or transvestism, and while her individual Gay characters are believable, her background Gays are still divided into the leather people and drag queens. However, growth has taken place. We look forward to Warren's next novel. She may never be a Dostoyevsky, but she has it in her to rise above melodrama.



PERSPECTIVES '76

By Charlotte Bunch

[Editor's note: Reprinted by permission of the author. The article first appeared in the July, 1976, issue of Christopher Street, a Gay monthly published at 60 West 13th Street, New York, N.Y. 10011.]

What is the Gay political perspective for the Bicentennial year? Red, white, and blue closets or a red and lavender star? I trust I'm not exposing any national secrets or washing movement laundry in public if I say there is no Gay political perspective in 1976. This year, more than ever -- since Gays went public in a big way some six years ago -- it has become clear that there are as many divergent politics in the "Gay community" as in the straight. And if one also asks how Gays relate to straight politics, we wind up with an enormous array of issues, perspectives, and options -- a multitude of positions on important questions. Gay people in this country share an exclusion from legitimate channels for expression, not a particular politics.

Most Gay political opinion clusters around one of four basic positions: assimilationists; civil rights reformist; socialist; radical feminist. As with any spectrum of political categories, individuals are not necessarily pure types but are often expressions of various combinations. Still, an examination of each of these positions should be useful for understanding Gay politics in 1976.

1. The assimilationist position is best characterized by the statement "Gay is just like straight." It attempts to out-straight the heterosexual middle-class American way by proving that Gays are not different. Those making this effort are embarrassed by faggot culture and outraged by dyke separatists. While not necessarily in the closet, they certainly do not view Gay people as distinct and are often uncomfortable to be identified as Gay. In falling all over themselves to deny that there is anything peculiar or special about being Gay, they committ their greatest mistake --

they lose that very thing that distinguishes us and saves us from the great American malaise: the sense of difference that comes when one is not just perpetuating what is but is actively involved in the creation of what is to be. They are like travelers scurrying to get on board the *Titanic*.

2. Civil rights reformists go further than the assimilationists. They are comfortable being identified as Gay and sometimes admit that there may be differences between Gay life and straight. They say, "Gay is just as good as straight." Many people support Gay civil rights but this political position as I define it is that of hard-core reformers who are distinguished by their abiding faith that achieving civil rights for Gays will end oppression -- an astounding notion that flies in the face of all the evidence of the Sixties. This hard core works for legislative, electoral, and judicial victories. They seek recognition of particular Gay concerns (e.g., a mention in the Democratic party platform); above all they labor to prove that queers are good enough to hold any job or any political responsibility and fulfill the dream of middle-class America. The ideal might be seen as a forever-running TV series, "Marcus Welby, Gay MD." This position represents the mainstream of Gay politics. In addition to the core with faith in the American reform tradition, there are others whose politics goes beyond reformism but who work on civil rights for practical reasons. Civil rights reformers, like most other liberals, have a variety of opinions about their radical counterparts--ranging from a view of them as "Gay spoilers" to genuine allies using different methods.

3. The Gay socialists are the leftist counterparts of the Gay reformists. For them the motto changes to "Gay is just as revolutionary as straight." By and large, the Gay socialist works for acceptance in the heterosexual counter-culture or in a particular leftist sect, seeking to prove that queers are good enough to hold any job or take any political responsibility in the left: "Marcus Welby, Gay MD" becomes an underground film about a Gay, socialist-activist law commune.

Efforts spent defending Gays from being defined as prod-

ucts of "bourgeois decadence" or unnatural side-effects of capitalism are not unlike the defense mounted by reformists against claims that we are immoral, un-Christian, and/or sick. Once more, Gays are on the defense to establish credentials for political leadership on straight terms. While Gay people may be socialists for many reasons, the Gay-socialist stance is firmly embedded in the notion that homosexual oppression collapses or can best be ended with the advent of socialism -- *if only* Gays work hard enough, prove their revolutionary ardor, and don't let the kinky or feminist elements get out of hand.

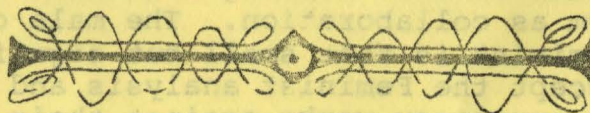
4. This brings me to the Gay radical feminists (and obviously I am one of them) who say, "Gay, or Lesbian, is proud," and insist that we *are* different and that our differences should lead to changes in straight society. Primarily developed by women, the heart of this position is Lesbian-Feminist politics. Lesbian-Feminists assert that homosexual oppression is intricately connected to women's oppression through the patriarchal institutions of male supremacy and heterosexuality, and therefore heterosexism and sexism must be fought together. The Lesbian-Feminist maintains that Gays, particularly Lesbians, are not like straights -- since straight society is synonymous with male supremacy, heterosexual roles, and woman-hatred. To deny the difference is to deny our power and potential for change,

Lesbian-Feminism founders on the question of what to do with these politics. Most of us are concentrating on building our own institutions and developing strategies for power that can lead to changes in the structure of society. However, views on questions like separatism and how to relate to men, Gay or straight, vary. Some totally reject separatism. Some see it as a strategy to be used when necessary. Some proclaim it the goal for Lesbians. Attitudes toward reformists vary from cordial working relations to denunciation of all reform as collaboration. The male counterpart to the Lesbian-Feminist is that small but significant band of Gay men who accept the Feminist analysis and try to understand how male supremacy works against their interests and how Gay men can participate in the destruction of patriarchy.

While individuals may have a mix of particular views, involvement in any political activity is usually based, consciously or unconsciously, on one or another of these four positions. The particular activity that a person engages in, however, does not always locate them on this spectrum; many issues, such as legislative changes, can be approached from any of these political positions. But the arguments and methods that someone uses in making the case for change and its consequences usually do reveal one or another of these four basic political perspectives as the premise.

While agreeing that Lesbians and homosexual men are oppressed, each of these groupings views that oppression, its causes and its remedies, differently. Therefore, individuals within each grouping tend to find allies in the particular sector of straight society -- conservative, liberal, socialist, or feminist -- that shares their political attitudes and approach, rather than within other Gay positions. This minimizes the potential of a Gay united front: consequently there is no united Gay position in 1976.

As the election year rolls on, with debate over Gay planks and the nature of the Gay vote, the real Gay "politics" nationally is the competition among leaders and activists over who the legitimate representatives are who will define what straights will see as *the* Gay political perspective in 1976. This competition can be as exciting, diverse, instructive, and vicious as the Democratic presidential lottery. How much is learned from this struggle depends on how well we understand the underlying political issues. Whatever else happens, one thing should remain clear: Gay is not the same as straight but we are also not all the same.



AFTER DARK: GAY MEN PREY ON OGUNQUIT BEACH

By Stephen Leo, Bill McMeniman and Bill Gordon

In the summertime the town of Ogunquit becomes a Gay community. From near and far thousands of Gay visitors transform this quiet little village (actually a corporation within the town of Wells) into a thriving urban colony. The local merchants, some 50% of whom are Gay themselves, are more than happy to provide food, lodgings, and entertainment to an affluent Gay clientele. However one is expected to maintain a certain amount of discretion, especially in the "better places." Valerie's for instance allows heterosexual dancing only, though the patrons are usually Gay.

Yet in at least one area of Ogunquit discretion tends to get swept away in favor of a more cavalier attitude toward finding a trick for the night. This is Ogunquit Beach, for many Gay male tourists the big attraction in Ogunquit. Although the notorious dunes have been leveled recently (ostensibly for ecological reasons), the lure of Ogunquit Beach persists. Cruisy by day when shared with non-Gay sunbathers, by night it becomes a kind of moving meat-rack with an ocean view.

Among those few individuals who are not strolling on the beach at night for essentially amorous reasons, two types in particular are of more than passing interest to Gay men. The first is the local town thug whose pleasure it is to beat the hell out of any unfortunate faggot who happens to cross his path on the dark beach. More on him later.

The second type of non-cruiser is the occasional Ogunquit police officer who patrols the beach and adjacent parking lot on foot or in a vehicle. An incident that we witnessed there a couple of weeks ago involving the Ogunquit Police stirred us to seek an interview with Police Chief William Hancock and to write this article.

On our way back to Portland from Portsmouth, NH that night, we decided to make a brief sojourn at the Beach to

watch the waves and the promenade of cruising men. Two of us were standing on the deck of the Norseman Hotel facing the ocean. The other was walking a short distance down the beach. From the darkness appeared two men followed closely by another with a 2-way radio and flashlight which he kept trained on the preceding pair. One of the pair said, "Your barking up the wrong tree, mister," to which the man with the flashlight replied, "I know what I saw...keep moving!" Then a police car appeared in the parking lot, swallowed up the culprits, and sped away. The two of us who had observed this scene were left with feelings of rage and helplessness. These were gut-level reactions triggered by seeing Gay brothers impounded like vicious criminals by an undercover agent of the state for doing something that could not possibly harm him or anyone else.

Returning to our car, one of us remained outside listening to a nearby conversation between an attractive teenage man and two cops sitting in a land-rover. From what he caught of this exchange, we deduced that the teenager was actually a police decoy employed for the purpose of entrapping Gay men on the beach. Of course this only heightened our sense of outrage. Like many Gay people, we regard entrapment as one of the most nefarious crimes perpetrated by the law enforcement agencies against Gays in an effort to keep us down. (Whether one frowns upon casual sex or not, one should recognize its ultimate validity for others. Indeed for some people, Gay or non-Gay, that's all there is, even would they have it otherwise. Indeed the peculiar circumstances of our own oppression often make this our only sexual and affectional outlet.)

At this point our other friend returned from the beach. He had seen the arrest on the beach and, what is more, he said that the men had been apprehended while simply walking along the beach a few feet apart. We drove back to Portland that morning sick at heart, cursing the 'pigs', and wondering if we should have somehow intervened.

One of us attempted thereafter to learn the fate of the two arrested men. Calls to the Ogunquit Police station yielded little information. He was told we would have to

talk with Chief Hancock in person for more details. An interview was arranged. We decided not only to ask for information about the two men, but also to question Chief Hancock concerning his attitude and policy toward Gay people in general.

We found Chief Hancock cordial and friendly, if a bit long-winded. "Sometimes you see things and you don't quite understand them...why you might think that they mean something else." With these words he proceeded to give a very different account of what we had witnessed on the beach that night. The arresting officer, he said, had stumbled across three men in a sexual act. One of them got away but the other two were arrested and were being led from the dunes at the time that our friend on the beach thought they were being arrested. Despite a lengthy examination of the two varying accounts, we were unable to reconcile them. The men were charged with public indecency, a misdemeanor. We got their names and resolved to contact them to see if we could support them in any way. (The deadline for this article expired before this could be done and before their court hearing date was set.)

Chief Hancock insisted that his officers' "number one priority" is to catch the assaulters, not Gay men having sex. Most of the 25 or 30 arrests each year for public indecency occur, he maintained, when his men happened upon the acts in progress without necessarily hunting for them. He vehemently denied that his men engage in any form of entrapment. "They have definitely been told, 'No lean on, no nothing,'" he said. Nonetheless our suspicions were not allayed. Although Chief Hancock seemed sincere in his denial, we felt that his officers may sometime engage in this practice with or without his knowledge. It is almost impossible to prove entrapment in court, whereas the opportunities for it are rife in a setting like Ogunquit Beach.

On the other hand the need for protection from thugs on the beach cannot be lightly dismissed. It is well known that Gay men are savagely beaten there every summer. Chief Hancock provided several graphic examples during the interview. Two summers ago a man was walking along the beach with

a companion when he was attacked. His face was kicked repeatedly; his spleen punctured, his liver damaged, his skull fractured, several ribs broken...His companion managed to get away unharmed. He refused to testify against the suspects in court or even to visit his companion in the hospital. When the victim was released from the hospital, he also refused to testify against the suspects in court whom he had previously identified.

Last year another man sustained terrible facial injuries. His upper plate was knocked out and sand stuffed into his mouth. He was found after crawling along the beach into a lighted area. This victim also had been in the company of another man who would not testify in court. According to Chief Hancock, the unwillingness of many Gay men to risk exposure in court is one of his most frustrating problems.

This year the attacks have continued. However in one occurrence last month the victim testified against his assailants in court. They were fined and given jail terms. On another occasion the attackers were unable to get away when their car was surrounded by a group of angry Gay men who had witnessed an assault right in the parking lot.

We were shown several wooden slats riddled with 6-inch nails. They had been concealed under the sand until discovered by a little girl who stepped on one of the nails. At another spot on the beach a log was placed in the path of the police land rover and a wire cable strung across at windshield level. Chief Hancock theorized that this was done in retaliation for the arrests and convictions mentioned above.

"This is the kind of no-good, vicious s.o.b.s we're dealing with," insisted Chief Hancock and his case was convincing. For Gay men the very real dangers of assault or arrest would seem to nullify the allure of Ogunquit Beach at night. Yet every summer the cycle continues...the victims increase. One wonders if people are really aware of the dangers that lurk in the shadows on the beach. (When asked why a warning sign was not posted, Chief Hancock said

that the Chamber of Commerce would object for fear of losing business.) Social conditions being what they are, few public places are safe for Gay men to find each other. But few others in Maine are stalked so consistently by both police and queer-beaters as is Ogunquit Beach. Perhaps for some the danger actually heightens the excitement. Or perhaps they really believe it can't possibly happen to them.

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[Editor's note: As a community service the Portland Town Council of Portland, Oregon, has published a pamphlet entitled "Police Harassment of Gays." The laws in Maine and Oregon are quite similar--for instance:

...Homosexual activity between consenting adults in private is legal. The key words are in private.

...Prostitution is illegal. Prostitution means offering or agreeing to engage in sexual conduct for money. The words used are critical. No sexual conduct is necessary, and no exchange of money is required. You may be arrested for prostitution if the vice officer thinks you have agreed to accept his offer of money for sexual contact.

(The police can come on to you on the streets, the beaches, in adult bookstores or in bars. They will probably offer you money but not necessarily so. They might simply stand and wait for you to do something. Vice officers attempt and succeed at blending into the Gay scene. They look attractive and act friendly; remember: they are not required to identify themselves as police officers--until the time of arrest--EVEN IF YOU ASK THEM POINT BLANK! If any person (a vice officer?) approaches you in a public place and makes a sexual advance or offers you money for sex STOP AND THINK. Remember that it is illegal to engage in sexual activity in a public place and it is illegal to do so for money. IT IS LEGAL, however, to invite the aggressor to a private place to "talk about it," BUT BE CAREFUL HOW YOU PHRASE IT.)

...If arrested, you are presumed innocent until proved guilty. If you are arrested, DON'T RESIST ARREST--the vice officers will be looking for reasons to cause bodily harm. You are not required to volunteer any information beyond identifying yourself. You should cooperate in every other way. Also, you have the right to an attorney, even if you can't afford one. If you are arrested, don't be ashamed or embarrassed, you have legal rights and the support of the community behind you!]

NEW YORK CITY:

A C.I.A. PLOT TO DIVERT INNOCENT RADICALS

By Perry Noid

Too many people think that radical Gay activists are not human. THIS IS NOT TRUE! I know because some of my best friends are radical Gay activists, and I've just lost two of them to the oblivion of self-indulgence and weakness. Here is their story:

It started innocently enough. Tom and Rick (not their real names) went to New York City in mid-July to participate in the Gay demonstrations and hurried efforts of Gay lobbying at the Democratic National Convention. By the end of their four day stay at "the Big Apple"--the affectionate name for this fruity city--Tom and Rick succumbed to the sexual and immoral evils that, by nature, pervade all of this necropolis.

The two dedicated radicals had planned prior to their arrival to stay at a noted bath club where, it was advertised in a Gay publication, men could get an inexpensive room and take advantage of their facilities: steam room, pool table, cafeteria, projection TV screen room, etc. Both Tom and Rick, imitating the other men there, donned towels around their waists to achieve maximum comfort. It didn't take long for either of them to discover that they had taken rooms in a house of promiscuity! After recovering from the initial shock they decided that, having already paid for the rooms, they might just as well bear with the rest of the night. Both separated and didn't see each other until their prearranged meeting time the next morning. The two pair of sleepless red eyes avoided contact as they left the lair of sin. The descent had started!

From there, both men went to the first activity: a large Gay march through downtown Manhattan to Madison Square Garden where the Democratic Convention had recently been gavelled to order. It was then that Tom and Rick redeemed themselves by walking for miles in the sun, chant-

ing slogans and contributing, in their own way, to the betterment of the Gay lifestyle in this hetero society. Yes, they felt saved from the evils of their previous night's activities...for the time being.

During the march, they met other Gay activists, of whom one, Leon, offered them his place for the duration of their stay in the city. Tom and Rick were happy, for Leon seemed to be a healthy, wholesome homosexual, and perhaps would be able to guide them away from the seamier sides of this metropolis of sin.

Late that evening, following Leon's written directions, the two activists took the subway for historical Christopher Street--"Gay Street, U.S.A." Both shared a newspaper while on the train and, browsing through the arts and leisure section, they noticed an ad for a movie of Gay love playing near Times Square. It was then they made the fatal decision to forgo Christopher Street for what they hoped to be a Gay version of Love Story. Again, their hopes were dashed! No sooner did they sit down in the theater when they noticed acts on the movie screen that they themselves *might* do only in darkened rooms and behind locked doors. Indeed, they felt that their eyes had been violated! They immediately got up to leave, but in their shock and confusion, accidentally took a wrong turn in the dark theater and stumbled into a dimly lit room containing strange shapes and sounds. As alien hands and arms embraced the two innocent travelers and gently but firmly guided them in to the middle of the room. Their arms rose to save each other from the imminent doom...but again it was too late.

Hours later they left the theater and returned to Leon's apartment. To their relief, Leon was asleep. Words between Tom and Rick were minimal. Tom laid on the couch and faced the wall. Rick got inside the sleeping bag on the floor. They both cried themselves to sleep.

The next day Leon led our two friends to the National Gay Task Force convention office at the Statler Hilton. There they got petition forms for a Gay rights plank in the Demo-

cratic Party Platform. Their assignment, should they choose to accept, was to accost the Maine delegation at the Gotham Hotel and beseech delegates to sign the petition. After an eighteen block trek to the Gotham, Maine heteros heartlessly and relentlessly refused to support the principle of rights for homosexuals with their signatures. Even former governor and liberal Ken Curtis rejected them with a toothy "later." The activists had failed. Their identity as radical Gay activists was shattered. Leon picked up on what was happening and, with his arms around their shoulders, told our two Maine friends not to worry about the disappointing events of the day. Perhaps that evening, he added in a gentle tone, he would give them a walking tour of the Christopher Street area. If Tom and Rick had looked into Leon's eyes as he said that, they might have noticed the malign smile and that all-knowing glint.

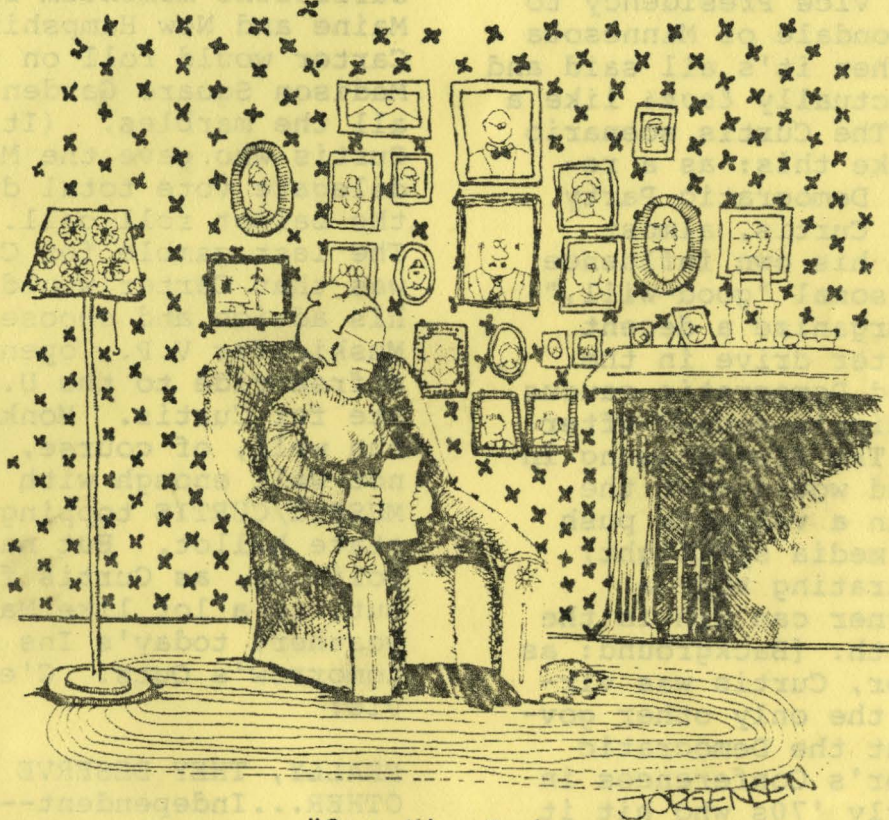
That evening, Leon did take them to the Christopher Street vicinity and introduced them to a neighborhood bar: the Crisco Disco. On first entering, Crisco Disco looked like an everyday, male-oriented Gay bar. The first part of the establishment was the bar itself; it was round and surrounded a giant Crisco can, on top of which was stored the booze. The second part was a dance floor and d.j. booth. Above the dance floor were revolving colored lights and strobe lights which, in combination with the booze and the unnecessarily loud music, was meant to completely exploit and distort the senses in preparation for what lay beyond the dance floor. Rick and Tom shortly noticed men going into a room in the rear of the bar. At first they assumed that these men were going in just to relieve themselves, but there were more going in than coming out. Their curiosity heightened, the Downeast duo meandered into the back room in hopes of solving the mystery.

And that was the last that anyone ever saw of Tom and Rick, two of the best radicals this grand State o' Maine has ever seen. Occasionally, we receive sketchly reports of two etherial beings seen floating among the bars and baths of New York, groaning and moaning with a Downeast accent.

So, dear Gay activists, I warn you: New York City is a

barrel of rotten Big Apples; a garden-city of evil apples awaiting your fall to temptation; a C.I.A. plot to divert radicals from positive social change and suck them into the underworld Gehenna of promiscuity!

[Editor's note: because of the newly resurgent civic pride on the part of many New Yorkers immediately following the Democratic Convention, we purposefully did not work into the above article the hackneyed pun popular in Chicago; to wit: "The Big Apple--seedy, thin-skinned, and rotten to the core." Also, we have a lot of subscribers in New York whom we choose not to lose!]



*"Dear Miss Barker,
Congratulations! This is to inform you that, with the recent death of
Miss Gracie Ellsworth of Cape Girardeau, Mo.,
you are now the oldest living lesbian in the United States..."*

from CHRISTOPHER STREET vol 1 no 1

THE STATE STREET STRAW

By Peter Prizer

Well, Ken Curtis' clever scheme to reach the U.S. Senate nearly worked, but not quite: at the last minute Jimmy Carter froze out his good friend Ken by handing the Vice Presidency to Fritz Mondale of Minnesota (who, when it's all said and done, actually *looks* like a V.P.) The Curtis scenario went like this: as a respected Democratic Party leader, Curtis, almost through his own influence and personal "good-will," would organize a decent pro-Carter drive in the Portland Democratic caucus, the nation's second after Iowa. The fine showing in Portland would give the Georgian a valuable push in the media spotlight; demonstrating that a southerner can win in the Far North. [Background: as governor, Curtis was virtually the only other governor at the Democratic Governor's Conferences in the early '70s who hit it off with Carter. In fact, many of the other Democratic governors, which is to say the other 37, didn't care

a whole lot to share common space with the media-hustling Carter.] Next, with Carter hot on the trail in New Hampshire, Curtis would help campaign in Loebland; collecting political I.O.U.s at a time Carter was still being considered as just another face. With sufficient momentum from Maine and New Hampshire, Carter would roll on to Madison Square Garden and all the marbles. (It was Curtis who gave the Maine delegate vote total during the ballot roll call.) The last gamble for Curtis was that Carter would take his advice and choose Ed Muskie for V.P., opening up a free ride to the U.S. Senate for Curtis. Monks would run well, of course, but not well enough with CARTER/MUSKIE/CURTIS topping the state ballot. But national politics, as Curtis found out, is a lot like Maine weather; today's Ins are tomorrow's Outs. C'est la vie!

REALLY, THEY DESERVE EACH OTHER...Independent--that's with a capital I--Guv Jim Longley went to see Jer' Ford in late July and tell him that, in Jim's political-

ly astute eyes, Jer' is a fine prez. And that the GOP would be committing "political suicide" by nominating Reagan (a criminal!--see "Odds & Ends.") And that ole Jer' would do well do well to pick an Independent--with a capital I?--for vice prez. What used to amaze me is that the people, that's you and me, sit idly by while power-titilated polyticians massage each other's super egos with patently "flattering" proclamations on each other's suitability for some nebulous spot on the National Ticket. Carter with his gaggle of Senators (plus Rep. Rodino, just to flatter the Jersey mob vote) and now Ford and Longley are making eyes at one another. Another day, another ego to cultivate. Future headline:

BOZO THE CLOWN SAYS
FORD IS UNBEATABLE;
SUGGESTS REAGAN FOLD TENT

FORD LAUDS CLOWN AS
'MODEL CITIZEN'; SEZ
BOZO IN "VEEP-STAKES"

Clown sez 'Ford another Coolidge'

WHAT, MORE DUMB POLITICS?
No...just a

CARTER LOOK-ALIKE

...Eleanor Roosevelt. Who else? Speaking of James Earl Carter--rhymes with James Earl Ray--it's now rumored in knowledgeable circles that his favorite color is plaid.

NO, THIS IS NOT A QUIBBLE & I'M NOT NIT-PICKING...
...Why, oh why is the proper noun Lesbian always--well, almost always--spelled in Gay publications with a lower case 'l'? Even the sexist American Heritage Dictionary manages a capital L in the words lesbian and lesbianism to indicate, it is assumed, that these words have their root in the proper noun Lesbos. Lesbos, we may recall, is a greek island 632 square miles in an area in the aegean sea off the western coast of turkey and noted for the lyric poetry of sappho and alcaeus.

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MALE ATTITUDES TOWARD WOMEN'S RIGHTS AS A FUNCTION OF THEIR LEVEL OF SELF ESTEEM

By Thomas W. Miller

[Editor's Note: The following article was read at the 80th Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association, Honolulu, Hawaii, September 4, 1972. We have excerpted highlights of his paper for the Newsletter.]

The effects of men's attitudes toward the women's rights movement as a function of their level of self esteem was examined. Male subjects were chosen from five college settings in Northeastern United States. A sixth non-college sample of males was obtained. The data confirmed significant correlations for four of the six groups and significant mean differences between samples. Low levels of self esteem were related to negative attitudes toward women's liberation in small, private, and predominately male institutions and in the non-college sample.

The question of personality characteristics which clearly distinguish men and women who support and oppose the women's liberation movement was researched by Worell and Worell (1971). Their findings suggest that men who oppose women's liberation are more concerned with social status, with being proper and respectable. Furthermore, such men tend to be controlled by the opinions of others and have lowered confidence in their ability to guide their own destiny. In dealing with others, they tend to be rigid, conforming, inflexible, and submissive to authority. The male who supported the women's liberation movement was found to be a more independent, capable, thoughtful, self determined person who considered the world from a logical point of view. These researchers concluded that because he appears secure in his own capabilities, and is less dependent upon the opinions of others, he does not fear social change as readily.

(continued on page 31)

MGTFN DISCOVERY!!!

From time to time, Newsletter readers have been regaled with tidbits about our Gay forebrother, Frederick the Great of Prussia, unearthed by the Cumberland County Curmudgeon in her relentless quest for trivia. The Curmudgeon's latest theory is that the title of "the Great" was bestowed on Frederick by a cavalryman of the Potsdam Guard and referred to the quality of his performance in the Royal Bedchamber. Judge, therefore, her delight when she came upon a hitherto unknown portrait of the object of her researches, in a bundle of correspondence concerning troop rations and medals for outstanding conduct.

MGTF scholars were at first puzzled over the meaning and purpose of this portrait. It is a print, of a type that could be mass-produced, on the same type of paper used to print maps, and could withstand numerous foldings. The size is small enough that it could be rolled up and put in a knapsack, but large enough to be visible when hung on a wall.

The first thing that threw us was the wig. The portrait is clearly marked "Frederick II," but the wig is from the age of Louis XIV, a generation earlier. Our theory is that the wig makes Frederick resemble Prince Eugene of Savoy, the great Austrian general of the War of the Spanish Succession, who was reputed to be Gay and in whom Frederick was much interested. The Curmudgeon notes that the wig is the same one worn by Count Adolf Gottfried von Zipfel-Zerbst und Kothen, intimate associate of Baron Dietrich von Kayerling, whom Nancy Mitford described as "perhaps more than a friend" to Frederick. It is thought that the wig was borrowed for the portrait.

The purpose of the work is not known for certain. The portrait is not catalogued anywhere in the museums of Germany and is nowhere mentioned in the records of the House of Hohenzollern. The pose and facial expression leads us to believe that the work was intended to be erotic in nature. Of further interest is the urn marked "der Crisco." "Crisco" is known to have been a common, inexpensive household lubricant, favored by the working and peasant classes from which



Frederick Resting
François Boucher

the bulk of Frederick's soldiers were drawn. The fact that this substance was packaged in small tins that could easily be carried in knapsacks, and could be used as cooking fat in an emergency, leads us to believe that the print was meant to appeal to the troops. The visual references to Prince Eugene support this theory. The more we think about it, the more we are convinced that this charming little print was intended as a "pin-up" to raise morale and encourage the troops during the dark days of the wars for Silesia. The fact that it was found among papers concerning rations and medals, both morale-builders, supports this theory. An army of lovers, after all, cannot lose. We believe we have discovered in this little print the secret of the Prussian Army's success and high morale. In what other army could the soldier have a chance to fuck his commander-in-chief? The rewards for distinguished service were never more clearly spelled out.



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(continued from page 26)

The present investigation purports to study the effects of men's attitudes toward the principles of the women's liberation movement as a function of their own self esteem. As Worell and Worell have found that personality characteristics are uniquely consistent with attitudes toward women's liberation, so too, it is hypothesized that self esteem is consistent with attitudes toward women's liberation. It is, therefore, hypothesized that males found to have high levels of self esteem will have favorable and positive attitudes toward women's liberation while men with low levels of self esteem will oppose the principles expounded by the women's rights movement.

Method

The sample comprised subjects who were chosen at random from five different college settings in Northeastern United States. A sixth sample of a non-college population was also included in the study. In all, 171 male subjects were assessed. With the exception of the non-college sample, the males participating in the study represented a predominately white, middle and upper class population. The non-college sample can be demographically considered a middle class sample. Efforts were not made to control for the age, race, or major fields of study of the subjects.

The Rosenberg Self Esteem Scale (1965) was employed to assess the subjects level of self esteem. The items of the Self Esteem Scale were rated by each subject on a four point Likert-type scale ranging from strongly agree to strongly disagree. The Women's Liberation Questionnaire [WLQ] developed by Bove and Miller (1970) was used to assess attitudes toward the principles of women's rights and the role of women in present day American Society. The questionnaire contains twenty statements with each statement being rated on a six point Likert-type scale ranging from strongly agree to strongly disagree.

Subjects for the present investigation were administered the Rosenberg Self Esteem Scale after which the Women's Liberation Questionnaire was administered. The rationale for this included the fact that it was crucial to obtain an

accurate estimate of self esteem prior to questions related to women's liberation movement. All questionnaires were uniformly distributed and subjects were given no time limits.

Results

The data confirmed significant correlations between attitudes toward women's liberation and the self esteem of the subjects in four out of the six groups. A significant relationship was found in small, private, religiously affiliated, predominately male collegiate institutions and in the non-college sample. No significant relationship was realized for the large, coeducational state university or for the small coeducational, non-religiously affiliated institution.

Discussion

Perhaps the most salient feature of these results is the emergence of socio-cultural characteristics which seem to identify types of males attending different types of college institutions. It would appear that males who attend large, state, and non-religiously affiliated institutions are generally more approving of the principles of the women's liberation movement.

It is of further interest that the level of self esteem of these male students on the smaller, religiously affiliated college campus is significantly related to the attitudes these male students have toward the principles of the women's rights movement. Where attitudes toward equal rights for women are more conservative, male levels of self esteem are found to be lower.

Where one is not threatened by imposing social change but welcomes rather an equality with his (sic) counterpart, there is no devaluation of self concept but rather a respect among equals. Where low levels of self esteem are realized in a male population, one might conclude that their negative reaction toward women's rights is seen more as a function of exhausting the limited ego importance that they

would hope to maintain. For these individuals, a far more crucial question arises, one which asks the question of "who am I" and how so I go about fulfilling my needs through appropriate channels. To the college male who has emerged from a somewhat conservative background, there exists perhaps an artificial autonomy which prevents him from recognizing a "community" sense of respect among equals. It is perhaps for this reason, therefore, that he finds it difficult to recognize the rational points of departure offered through the women's rights movement.

It is this writer's hope that this symposium, which has attempted to deal with the crucial issue of "Who" discriminates against women will serve as the catalyst for further research and inquiry into "How" our society and our world, can begin to erradicate the injustices which yet remain, so that the more positive and "growth-promoting" living experiences may be realized in the quest for equalitarian beliefs and standards for all human beings.

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MEANWHILE, IN ANOTHER PART OF TOWN...

POPE TEES OFF ON WOMEN'S LIBERATION

Examiner News Services

VATICAN CITY--Pope Paul VI said yesterday excesses in the women's liberation movement could make women too masculine and threaten their spiritual and moral integrity.

"The authentic Christian promotion of the woman does not confine itself to claiming rights," he said.

He viewed woman's "essential" role as motherhood and her "prime importance" as caretaker of the family.

--San Francisco Examiner, Feb. 1, 1976

News Stories (we'll never see!)

By Staff

TURNPIKE COFFEE HOUSE FOR GAY PEOPLE TO OPEN IN FALL

MILE FIFTY-SIX, Me. (AP)

-An official for the Maine Turnpike Authority said today that the turnpike will convert an existing Howard Johnson's restaurant into a Gay coffee house.

"It's time the turnpike recognized the great economic benefits that the hundreds of thousands of Gay tourists contribute to both the economy of the state and the well-being of the turnpike."

"Providing an unoppressive atmosphere along the road is the least we can

do," continued the spokesperson.

In late spring, 1977, special Gay oriented toll booths will be installed at York, Lewiston and Augusta. Lighted overhead markings will indicate whether the toll taker is a Gay man or a Lesbian feminist.

Also, added the spokesperson, all exits will be equipped with special toll booths for poor and working people which will accept donations in lieu of formal toll charges.

RUMOR OR TRUTH?

(AP) - The managing editor of a large west coast daily is not a practicing heterosexual, reports an anonymous phone call to the AP Southern California office.

FILLER

(AP) - Miami is the most sophisticated and interesting urban center in the country, reports the Dade County Convention and Publicity Bureau.

XCCC...%\$%ABBBww.,w&7

ENTRAPPED POLITICIAN COMES OUT IN SOUTH

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (UPI)

- A prominent local politician whose name is a household word in Toulouch County, Fla. pleaded guilty yesterday to charges that he made homosexual advances to an agent of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms of the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

Sheriff John Ellis, long a power in northern Florida politics, said in a letter to Judge Hal McCallum that he is a homosexual and has secretly been so inclined during his entire life.

"Sure," said Ellis today to reporters, "I could have pleaded innocent, paid a lawyer to say in court that I'm 'preoccupied with suicidal ruminations' and that I was 'resting in a hospital under care of a psychiatrist.'"

"Maybe people who feel bad about their sexual orientation, like I used to, may cop-out with a 'nervous condition' but for once in my life I'm going to be honest."

Ellis faces up to five years in jail and a \$1000 fine.

SEAT NOT TAKEN AT STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OFFICE

PORTLAND, Me. (UPI) -

When Pat Filmore entered this city's state employment service office, she was quickly referred to a jobs placement service representative.

Filmore is reported to be the first person in fifteen years to enter the office and not be immediately asked to "please have a seat."

A spokesperson at the office was not available for comment.

NO VIOLENCE FOR FALL, NETWORKS TELL FCC

WASHINGTON (AP) -The three major television networks have pledged not to use violence as a ratings tactic in 1977.

In a statement received today by the FCC, the presidents of NBC, ABC and CBS all pledged not to resort to violence to sell consumer products on their programs.

"Violence cheapens," said a representative from CBS.

RESIGNATION "POLITICALLY EXPEDIENT" SAYS AGNEW, THANKS COURT FOR PROBATION BARRING JAIL TERM

SHOPPING CENTRE, Md.
(UPI) - Former Vice President Spiro T. Agnew, in a prepared tape recording played before a local fifth grade civics class, said that it was "very wrong... a crime" not to have paid federal income tax on the graft he had collected as Vice President and when he had been active in Baltimore politics.

Agnew told the children that had it not been for intensive plea bargaining with the government, he "probably would have gone to jail."

"A 'strict constructionist' court would have probably tossed me in jail," said Agnew.

He did not elaborate.

READER'S DIGEST CUTS 'SEX' FROM ARTICLE TITLES

PLEASANTVILLE, N.Y. (UPI)
-The Reader's Digest Association said today that the word 'sex' would never again appear on the cover of the widely read monthly magazine.

In an Association memorandum, officials explained that they felt they had "exploited articles with sex" as a means to "entice sexually uptight people into purchasing the magazine."

"These voyeristic sex maniacs will have to go elsewhere for their kicks,"

said the memorandum.

"And besides," added a Digest official, "the Association felt that articles on sex were politically inappropriate for a hand-held magazine that's widely read in the bathrooms of suburban America, in light of the serious decline of the nation's birth-rate."

WHAT'S IN A BURGER ? PLENTY!

BAR HARBOR, Maine (UPI) - Researchers at the Jackson Laboratory in this coastal Maine village announced the detection of large quantities of 2-4-5-T herbicide, Red Dye #2, uranium 238, selenium, deoxyribonucleic acid and asbestos fibers in random samples of meat inspected at 98 Mc Donald's restaurants in the northeast U.S.

Also detected were minute traces of steer meat.

A Mc Donald's spokesperson termed the Laboratory's findings "nit-picking," and said that all the ingredients except the selenium have been cleared for human consumption by the federal Food and Drug Administration.

DEADLY FIBERS

(AP) - The inhalation of asbestos fibers may cause asbestosis, a chronic lung inflammation which often leads to death, says a recently unreleased report by the U.S. Job Safety Commission.

NUMBER ONE ON CHARTS

NASHVILLE (AP) - A Gay liberation ballad by Willie Carr titled "Mercy Sakes, Good Buddies--My Closet Door's Wide Open (Can Ya' Copy?)" has topped the nation's country and western charts for eleven weeks, with sales of over 15,000,000 copies.

MAINE UTILITY NIXES TAX HIKE

AUGUSTA, Me. (UPI) - The Central Maine Power Company announced today that the utility, the state's largest, will forgo a planned rate hike in consideration of the financial plight of the electric company's poorer customers.

"We gave it a long, hard thought, and decided that the welfare of the poor and working people should take precedence over the financial accruments of CMP's stockholders, many of whom are not even residents of the state," said a spokesperson for the company.

"It's a small step," she said, [but] "never the less, a step in the right direction."

NEW HAMPSHIRE PUBLISHER SAYS RIGHTS FOR HOMOSEXUALS STATE'S PRIORITY FOR DECADE

MANCHESTER, N.H. (AP) - The priority of New Hampshire for the next decade should be to "honestly evaluate it's role in the continued oppression to Gay people," William Loeb stated in a signed, front page editorial in the Manchester Union-Leader.

Loeb's editorial urged its readers "to explore new areas in which the state might discourage discrimination against these oft-persecuted people."

Loeb's comments appeared to be in marked departure from previous editorial views of the Union-Leader, which up to now had not been hailed as a valuable ally by the state's Gay community.

BANGOR POLICE TO WEAR GAY PRIDE LAPEL BUTTONS IN NOVEL SOCIAL EXPERIMENT

BANGOR - In a novel social experiment arranged through the cooperation of the Wilde-Stein Club of UMO and the Bangor Police Department, foot patrol officers will voluntarily wear "GAY and PROUD" lapel buttons to understand, in the words of a department

spokesperson "what it's like to be identified as a Gay in a basically homophobic society."

"The force is eager to learn firsthand the oppression towards Gay people, to which the police themselves often knowingly contribute," added the spokesperson.

GAY RIGHTS GROUP FOLDS; CITES 'GUILT' AS REASON

PORTLAND, Me. (AP) - In a press release which drew much unfavorable comment from the nation's homosexual rights groups, the Maine Gay Task Force officially dissolved itself today.

The statement was signed by all fourteen staff volunteers.

A spokesperson cited "our heavy guilt trip resulting from asking the heterosexual-oriented society to grant even the smallest crumbs in the form of antidiscrimination measures."

The Task Force formally apologized for asking others to make difficult moral decisions and pledged themselves to a "life of retribution."

"It's been a very big mistake," said a former member who asked not to be identified.

COAST POLITICIAN CO-SPONSORS GAY RIGHTS BILL; BUT SAYS OUTCOME IS "TOTALLY UNIMPORTANT"

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) - A member of the House of Representatives from California who recently co-sponsored H.R. 5452, the National Gay Rights bill, said in an interview with the Associated Press that he is not interested in the fate of the proposed legislation.

"It's totally unimportant to me, and probably to the majority of my constituency back home as well," said Rep. Carl Risma, Democrat of San Francisco.

Although Rep. Risma said that he felt obligated to co-sponsor the bill in order to maintain his liberal credentials, he termed his action "Just window-dressing to get this well-organized group of misguided people off my back."

SOUTH PORTLAND PASSES GAY HOUSING MEASURE

SOUTH PORTLAND - By a 7-0 vote, the South Portland City Council voted to include an antidiscrimination measure to protect homosexuals in the city's housing code.

The vote was hailed by the city's Chamber of Commerce in a statement which said "It's about time this community became sensitive to the pervasive discrimination that Gay people face in the suburban housing market.

NEW AMBASSADOR TO FIJI NOMINATED

Reuter

WASHINGTON - President Ford yesterday nominated Cyrus Clark, an uncommitted delegate to the 1976 Republican National Convention, as the new Ambassador to Fiji.

Clark, 57, is a past vice president of the American Legion and serves as an attorney for the Sunflower County (Miss.) White Citizen's Council.

REVIEW/ANALYSIS

The Misadventures of Tim McPick

Reviewed by John Frank

I have admired Daniel Curzon as a writer since reading, in 1974, his first novel, Something You Do In the Dark, a spell-binding, forceful work which presumed a Gay awareness in the reader and took the story line from there. It was strongly political without being preachy; its politics were inherent in the protagonist's situation--one in which any Gay man in this society might find himself. Also, it escaped the maudlin sentimentality and self-pity so evident in so much of the post-Stonewall Gay male fiction.

In his novels and short stories, Curzon specializes in the elements of surprise, absurdity and linguistic play. He mischievously deceives his readers into believing something, and, in the space of a sentence, totally reverses his characters's predicament. The Misadventures of Tim McPick is no exception.

By his own definition, Tim McPick is Curzon's contribution to the long line of novels written in the picaresque tradition which dates from the anonymous classic, Lazarillo de Tormes of Spain's Golden Age. "Picaresque" denotes a form of fiction in which the lives of everyday people are shown through a series of humorous or satiric adventures carried out by an engaging antihero.

At the outset, Tim is a Gay college student who is suddenly orphaned, and, not wanting to be a financial burden to his Aunt Nellie, he decides to search for the Meaning of Life. The initial step of his quest is to join the Army where, during the psychiatric examination, he first comes into contact with Dr. Achilles Sfinktor, a particularly repulsive character who is obsessed with finding and barring homosexuals from the military. Through "sleight of hand"

(so to speak), Tim passes Sfinktor's test (which involves erotic slides of nude men and women, an anal thermometer and a "penometer"), and is accepted, only to be caught during his basic training in a compromising situation in Camp Agnew's library bathroom. The scene of military "justice" and homophobia at work during the court martial scene is one of the highpoints of the book. Curzon's flair for the absurd is very evident here. The courtroom is described in terms of a boxing ring where brawn has a premium over logic. The lawyers--in boxing trunks--weigh in and the fight begins. The most damaging witnesses for the prosecution are Sfinktor and Schmill, the latter a government spy. In the end, Tim is pronounced guilty as charged, at which point he flees, and becomes a fugitive from (in)justice. In his efforts to elude his pursuers, Sfinktor and Schmill, he meets up with a host of bizarre characters, including Lucifer Panporn, B.O. Wulf, a food faddist witch, a drunk driver who sells bicentennial tours of riot-torn cities, among others.

Although it is indisputably a Gay novel, Gayness is not the primary focus of Tim McPick in the usual sense. Tim "feels sexy" twice in the book but never consummates a sexual relationship. He is not concerned politically with the implications of his Gayness in a heterosexual world, but tends rather to take his sexuality pretty much for granted. However, the Gayness in this novel is reflected a great deal, I think, in Curzon's use of the "false plot." This is a technique whereby Curzon comes to a point in the story line where serious disaster is imminent and he continues the action to actually accomplish this disaster. Then, in parentheses, he directly consoles the reader, saying, "No, this doesn't actually happen, though you see that it could have. But this is a comedy, so let's continue in that vein." The action is then retraced with a different turn of events to avoid the disaster. In Tim McPick, Tim is killed off several times in false plots. Perhaps the technique is not Curzon's invention, though I had not previously encountered it. But that is not where the importance lies. The point is that the false plot, which emphasizes the fine line between tragedy and comedy, is particularly applicable when the character is Gay. All of us know that we daily walk a tightrope between the tragic and the comedic. We are usually agile enough to

keep our balance, but the threat of the tragic is always present: Gay parents know that threat; Gay men who cruise bathrooms and rest stops know that threat; those of us who are employed know that threat. And Curzon's false plot points out that, but for a fluke of fate, we all could be tragic figures. But, in Tim McPick, Curzon is optimistic. Though he reveals to us what disasters could occur, he doesn't permit them to. He sums it up in the final words of the novel:

Life is full of such everyday comedies if you just look for them. Of course, the laughter comes with effort, lots of effort. And even then it tends to be... precarious.

[The Misadventures of Tim McPick can be purchased from John Parke Custis Press, c/o English Dept., CSUF, Fresno, CA 93740. \$3.50]

LOST AMONG THE FOUND
by Brian Allen Goodrich

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

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

Rothgar Publications
Suite 445
102 Charles Street
Boston, Mass. 02114

Sale price \$3.95 plus 30¢ for handling. Mass. residents add 20¢ sales tax.

**RIGHTS OF GAY PEOPLE: THE
BASIC ACLU GUIDE TO A GAY
PERSON'S RIGHTS**

(An American Civil Liberties Union Handbook)-Discus Books. Published by Avon, 268 pages, \$1.75.

The American Civil Liberties Union recently has been producing a series of down-to-earth handbooks dealing with the legal problems of differing segments of our population. These individuals include mental patients, servicepeople, students, and women. Now they have performed a similar service for homosexuals.

This handy paperback can clarify a number of difficulties that many of us may find ourselves faced with.

A simple question-and-answer format helps to cover such practical information as occupational licenses and the statutory provisions that pertain to Gays on a state-by-state basis. The rights of transvestites and transsexuals are also considered and a complete listing of Gay organizations and ACLU affiliates conclude the coverage.

This is a must purchase for every alert Gay person!!

[The above review by Frank Howell, in VECTOR, Vol. 12 No. 6.]

Maine people should send \$1.75 plus 25¢ for sales tax and postage to: Maine Civil Liberties Union [MCLU], 193 Middle Street, Portland, ME 04111.

SSSSSS

A READER COMMENTS...

How about some letters of support for a man faced with the ire of society's attacks! Carswell, having approached a plainclothesman in a public restroom, allegedly drove him to a wooded area and touched the police officer against his will!

Carswell, almost a member of our highest tribunal, seems to represent so many who are forced through fear,

position, family to seek sex furtively. Ah, that we all dared come out... **ROH**

WARNING: ATTACKS CONTINUE AT DEERING OAKS PARK

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

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

On the evening of July 23 a man was attacked by a knife-wielding assailant on the path between Park Avenue and Deering Avenue. The attacker, who hid behind a tree, managed several deep knife wounds in his victim's arm before he fled unapprehended.

**IF YOU MUST GO NEAR THE PARK
IN THE EVENING...DO SO WITH
EXTREME CAUTION!!**

CONFIDENTIAL. GAY DRUG AND ALCOHOL RAP GROUP-meets Monday evening 6:30. High St. Community Resource Center. 68 High Street, Portland

THE EXPOSE JIM LONGLEY DOESN'T WANT YOU TO READ:

THE 1976 MIDSUMMER REPORT

on

PORTLAND'S UNUSUAL PIN-BALLS... (AND WHERE TO FIND THEM)

By The Leisure Time Task Force Subcommittee

[Editor's note: The staff of the Newsletter is, to be quite honest, somewhat embarrassed to present herein the results of a special six month study on Portland area pin-ball machines by our volunteer Task Force on Leisure Time. As it happened, the findings of the Subcommittee were inconclusive, to be polite, and this report relies heavily instead on two previously published documents on the public record: 1) "Pin-ball Machines: Psychotic Dichotomy or Manic-Depressant? (*Psychology Today*, JUNE, 1971) and 2) "The Six Best-Selling Medium Size Pin-Ball Machines/Twenty DOs & DON'Ts When They TILT" (*Consumer Report*, OCTOBER, 1969.) Finally, we note the valuable information obtained from the "Report of the 1962 Senate Select Committee on Rackets.]

Without further acknowledgement, we present the July/August "Pin-Ball Roll of Honor."

(BEST & WORST; beginning with the latter)

12. With no doubt, the Odd Couple in the basement of the UMPG Student Union at 94 Bedford Street in Portland are the worst in Maine. Not only are they 20 years old and cantankerous but you've got to pass by clutches of macho fraternity men to get to the

basement where these relics are hidden. No, the ball is not made of wood. OVERALL RATING: D+

11. Number 11 is the companion and partner in crime to number 12. 'Nuff said. OVERALL RATING: D+

10. The dozen or so 10¢ pin-balls at the arcade in Old Orchard. The best part is the dime. The worst part is the playing time: would you believe three balls in 27.6 seconds? The flippers are tiny and strange--you could roll a watermelon between them.

OVERALL RATING: D

9. The machine at The Place, on Forest Ave. This is the four-legged bandit that used to be in Roland's before being banished to the heteros. The flippers are hesitant and relatively far apart. The machine last matched on January 15, 1973, just when Watergate was starting to break.

OVERALL RATING: C-

8. The "Airplane" machine in the basement of Newberry's department store on Maine St. in Brunswick. The play is OK, with a degree of concentration involved: your skill is to ignore the press of youthful faces staring at your every move like mesmerized zombies. OVERALL RATING: C

7. The "Pin-ball Wizard" machine in the Congress St. pool hall. Like the thing says, you've got to be a wizard to win--but it can be done. If you're below expert, save your quarters.

OVERALL RATING: C+

6. The "five ball" machines at Old Orchard. The play is slow and the crush of people may be distracting, but you just can't knock the extra play the two additional balls provide. This is where to head if you're low on funds. OVERALL RATINGS: C- to B+

5. "The Satin Doll" in Tommie's sandwich shop on Exchange St. A three flipper deal with a yawning gap between the flippers--that count. The play is strange; it alternates between too slow and ridiculously fast. And the scoring panel is sexist. OVERALL RATING: C+

4. The "Movie Set" pin-ball in Mr. T's sandwich shop on Exchange St. Good flipper action; good play. Problem is, there's only one scoring panel, so two can't play. A nice spot to spend a rainy weekend of alienation. Knows how to match. OVERALL RATING: B

3. [A tie.] 1) "The Big Indian" machine in Tommie's on Exchange St. Fine play: this is where the skilled display their savvy. See Paul the Banker rack up 9 free games. The name is unfortunately denigrating to Native Americans, but what's to be done? The flippers are responsive and so is the crowd. OVERALL

RATING: B+ 2) The pin-ball in Roland's Tavern on Cumberland Ave. Good play; skill wins out (sometimes!) Flippers respond well and the Extra Ball Light is lit after 10,000 points. During a run, the points rack up quickly. Now, if they can only put the thing in a sound-proof booth...OVERALL RATING: B+

2. The "Bicentennial" pin-ball in the Congress St. pool hall. At long last, something commercial with the Bicen theme that doesn't rip-off. (Well, not too much.) Fine play, a relative value in a sport not noted for advantage. It's too popular with the Crowd, and the glass top is seldom cleaned. But it's fun to play. OVERALL RATING: B+

1. What's the best pin-ball in Portland? We think it's the "Rocket" machine in the Congress St. pool hall. The flippers are fine and the play is almost fascinating; must be seen to be appreciated. Even if you don't make the 120,000

points for a free game, it was fun while it lasted. But don't distract the Big Macho Men who do serious gambling on it--you may not live to tell your tale. OVERALL RATING: A-

NOTE: The Leisure Time Task Force will provide, from time to time, updates and sundry information on the Portland area pin-ball action. Your comments and reader input from other areas of the state are welcome!

TILT

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

135 Middle St.
Portland 772-9476

'76 PRIDE DAY MARRED IN L.A. BY HOMOPHOBIC COPS

By Franz Martin

[Editor's note: Franz Martin, formerly of Maine, is attending the People's College of Law in Los Angeles and is a contributor to the Newsletter when his busy schedule permits.]

Los Angeles Gay people commemorated the seventh anniversary of the Stonewall Riots in a fashion typical of this city's large but fractured, embattled but rebellious Gay community -- with a protest march, a parade and carnival, two brutal police attacks and a spontaneous counter-attack by enraged Gays that bore a striking resemblance to the original Stonewall resistance.

The LA Gay movement has been bitterly divided for over a year (based largely on issues rising out of last year's unsuccessful workers' strike at the Gay Community Services Center) with a militant wing of poor and working class Gays with socialist leadership and a conservative wing led by Gay business and professional people and the Metropolitan Community Church. The conservative Christopher Street West Association (which annually plans LA's Gay Pride events and last year tried to exclude strikers and radicals from the march) chose to join this year's celebration with the July 4th Bicentennial, under the slogan "We Were There." In response, an alternative group, Stonewall '76, was formed by those who felt that the spirit of Stonewall was best honored with a protest march on the traditional anniversary, not diluted into the Bicentennial brouhaha with an apolitical parade. Stonewall '76 organized around three slogans: Full Rights for Gays; End Racism and Sexism; Disunity is the Problem - Solidarity is the Answer.

For the Stonewall contingent on June 27, 200 people braved a withering 106 degree heat wave for a peaceful but spirited march through the Gay ghetto of West Hollywood, followed by a park rally. The marchers, who were over half women, included delegations from three socialist organiza-

tions and one AFSCME union local.

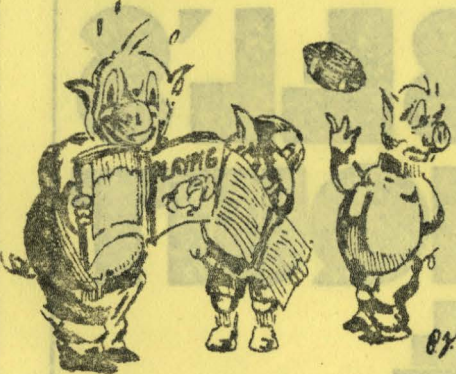
One week later, on July 4, the Christopher Street West parade drew 1100 persons to Hollywood Blvd. for a quiet walk-past review before tens of thousands of Gay sidewalk onlookers. Despite the best efforts of its organizers to keep the event subdued, patriotic and strictly non-militant, an unexpectedly strong and threatening police presence led to one beating, six arrests, and a wave of anger from the sidewalk crowd which served to illustrate -- much better than the parade itself -- the real conditions and consciousness among LA's grass-roots Gay community. Following close behind the last contingent of the Gay parade was a solid line of helmeted police, shoulder-to-shoulder across the broad street, clubs out and at the ready -- a classical street sweep, designed for intimidation, a reminder of who really controls the streets. As rumors of arrests and beatings spread down the line, the crowd stirred resentfully while some began to jeer and shout: "There's the real America!" "This is what we celebrate?" "Get Out!" And as the police formation passed menacingly, with orders to stay back, off the street, hundreds of people surged forward in massive disobedience, to fill the boulevard behind them.

Meanwhile, only a few miles away, 2000 more people, who had chosen to spend their July 4th holiday at a popular Gay beach, were caught up in another police attack and resisted even more strongly, with a magnificent display of unity and courage.

When plainclothes vice cops at Will Rogers State Beach arrested two Gay men for public nudity, hundreds of nearby bathers intervened, encircling the cops and demanding release of the victims before the officers in their beach jeep would be allowed to leave. As one man in the crowd was seized by the cops and beaten bloody before them, others began pelting the cops with stones, sand, cans and seaweed. A woman who ran to aid the beaten man was herself thrown to the ground, then run over by the police jeep as the cops used the vehicle to batter their way out of the furious crowd.

Enraged at the escape of the police, the crowd headed for a nearby highway to stop traffic and continue the demonstration. Running upon hastily assembled barriers and police reinforcements, the group fell back to the beach but refused to disperse. As a police helicopter repeatedly buzzed them and a sheriff's patrol boat hovered offshore, the angry Gays maintained their solidarity. When medics arrived to treat the injured woman, a squadron of guards volunteered to surround and walk with them to where she lay -- to ensure that she received medicine only and not an arrest. The stand-off lasted for nearly an hour, with cops behind barricades and Gays on the beach, hurling insults and threats at each other. Then the balance of power shifted, with the arrival of the infamous SWAT squad, heavily armed, which moved out slowly onto the beach and broke the resistance.

Later that evening, a band of men attacked a well-known Gay bar near the beach, breaking windows, slashing tires and assaulting customers. Police were slow to arrive, made no arrests and left quickly, allowing the assaults to continue. Some observers believe that the attackers may have been off-duty cops, earlier involved in the beach incident, returning to get their vengeance at the bar.



Fight Male Chauvinist Piglets!

Fed up with little squealers? **High School Women's Liberation** is a pamphlet with 20 articles by and for young women which will help raise your consciousness. It's only \$1.25 from **Youth Liberation**, 2007 Washtenaw Ave., Dept. W, Ann Arbor, Mi. 48104.

HELP!!!

PLEASE...Readers able to contribute are asked to consider a donation to the Carol Whitehead Defense Fund--the huge legal costs that resulted from her successful child custody court case are a great burden for Carol and her family. If you can, please help us... your kindness is greatly appreciated!

CAROL WHITEHEAD DEFENSE FUND, PO BOX 4542,
PORTLAND, MAINE 04112.

BEST OF EVERYTHING IN MAINE

BEST BRUNCH BEST DINNER AND SALAD BAR

BEST DISCO

BRUNCH 11-2:30 Daily (except Mon. & Tue.)

DINNER 5-10 Nightly

DISCO 10:30-1 Nightly

ANNABEL'S ROUTE 1 OGUNQUIT CENTER

ANNABEL'S
OGUNQUIT
MAINE

ODDS & ENDS

THE TALLAHASSEE [FL] FEMINIST WOMEN'S HEALTH CENTER has been blocked at every turn by the local medical community there, reports The Maine Feminist Health Project in *Maine Freewoman's Herald*. Doctors in positions of power have gone so far as to pressure other doctors to refuse to work at the Health Center or to end already established associations with the clinic. The Center is now suing five doctors for "conspiring to restrain trade." Donations are badly needed and words of encouragement are appreciated! Write Tallahassee FWHC, 1017 Thomasville Rd., Tallahassee, FL 32305.

THE SURREPTITIOUS SNOOPS: When you call your local telephone business office to find out why you were billed \$8.50 to have your name unlisted in the phone directory ("It's all the additional paper work," they'll plead--excuse us, *inform* you), your conversation may be covertly monitored by 1) an office manager in the town you're calling, 2) by a district

manager elsewhere in Maine, and 3) by a regional supervisor in Nashua, N.H. So whenever you have to hassle the phone company, be polite and say 'Hi' to all the Bell quidnuncs listening in.

OUT OF THE CLOSETS AND INTO THE...GROOVES? Macho rock singer Rod Stewart has released a new song about a Gay man. What's extraordinary is that the lyrics are clear, the melody is rather beautiful, and our Gay friend is the subject of a romantic odyssey. Titled "The Killing of Georgie," the cut is on his latest album "A Night on the Town." Warner Brothers says (defensively?) that the song is not actually about a real person but that, after all, "Rod does know a lot of Gay people in the business, it could be about anyone." Apparently, listeners of "The Killing of Georgie" are impressed with its warm sincerity along with the song's sentimental, yet carefully controlled arrangement. Some lyrics:

"Oh yeah. In these days of changing ways, so-called liberated days, a story comes to mind about a friend of mine./ Georgie-boy was gay, I guess, nothing more and nothing less. The kindest guy

I ever knew./ His mother's tears fell in vain the afternoon Georgie tried to explain that he needed love like all the rest./ Pa said, there must be a mistake. How can my son not be straight? After all I've said and done for him?/ Leaving home on a Greyhound bus, cast out by the ones he loved, a victim of these gay days, it seems./ Georgie went to New York town where he quickly settled down. He soon became the toast of the Great White Way./ Accepted by Manhattan's elite and all the places that were chic, no party was complete without George./ Everybody loved Georgie-boy."

Later on in the ballad, Georgie-boy gets stabbed to death on Fifth Avenue by members of a teenage gang from New Jersey. The last line carries a message:

"Never wait to hesitate, get in gear before it's too late. You may never get another chance."

And all this, from the Messenger of Macho, Rod Stewart. Must be the swine flu.

RONALD REAGAN IS A CRIMINAL! He's confessed that as a 14 year old he illegally set off firecrackers a full week before the legal July 4 and was fined \$14. What's worse, that's probably the truth...

COME OUT! COME OUT!
WHEREVER YOU ARE! We're not going to dateline this Odd 'n Ender, but it did (or does) occur near the pleasant Arkansas community of Grannis. Remember the 24 people who voluntarily sequestered themselves in a small house to await The Second Coming of Christ? Well, they started the vigil nine months ago in the three bedroom brick house. Along the way, a court order removed the children whose attendance at school was obviously somewhat less than exemplary and vicious rumors flew on the CBS Evening News that the toilet was sorely taxed. Now, it seems, a second court order has just been issued evicting the adult waiters from the \$15,000 house because one of the owners quit making payments on the mortgage with the Farmer's Home Administration. But it all turned out for the best, however: now they can all stand in line for their swine flu shots.

EXCERPT HEARD FROM RADIO COMMERCIAL IN PORTLAND ON JULY 24:

"It won't be long now before the leaves start changing and the football season starts..."

This shit is not needed.

MORAL OBJECTIONS of Greek Orthodox monk Charalambos Koulas caused him to make a special trip from his monastery atop Mount Athos to Athens, for the purpose of smashing a plaster statue representing a nude version of the ancient god Zeus (one of the earliest sexist men, by the way.) For his outrage at the nude, the monk got sentenced to 8 months in prison, which probably isn't located atop a mountain.

(YAWN)...This Fall on the tube, viewers who can't stand "Hawaii Five-O" and "Streets of San Francisco" on CBS and ABC respectively can watch the new NBC comedy entitled "Snip." "Snip" is about three male hairdressers on Cape Cod (snip, snip, get it?) and one of the hairdressers is...you guessed it. But NBC has hired Dr. Newton Dieter of the Gay Media Task Force in L.A. to monitor the filming and see that there is no stereotyping. Michael is the character's name. (In typical network fashion, a positive Lesbian role remains to be seen.)

HOW TV DISTORTS WOMEN:
A study of 44 television pro-

grams found that TV's portrayal of women differs sharply from reality. The study, conducted by the Women's Division of the United Methodist Church showed that only 32% of the TV characters surveyed were females, while women comprise 51% of the population. Women were 22% of the workers shown on TV, even though women make up 40% of the U.S. labor force. The 15 month, \$10,000 study was done in consultation with Berkeley's Pacific School of Religion. Nineteen groups of monitors (187 in all) watched three episodes each of 19 situation comedies and 25 adventure dramas during family viewing time [8-9PM] and adult viewing time [9-11PM.] ABC was found to have the fewest female roles and CBS the most. The study found that programs during adult's viewing time gave a more realistic picture of women than those shown during the family viewing time. Overall, male characters were found to make decisions to solve problems twice as often as females. Males were rarely shown with children, or in the home. Women's categories of problems and relations dealt with family and romance,

whereas those of men involved business and acquaintances. In situations where orders were given, women were found portrayed as nagging shrews but men were seen as powerful, even awesome. Monitors reported that women characters were often unnamed, or referred to only as "babe," "sugar," or "piece of fluff." Surprisingly, the study found that programs with female leads, such as Mary Tyler Moore's, did not differ significantly in sex role portrayal from shows with male leads. The study's findings will be sent to the networks and to the Federal Communications Commission. Russ Caughlin, general manager of ABC-TV, said that his network simply "portrays women the way they are in regular life." "As women assume leadership roles, we'll represent them in leadership roles," he said. "Television mirrors reality."

"ODDS & ENDS" consists of relatively short items of interest and opinion. The title should not suggest that these items are trivial or inconsequential (although some obviously are.) If you have an item of interest to the community at large, send it to this column c/o MGTFN.

ONLY IN SAN FRANCISCO: A San Franciscan is going into the next book of Guinness Records. Thomas Edwards, a local Gay leader and pet store manager, has had 1,308 "Letters to the Editor" published. Bay Area readers are breathlessly awaiting letter # 1,309, we're sure.

A READER SENDS US THE FOLLOWING OBSERVATION:

"The only way some people can feel blameless is to make those around them feel guilty."

FIGHT SWINE FLU WITH LEGAL HIGHS MAILED TO YOUR HOME! Remember the phrase "mellow yellow" c. 1967? And how everybody tried to get high smoking banana peels? And how all they ended up with were red eyes or possibly an upset stomach? Well, pseudo youth-cult people in California [natch] are in the middle of a booming legal "organic" high business. Classified ads in Rolling Stone and High Times list dealers where one can cop Hawaiian woodrose seeds, Korean ginseng roots, African yohimbe bark, gotu kola, kava root, to mention just a few varieties of the 40 or so legal psychoactive plants on the open market. These

organic highs, say the experts (whomever *they* are), are now in demand because of "the natural food fad" and fears of contaminated psychedelic drugs on the street. We in Maine aren't sure if reality-altering drugs are all they're made out to be, but as they say in the Merit cigarette ads, if you're going to turn on to potentially harmful drugs, you might as well take the lightest trip.

DOES NIXON STILL DRIVE YOU TO TEARS? If your answer is a firm Yes, then the Free Expression Cooperative [261 Oakdale Ave., Mill Valley, CA 94941] has just the ticket: a silkscreened handkerchief featuring the full face of a smiling RMN as the motif. \$2.50 seems a little high, even for the Buycentennial year, but that's what they're asking.

WEST VIRGINIA FUNERAL DIRECTORS have a new style casket. The casket decor is a reproduction of Leonardo da Vinci's "The Last Supper" in full color inside the coffin lid, with the disciples cast on the outside grips. Strange.

HETEROSEXUAL ENTRAPMENT IN SALT LAKE CITY: Rep. Allan T. Howe, D-Utah, was recently found guilty of soliciting two police "decoy prostitutes" on the city's West Side, a bar and poolhall-lined street well known as a center for prostitution. Here's the police transcript of the solicitation (Howe is listed as "he" and one of the decoys as "she"):

He: "Hi, honey. What are you up to?"

She: "Not much. What are you doing?"

He: "Just looking for some fun."

She: "Like what?"

He: "Oh, a _____ and a _____."

She: "How much is it worth to you?"

He: "I usually go about \$20."

She: "Is that how much you want to go?"

He: "Yes. You're not one of those cops, are you?" (emphasis added.)

She: "No. Are you?"

Howe, to his credit, will appeal the conviction. Entrapment is easliest one of the most detestable police "enforcement" techniques in this country. According to a recent article in The Body Politic, if a person is entrapped by a police decoy, the best procedure for the entrapped person is to admit nothing and to demand a lawyer. As it happens with Gay people, the further one is out of the

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

THOMAS MAXWELL #26313
Pembroke Station
Danbury, Conn. 01682

EUGENE PULSIFER #039136
PO Box 747 T-3-S-7
Starke, Fla. 32091



A WOMEN'S DANCE

D.C. Friends of Mary Jo Risher, a woman's coalition, presents 'A Women's Dance, Saturday, August 14, 9 PM at Marvin Center, George Washington University, 21st and H Streets, N.W. Washington, D.C. Admission is \$5. All proceeds go to the child custody court fight for Mary Jo Risher.

MEANWHILE IN DES MOINES

The CBS Evening News of July 30 reported that two men were arrested in a Des Moines, Iowa cafe for "winking" at two other men in the restaurant. The two men the two men winked at were reported to be "nauseated" and the two winkers were busted for "Disturbing the peace."



The Newsletter is sad to report the death of Mark Freedman, Phd. in San Francisco on July 21st. He wrote Homosexuality and Psychological Function and the Psychology Today article "Homosexuals May Be Healthier Than Straights." The Gay community has lost a talented and loving person.



413a Cumberland Ave.
Portland

CALENDAR

14 August: The Orono Lesbian Caucus will sponsor a Gay Dance for women and men at the MCA Center on Campus. At 8 PM. BYO/?... The second Saturday in the month.

26 August: The August 26th Women's Coalition will sponsor a march and rally to protest battered women and support food, shelter and security for women made refugees through wife-beating. At 12 noon, on the Boston Common.

3 - 6 Sept.: "Dyke & Faggot Anarchists Gathering" in Buffalo, NY. ...to exchange and create ideas on how anarchism relates to our lives...

26 Sept. : MGTF Meeting. 10 AM, 92 Bedford St., Portland. Bring your lunch...

bits...BITS...bits

LONESOME GAY WOMAN 31 would like to meet other Gay women age 20 to 50 to share my life with; it's possible for me to move in with another woman. I am recently divorced. I have plenty of love for a similar person out there. Judy Gilliam, So. Harpswell, Maine 04079.

bits... BITS ...bits

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

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Scorpio/Scorpio/Leo would enjoy sharing with other Maine people who are exploring themselves through astrology and/or Dianic Wicce. Reply to: A.A., 243 Park St., Lewiston, ME 04240.

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Dana, who describes himself as eclectic, catholic (small c) and solvent--in that order--is looking for friends in so. Maine/York County. C/o MGTF, Box 4542, Portland, ME 04112.

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A Gay man in Dexter, Maine is looking for pen pals. Write to John, c/o MGTF, Box 4542, Portland, ME 04112.

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Dear Bits,
My name is Anthony Stanback.

My reason for writing is that I've been writing a book entitled We Are Here To Stay. It concerns itself with homosexuality and the opinions of Gay people. I attend a prep school in Maine and I've gotten a few opinions of Maine Gay people, but I don't have as many as I could use. Would you please ask your readers to send me their individual feelings on any aspect of homosexuality? No name is necessary and people's names are confidential. My mailing address is: Anthony Stanback, 403 S. Benning Rd., NE, Washington, D.C. 20019. (Thanks alot; letters should be marked "personal.")

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NOTICE TO READERS: Word has reached us that the OTHER VOICES bookstore in Boston has gone out of business...

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PLANNING TRIP TO FLORIDA and CALIFORNIA--long, slow trip in my homemade camper--leaving Sept. or Oct. If you're relatively quiet, not too big and would like to make the trip send your confidential name and phone no. to Gene, c/o MGTF, Box 4542, Portland, ME 04112. (I like music of the 50s, 60s & 70s.)

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(more bits on page 58)

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DEADLINE FOR SEPTEMBER NEWS-LETTER:

FRIDAY, AUGUST 27, 1976

PUBLICATION DATE:

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 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.

* * *

Anyone interested in forming a group of Gay people in southern York County are asked to write: Chris Wright, Cemetery Rd., Berwick, Maine 03901. Discretion is necessary.

* * *

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

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, Mass. 02108.

* * *

FOR A COPY OF JADE & SARSAPARILLA'S newly released album, send \$5 plus 50¢ handling to: Submaureen Records, Box 147, Hyannisport, Mass. 02647

* * *

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 Organizing Committee, reports on Mainers who are trying to bring about progressive changes. Supported by subscriptions 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.

(Cont.'d inside back cover)