

5-1976

Maine Gay Task Force Newsletter, Vol.3, No.05 (May 1976)

Tom Hurley

Wendy Ashley

Stephen Leo

Stan Fortuna

Deborah Johnsen

See next page for additional authors

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.usm.maine.edu/megtf>

Recommended Citation

Hurley, Tom; Ashley, Wendy; Leo, Stephen; Fortuna, Stan; Johnsen, Deborah; Breeding, Susan; and Bouffard, Tim, "Maine Gay Task Force Newsletter, Vol.3, No.05 (May 1976)" (1976). *Maine Gay Task Force Newsletter*. 14.

<https://digitalcommons.usm.maine.edu/megtf/14>

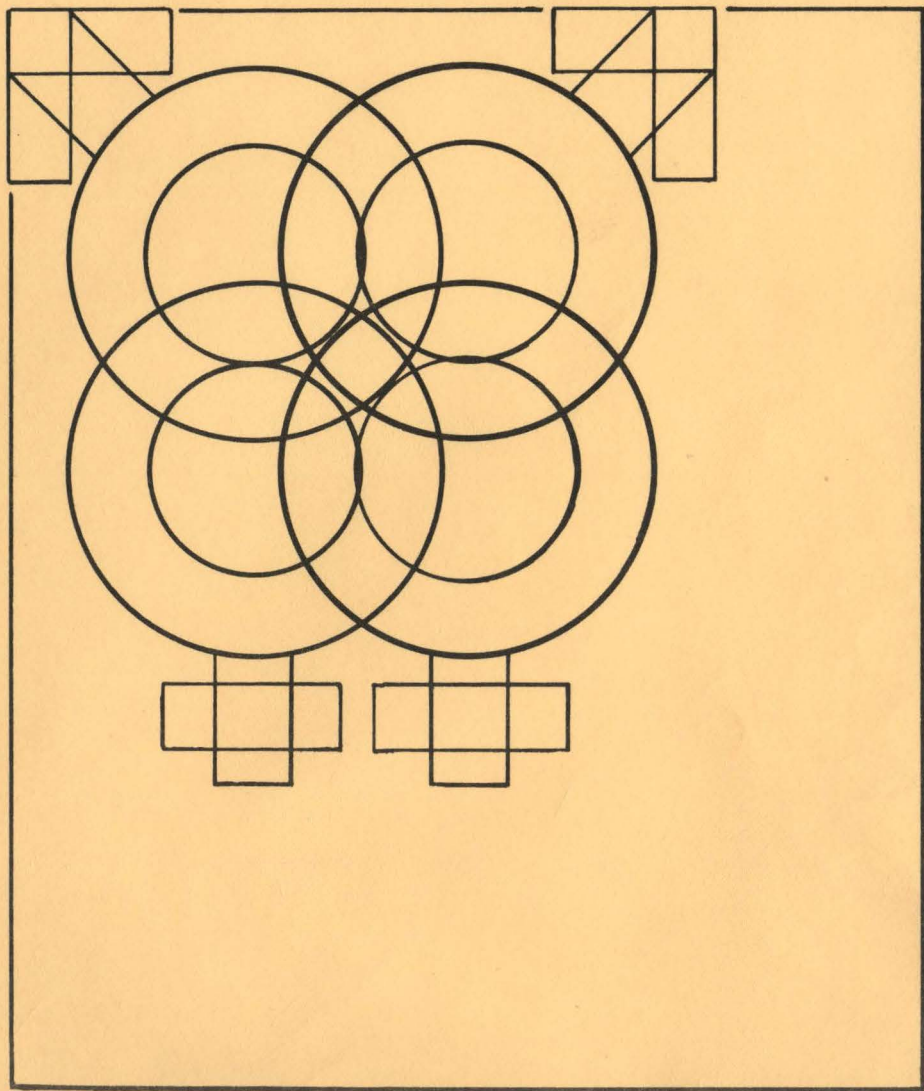
This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Periodicals at USM Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Maine Gay Task Force Newsletter by an authorized administrator of USM Digital Commons. For more information, please contact jessica.c.hovey@maine.edu.

Authors

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

Vol. 3 No. 5

M.G.I.F. NEWSLETTER



[May, 1976]

NEWS SHORTS

SAN DIEGO (*NewsWest*) Military recruiters have been barred from Associated Students Council [ASC] facilities at San Diego State University because of the military's discrimination against Gays. Voting 21-4 ASC members also called for a commission to consider if the university president should extend the ban to the entire campus.

SAN FRANCISCO (*Gay Community News*) The San Francisco police chief says that Gays on the city's police force should "come out of the closet" and demonstrate to the world that Gay people can be good police officers. "There are 20 closet Gays on the city's police force but none who will admit to their sexual orientation," Police Chief Charles Gain told the largely Gay Harry S Truman Democratic Club recently.

TRENTON, NEW JERSEY (*San Francisco Examiner*) Two consenting males who engage in a sex act--alone and unseen--cannot be found guilty of private lewdness, the N.J. Supreme Court has ruled. One Appeals Court justice had said he would have convicted

the two men because the act would have been found offensive to a "vast majority" of the public if it were performed in their presence. "The point is that it did not occur in their presence," the Supreme Court wrote. "Nor did it occur under circumstances in which the defendants could reasonably be deemed to have intended, or known, that their conduct was likely to be seen by the public."

FT. COLLINS, COLORADO (*San Francisco Sentinel*) The Gay Alliance at the Colorado State University sponsored its first Gay Lifestyle Symposium in the student center April 7-10.

FORT VALLEY, GEORGIA (*Bangor Daily News*) The vestry of an Episcopal Church here has sent a letter to a member, Louis Crew, telling him, "We would all be pleased if you would find some other place of worship that may be more in sympathy to your thinking and efforts towards 'gay' people." Crew, a member of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, says he at no time has asked the parish to support Gay Christians, nor has he ever brought the subject up at parish meetings, but that he

once did write to the vestry chairperson offering to explain the national ministry of "Integrity" (an organization of Gay Episcopalians) but got no reply.

PHILADELPHIA (GCN) Philadelphia's Gay Community Center opened on April 23 with a gayla evening of entertainment which included music, poetry, and films. The Center, located in the heart of the South Street "Renaissance" area, has two floors, the top of which houses the Gay Switchboard office and the relocated Gay coffee house. The downstairs is set for large meetings, dances, and stage performances of all types.

MEXICO CITY (*San Francisco Chronicle*) Gay prisoners will get special treatment in this city's four new penitentiaries, authorities reported recently. They'll have individual cells, with private bathrooms. [Ed. note: the above news blurb is reprinted in its oblique entirety.]

ANDERSON, INDIANA (*Lewiston Evening Journal*) Is avowed homosexual Brad Wilson an ordained minister of the Church of God or isn't he? The question has started a furor in

the relatively small, doctrinally conservative denomination. Reactions have upset some program proposals, exposed what a church sociologist terms subconscious "fears" about sexuality, and raised the prospect of actual ouster proceedings. As for Wilson's status, "There is no record of formal revoking of his ordination," says the director of church services at the denomination's headquarters in Anderson, Ind. "But," he continues, it doesn't have to be that official. He himself has forfeited his rights to be a minister." Wilson replies, "The ordination was never relinquished, rescinded nor subjected to any church review proceedings. The hostile reactions speak very much of the low spiritual level in the church. Many seem to forget that Jesus said, 'whomever will may come.'" What started the uproar was a three sentence AP item April 2 reporting Wilson, a "Gay" social worker and Church of God minister, headed a new group, Evangelicals Concerned, to minister to homosexual people. (This group is the first among conservative Evangelicals, although Gay organizations exist in larger Protestant bodies and

in Roman Catholicism.)

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA (GCN)
By reforming its penal code, the state of Indiana eliminated all penalties against Gay sex acts, thus making consensual sex between adults in private legal as of June 1, 1977. Although the measure was signed by the governor in March, a state assemblyperson plans to introduce a bill prohibiting homosexual sex in the next session and uses the recent Supreme Court decision as its basis.

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS (*Portland Evening Express*) One Baptist minister suggested all homosexuals should be "annihilated." Another opponent suggested installing toll booths to charge a fee to every Gay person entering the city. Despite the ridicule and the reported threats of violence, coordinators recently announced plans for a bicentennial conference entitled "Gay in San Antonio--A Sense of Belonging." [MGTF Newsletter, Feb. '76.] Most of the opposition has centered on a \$5000 federal grant provided by the American Issues Forum to partially fund the conference. [Ed. note: the real issue is homophobia,

not a \$5000 federal grant.] Although an organization known as "Women Who Want to be Women" has announced plans to picket outside the meeting, no violence was expected by the conference planners. Mass. State Rep. Elaine Noble is one of the scheduled guest speakers.

SAN FRANCISCO (*Sentinel*) Mayor George Moscone has proclaimed Sunday, June 27, as Gay Freedom Day in San Francisco and the GFD committee has announced plans for its parade and fair on that date. The mayor's proclamation is the 1st of its kind in that city.

LETTERS TO THE NEWSLETTER

April 28, 1976

To the Editor:

I want to express my heartfelt thanks to the Gay People's Alliance and other allied Gay organizations for Maine Gay Symposium III. The weekend was one of the most uplifting I've spent with other Gay people.

Some successes of the weekend evident to me:

*Dolores Klaich's keynote address, which was perhaps more positive a statement than she realized and, for me, set the tone of the weekend following;

*the efforts of many to share very personal feelings and experiences in an effort to grow and help others grow;

*the staffing of 94 Bedford Street for child care, which made it possible for many of us to attend most of the weekend's activities;

*positive and lively exchange between Gay women; men;

*a very danceable Saturday night band;

*Tim Bouffard's art on the program cover.

With heightened Gay Pride
Peter Allen

Sunday, April 25, 1976

Dear Maine Gay Symposium
Committee,

I've shared, listened, grown, and am a few steps closer to being a more whole Gay person. Since I've just come out to myself and a few close friends within the last six months, the weekend was important for me.

-Thank you Planning Committee for making the weekend flow.

-Thank you Wendy for making me face up to my right to be Gay.

-Thank you Richard for facts about Gays in Europe. (Talk to you later about Greece).

-Thank you Deborah and Stan for keeping my personal coming out relevant to broader social change.

-Thank you Stephen for your Principle.

-And thanks to those of you who listened and felt with me.

Richard

Dear Friends,

This letter is for Gay brothers and sisters living in isolated areas of this state, especially those in my own area.

I hope all were fortunate enough to have attended the 3rd Maine Gay Symposium. For me the Symposium was vital, as it put me back in touch with myself as a Gay oriented human being! Along with the workshops and people I felt an incredible sense of community. Thanks to all the people who worked hard and long to make the Symposium a success and to all whose support and presence made it the tremendous emotional "high" that it was.

Living in Belfast I feel cut-off from other Gay people and my "particular" profession doesn't help matters. (Paranoia not mine.) It is vital for those of us living in isolated areas of Maine, to meet, know and realize that we are NOT alone! Efforts should be made to contact each other. We need to "come out" and make ourselves available to support and grow together as we go about our living.

It is not my purpose or intention to start a political group but rather an informal social one. If there are others in the Knox-Waldo County area who feel as I do, you can phone me at: 338-1929 or write me in care of the Newsletter.

Let's get together and start a feeling of Gay Community!

In Gay Spirit,
Jonathan

April 20, 1976
Buenos Aires,
Argentina

Dear Newsletter Readers,

I read in *Chicago Gay Life* about the Maine Gay Task Force and your Newsletter, and I'd like to have some new pen friends in the U.S. While I'm quite far away now, I'm preparing a new trip to the U.S. soon. I like New England very much and look forward to meeting you all some happy day.

I'm an Argentine male, 35 years old. During my free hours I love to paint and draw and am generally post-impressionist in style. I'm a journalist for two magazines in this city. I read that our writer Jorge L. Borges is celebrated at the University of Maine, Orono...how nice! I am very fond of music, opera, ballet, and concerts. My preferred sports are swimming, rowing, and tennis.

I'd like to correspond with anyone who likes sports, natural life, and travel. In a few months I hope to be in Portland, Maine. This letter is valid now, or in the future. Thank you very much...a sincere friend in Buenos Aires,

Jack Palli
Casilla de Correo 106
Sucursal 13
Buenos Aires,
Argentina

Dear Sister and Brothers:

I am writing to say a couple of "thank yous." First of all, I want to thank the organizers of the Symposium for planning ahead for child care this year. This was the first Symposium where responsibility for the children was not an issue. I personally was delighted that I didn't have to hassle with the men about that this year. And especially, thank you, Tom Hurley, for the time you spent at the conference and before seeing that the children were well cared for.

Secondly, thanks to the Newsletter staff for publishing the fundraising appeal for the Women's Coun-

seling Service in the last issue. We appreciate your support of our group, and hope we can be mutually beneficial to each other.

The Women's Counseling Service's new address, by the way, is Room 23, 72 Front Street, Bath. Our phone number is 443-9531.

In Struggle,
Nan Stone



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
MAINE GAY TASK FORCE NEWSLETTER
P.O. Box 4542
Portland, Maine 04112

April 20, 1976

Dear Editor:

Gay persons should be aware of, and some will certainly want to get involved in the structure of, the now revving up, statewide LEAA funded Standards And Goals Program of the Maine Criminal Justice Planning And Assistance Agency.

To quote from the program description which I received on April 16th, "The purpose of the program is to organize citizen input and participation in the development of criminal justice system policies and practices for the State of Maine."

Practically speaking, beginning very soon five study subcommittees of citizen volunteers will be set up across the state on a county-wide division basis, with from eight to ten persons on each of the five subcommittees dealing respectively with the study areas: police, courts, corrections, youth development, and community crime prevention. Of course the work is unpaid, but certain LEAA monies are available for meals and travel. The work will require a commitment of two meetings per month for a period of approximately eight months.

Since, in this sick society which doesn't have either the intelligence nor the decency to know what is properly its business and what is not (i.e. what happens in a bedroom is the business only of those there) Gay persons occasionally brush up against the criminal justice system; and especially since the most recent Nixon Supreme Court decision on homosexual practices will unleash the Louis Jalberts ("..pack of queers..") and James Longleys ("..every day in every way you better get better and better, Dave Harris.") to trip out on a mad orgy of anti-Gay repression, Gay persons in Maine will be well advised to pick up on this matter soon before all the slots are filled (as they

rapidly are now becoming) by the middle class, middle-aged super straights.

To get program information and an application blank for one of the study subcommittee slots, zip a letter off real quick to:

In Cumberland County -

Mr. Robert Fontaine
Southern Maine Director
Standards And Goals Program
Maine Criminal Justice Planning And Assistance Agency
Greater Portland Council Of Governments
169 A Ocean Street
South Portland, Maine 04106

In other than Cumberland County -

Mr. John B. Leet
Executive Director
Standards And Goals Program
Maine Criminal Justice Planning And Assistance Agency
295 Water Street
Augusta, Maine 04330

Having been an outraged observer of the 'special' treatment programs for homosexuals in both a federal and state correctional institution, I cannot emphasize too strongly the need for Gays to involve themselves in this study which will determine the correctional policies in Maine for years to come.

Zip that letter off today. Or, with bad luck, one day several years from now you could be standing naked on a damp electroshock pad in a state institution, getting a hair-straightening jolt of juice every time a color slide of a naked member of your sex is flashed on the screen. Believe me, unless you act now it can happen. It has elsewhere.

/s/ Philip Jenkins

DID YOU SEE?

BARNEY MILLER

As announced in last month's MGTF newsletter, ABC's Barney Miller show on Thursday, April 22nd dealt with homosexuality. MGTFN's blurb, which was taken from TV Guide, said the show was about police harrassment of homosexuals. Actually, the show was concerned with how the police dealt with two middle-aged homosexual men who complained that a man impersonating a police officer was threatening homosexuals with arrest unless they paid him off.

The general theme of the show was human dignity and its treatment of homosexuality was, for the most part, very positive. The two Gay men, although stereotypically swishy, were very positive and forceful in standing up for their rights. The one homophobic cop, nicknamed Wojo, was portrayed as something of a fool. The police impersonator was finally arrested and brought in by a detective from another precinct who had been accosted while leaving a Gay bar. Wojo, of course, was freaked out to learn that one of New York's "finest" was homosexual, but no one else thought it was anything to be concerned about.

While Barney Miller deserves a good rating for this episode, we're somewhat curious about the folks at WEMT in Bangor. (The series wasn't run on WMTW, the ABC affiliate in southern Maine and N.H.) When it became apparent that the show was about homosexuality, Barney Miller was quickly replaced by Lawrence Welk introducing the Andrews Sisters. A few moments later the Andrew Sisters were replaced by an advertisement for the Barney Miller show and an announcement that WEMT was having technical difficulties. The next thing we saw were the beginning credits for an *entirely different* episode of Barney Miller. Finally, the original show was put back on the air at the point where it had initially been cut off and the technical difficulties and other interruptions ceased. It would be interesting to learn what happened in the control room at WEMT that night.

THE CUMBERLAND COUNTY CURMUDGEON

By Susan W. Henderson

HETEROSEXUAL - A Review

Davis, Nancy, and Jeff Graubart, Heterosexual, New York, Vantage Pr., 1976, 143pp., \$6.95.

Heterosexual is an attempt to prove, by using Marxist theories of history, that "Homosexuality grows out of the contradiction of heterosexuality (love of opposition); is qualitatively superior to heterosexuality; must destroy heterosexuality and its definition, sexism (maintenance of opposition) in order to become pansexuality (love of similarities) and its definition, communism (the striving toward new similarities)." Whether or not one is a Marxist, this sounds like an interesting proposition to a Gay person, not to mention a massage of one's ego. However, the book itself is a disappointment.

To begin with, it is about 85% verbiage. The authors do not bother to define their terms, and the style is so obscure that, at least for the non-philosopher or the non-Marxist, it is almost incomprehensible. As an example, I shall quote the first paragraph of the book.

The forces of the universe are based upon one fundamental truth. This truth is a constant attempt to find a definition for its existence. So rather than having an ultimate reason for everything, it is precisely no reason which drives reality towards increasing quality. All definitions, however, require the same, as there is no ultimate definition. The reality of the universe arranges itself into the most simplistic of systems which defines itself adequately, and then proceeds to destroy such systems as their definitions are shown to be in contradiction; creating systems of greater quality where definitions find fundamentally increased

justification in one another. The patterns of this process, from the creation of material reality to the present, point with a very definitive finger towards the one task which humanity must carry out to preserve its existence.

If you can figure out what that is trying to say, you're a lot smarter than I am--and I used to think that we history Ph.D.'s had some sort of championship when it came to verbiage.

When one wades through the fog content, one comes upon some rather questionable scholarship. The proposition put forward by the authors is based on an historical theory that in prehistoric times human beings were pansexual. Since the men were hunters and the women gatherers, this led to separation of the sexes and to homosexuality and a decrease in population. The population decrease led to an upsurge of heterosexuality. At the same time, men discovered the economic advantage of pairing off with a woman, so that male hunting and female gathering could be pooled, and proceeded to force women into marriage. Now, there is not one shred of proof that this is actually what happened: the evidence simply does not exist at this time, and the theory is doomed to remain a theory. Yet, on this unproven theory an entire system is built. The authors never substantiate their assertions, just as they never define their terms. This has nothing to do with Marxism; it is simply sloppy writing. Marxism, like many other philosophies, ultimately cannot be proven; it must be taken on faith. However, it is possible to demonstrate why you think a thing is so, and how it fits into your philosophy. This the authors do not do.

Near the end, the book increasingly deteriorates into rhetoric. The authors cast aspersions on various factions of the left of whom they disapprove - Stalinists, Maoists, etc. - terms like "ultra-left" and "Bonapartist," never defined, are thrown around freely, and of course there are the usual ritualistic jibes at the liberals. The Gay Movement and the Women's Movement are both out of order be-

cause, for reasons never explained, they are assumed to be reinforcing heterosexuality and sexism by fighting them. One of the more amazing assertions in this book is that after a Feminist or Gay demonstration people feel more oppressed than ever before. Any one who, like myself, has felt joy and uplift at the sisterhood the Women's Movement has produced, or the incredible high of marching in a Gay Pride parade, will find this assertion mind-boggling, to say the least. At one point, the authors deteriorate into outright irresponsibility. This is when they accuse the researchers Masters and Kolodny of falsifying scientific data, with no other proof than that a study of testosterone levels in Gay and non-Gay men conducted by the authors produced different results than one on the same topic conducted by Masters and Kolodny. Now, to accuse someone of fraud just because their study came out differently than yours is not only libellous, it is just plain immature. However, it indicates the zealotry of Davis and Graubart. Their theory requires the concept that homosexuality be a conscious choice, a fejection of heterosexuality and sexism; therefore no one who thinks homosexuality is organic may be allowed a hearing. No peaceful co-existence is possible: heterosexuality must be stamped out so that homosexuality, which is really pansexuality (don't ask me how) may come into its own and the millennium be upon us.

I'm afraid I just don't buy it, folks. Unreconstructed liberal that I am, I don't think homosexuality has anything to do with capitalism, communism, or any other ism, and that the hets can be taught to live and let live. As an historian, I know that sexism and homophobia were around long before either capitalism or Christianity, and as a Bohemian I dread the thought of a society where everyone acts alike. A study of homosexuality from the point of view of Marxist theory could be an interesting exercise, but I'm afraid this specimen fails miserably.

PROTEST AT POLITICAL CONVENTIONS

"The Supreme Court has said Gays are to be oppressed and punished for intimate behavior between consenting persons in private. We will not idly sit by as our Constitutional rights are trampled upon by the Nixon Court."

-John Paul Hudson, NCGA

NEW YORK--The National Coalition of Gay Activists [NCGA] has announced plans to sponsor "militant but non-violent" demonstrations at the Democratic and Republican national conventions, calling for party platforms supporting an end to discrimination against Lesbians and Gay men.

Additionally, NCGA has released a "1976 Gay Rights Platform in the United States" comprising 25 demands. It calls for an end to discrimination against Gay people in all housing programs operated by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development; passage of federal and local civil rights acts, and amending other governmental controls to prohibit discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations and public services.

Coalition spokesperson Morty Manford said the demonstrations at the Democratic convention in New York and the Republican convention in Kansas City would be held because "the Democratic and Republican parties have been particularly insensitive and unresponsive to the plight and repression of 20 million Lesbians and Gay men in the country."

NCGA has adopted a pink triangle as a symbol of past oppression as well as a badge of determination to fight for Gay rights. The pink triangle was the insignia that Gay people in Hitler's death camps were forced to wear.

*

*

*

NEW YORK--The New York State Coalition of Gay Organizations [NYSCGO] has announced plans for a mass protest march and rally Sunday, July 11th, at Madison Square

Garden, site of the 1976 Democratic National Convention. The demonstration is being called to raise two demands before the public at a time when popular and media attention will be focused on New York City.

The NYSCGO demands are:

1. Repeal of all consensual sodomy laws
2. Passage of Gay rights legislation

In light of the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision (John Doe et. al. vs Commonwealth State of Virginia) in which the Virginia State sodomy laws were upheld, it is essential that the Gay community present a unified, non-violent, militant presence on July 11th in order to firmly impress Gay issues upon the consciousness of American politics. This year the news media of the globe will be witness to thousands of proud and defiant Gay people affirming their human rights and the joy of their lifestyle. The political impact upon the conscience of the American people will be maximized by a massive Gay presence at convention time.

Despite continued lobbying efforts by NYSCGO and other groups around the country, 36 states still maintain barbaric sodomy laws on the books. NYSCGO, therefore, invites support and endorsements from all Gay organizations for its demands and encourages participation in the July 11th demonstration.

The time has come for concerned Lesbians and Gay men to join in solid unity behind the NYSCGO demands in order to demonstrate our determination to take the struggle for Gay liberation out of the hands of apathetic legislators, and lay our case before the people.

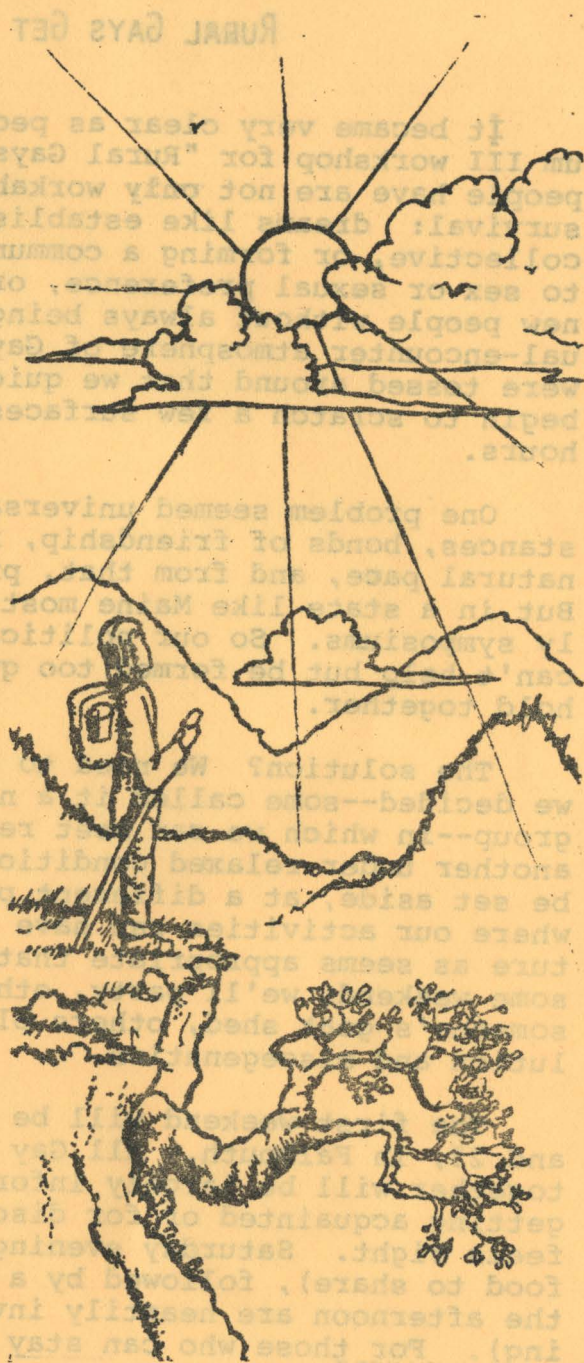
--New York State Coalition of Gay Organizations



HIKE

The hike up Mount Cutler is scheduled for Saturday, May 15, 1976. In the case of rain, the hike will be on Sunday the 16th. This is a short hike (3/4 mile) taking about 45-60 minutes. Bring something to eat and we'll have lunch on the summit. You should also remember to bring some good insect repellent.

People wanting rides from Portland should meet at 9:30 a.m. at the MGTf office on 193 Middle St. If you're driving directly to Hiram, we'll meet there at 11 a.m. To get to Hiram from the Portland area, take rte. 25 through Gorham to Cornish. In Cornish take rte.s 5 and 117 north to Hiram. At the junction of rte.s 5 and 117 in Hiram, cross the cement bridge to the west bank of the Saco River and drive to the left of the hardware store to the site of the old railroad station (now torn down) where there is ample parking. For more information write or call the MGTf office. (773-5530) Any future outdoor activities will probably depend on the response to the Mount Cutler hike.



RURAL GAYS GET TOGETHER

It became very clear as people spoke during the Symposium III workshop for "Rural Gays" that the dreams we Gay people have are not only workable, they are crucial to our survival: dreams like establishing a women's agricultural collective, or forming a community of people without regard to sex or sexual preference, or finding ways of meeting new people without always being forced into the instant-sexual-encounter atmosphere of Gay city bars. So many ideas were tossed around that we quickly realized we would only begin to scratch a few surfaces during our allotted two hours.

One problem seemed universal. Under normal circumstances, bonds of friendship, respect and trust form at a natural pace, and from that, projects and partnerships grow. But in a state like Maine mostly in urban bars and at yearly symposiums. So our political and social bonds often can't help but be formed too quickly--often too quickly to hold together.

The solution? We need to begin building an environment, we decided--some called it a network, others a support group--in which we can meet regularly and get to know one another under relaxed conditions. One weekend a month will be set aside, at a different person's house each time, where our activities can have as much or as little structure as seems appropriate that month...the idea being that some weekends we'll party, others we'll perhaps help build someone's goat shed, others plot diabolical deeds of revolution and miscegenation.

The first weekend will be Saturday and Sunday, May 22 and 23, in Falmouth. All Gay people are welcome. Our time together will be largely informal, with lots of time for getting acquainted or for discussion groups, or whatever feels right. Saturday evening grub will be pot luck (bring food to share), followed by a PARTY (those who can't make the afternoon are heartily invited to drop in for the evening). For those who can stay over, Sunday will perhaps be

a continuation of whatever happens Saturday, or perhaps we can get together an en masse trek to the beach.

Sleeping arrangements will be provided for those who give advance warning.

For details, address and a fool-proof map, write to G. Merola, P.O. Box 1036, Scarborough, Maine 04074, or call Gerri at 781-4603.

POLICE RAP

SOUTH PORTLAND - On Wednesday, May 5, six members of MGTf (Tim Bouffard, Susan Henderson, Susan Breeding, Bill McMeniman, Stan Fortuna and Peter Prizer) presented a panel discussion on homosexuality to approx. 35 law enforcement officials in a "Law Enforcement Techniques" class at the Southern Maine Vocational Technical Institute.

Initiated by Instructor Raymond Howe (a South Portland police Lieutenant) the Task Force people exchanged comments, questions and insights with the class for over two hours. Susan Breeding opened the evening with an observation that perhaps both groups had false images and myths that contributed to less understanding between each other. Other discussions dealt with the "double standard" of law enforcement, whereby public laws are

usually enforced more against Gay people than non-Gay and the more basic questions such as "Do Gay parents have Gay children?" (Susan Henderson: "Who knows?...") and "Do Gay people feel good about themselves?" (Stan: "Sure, why not?")

The concensus of the MGTf people was that the evening was more productive than originally hoped, and, after adjourning, several members of the class stayed to thank them personally for their time and effort. Later, Raymond Howe, in a letter to coordinator Stan Fortuna, said "Exposing the class to the full range of human experiences can be a difficult and arduous process. Your group tonight helped to break down much of the misconceptions we all have about homosexuals. Barriers sometimes take a long time to be broken down, and I felt some breaks occuring tonight..."

LESBIAN MOTHER IN COURT BATTLE FOR CHILDREN

When Carol Whitehead of Portland divorced her husband in 1971 in Georgia, she was awarded custody of her two small children. The children's father helped support them for one year, then stopped all assistance in 1973. During this period the ex-husband harrassed both Carol and the children in repeated attempts, both through the courts and by illegal means, to regain the children from Carol, whom he called a "sick lesbian." To escape the harrassment of the father, Carol and her family moved to Jacksonville, Fla., where the man followed them with venomous attacks both orally and--when he tried to kill her in a hospital--physically.

In an attempt to gain peace and security from her ex-husband (who was released from the Army for "mental instability") Carol and her children moved to the Portland area in July, 1975.

Several weeks ago, on April 28 at 1pm, Carol got a phone call from the South Portland school which her children attended and was informed that a man from out-of-state was there with a custody paper--in valid in Maine--and demanded to remove the children to Georgia. The school refused to release the children, and Carol contacted a lawyer. Although Judge Glassman has ordered the ex-husband to stay away from the children, who are extremely upset that their father has followed the family to Maine, Carol fears that he may abduct them without her knowledge. Because of what is believed to be hired spies watching her house in South Portland, Carol has made arrangements to leave the Portland area.

Meanwhile, a court case is looming over the custody of the children. By all reasonable standards, the father is unfit to provide other than the most basic financial support to the children. Carol strongly believes that she has been a good and loving mother to the children, and that they will suffer greatly if, forced to return to their father. Indeed, she believes the father is using the children "as pawns in a war" against herself." Attorney's from both sides have met

in Portland and a date has yet to be set although the judge will have to rule on a Lesbian Mother case; and the ruling will set a precedent for future cases dealing with similar issues. But the legal costs will be much more than either Carol or Kim Matthews, her attorney, can absorb. Without generous donations from all of us, the type of court presentation (paying traveling expenses of expert witnesses, obtaining court transcripts of past litigation, and much more) will not be possible. To this end, Carol, Kim Matthews and the Maine Gay Task Force are requesting donations, no matter how small, a special fund to support this historic court case. For the sake of this family, and for future Gay people in similar court situations we ask that you please contribute freely. Our appreciation is great...and will keep all readers informed on the latest developments.

Send contributions to:

CAROL WHITEHEAD DEFENSE FUND

Box 4542

PORTLAND, MAINE

04112

LESBIAN ORGANIZATION FORMING IN MAINE

A highlight of the Symposium for many women was the formation of a lesbian-feminist organization within Maine. This group has formed as a base for support, consciousness-raising, political action and celebration for lesbians throughout the state. Local groups will meet together frequently for these purposes, with everyone coming together for a state-wide gathering every month or two.

The first local meeting will be held in each area on the evening of May 17th. Any one interested in participating should call the contact in her area to find out the place and exact time of her meeting.

The areas where groups are now forming, and the contact people in each area are:

| | | |
|------------------|----------------------------|----------|
| Bangor - | Kate McQueen | 825-3471 |
| | Diane Elze, | 581-2587 |
| | Women's Programs, U.M.B. | |
| Augusta - | Pat & Jan | 582-4756 |
| | Connie | 582-1618 |
| Belfast - | Carol Jackson | 338-3879 |
| Bath/Brunswick - | Nan Stone | 729-4786 |
| | Women's Counseling Service | 443-9531 |
| Portland - | Susan Breeding | 774-8479 |
| | Women's Center | 774-6071 |

The first state-wide meeting will be held Sunday, June 6th. It will be at Pat & Jan's home on Bowman Street in Farmingdale near Augusta. All lesbians are welcome. Women who wish to stay overnite either Saturday or Sunday may call Jan & Pat to make arrangements.

Directions to their home: Take 201 to Farmingdale.

Bowman Street is opposite Ed's Cash Market. Jan & Pat's house is one mile down Bowman Street, opposite telephone pole #38. It is a blue house with a red pump in front.

STATEWIDE MEETING OF MAINE

LESBIAN - FEMINISTS:

TIME: June 6th - all day, beginning at 10am (please be prompt)

PLACE: Pat & Jan's house, Bowman St., Farmingdale

FOOD: Bring food and drink to share for a picnic

LOCAL GROUP MEETINGS

MAY 17TH - call the contact person nearest you for details

See you all there!

OFFICE NEEDS

Several people at the Symposium asked some Newsletter staffers what, if anything, could they contribute to the Newsletter and/or the MGTFF office (where the N'letter is printed.) Questions of these sorts set our somewhat spacey minds to click, and slowly but surely, the list of materials we need each month crystalized into a coherent pattern of our use of nonrenewing resources.

First of all, we don't need a new typewriter. As you may have read elsewhere in this issue, we received a generous down payment on a new IBM Selectric. (However, we've got to scrape up \$84. a month, for 6 months, to pay for it.) Now to the Daily Necessities: we use 8 1/2 x 14 inch white typing paper; scotch tape, 13¢ postage stamps, rubber cement, and to a lesser degree, paper clips, 8 1/2 x 14" mim-eo bond colored paper (at least 7 reams of the same color) and, most important of all - "Four Hole (for A.B. Dick mimeograph) Electro-Stencils".

One of the problems we constantly deal with is not being wealthy enough to buy these materials in bulk, when 3 units are often 1/2 that of the same article in smaller quantities.

We don't have \$55 to buy a case of Electro-Stencils from A.B. Dick Co., at 50¢ each, so we end up buying a dozen or so, retail, at a dollar a stencil. The envelopes we mail the Newsletter in are 50% cheaper if we could buy \$100.00 worth...the list goes on and on...

Of course, the above items are useless if we don't have written input...from as many readers as possible...each issue.

Anyway, that's an idea of what we need to keep the Newsletter going. The paper clips and the glue and the push pins don't sound like too much individually, but collectively they add up to Financial Headaches...

Also, another fine way to (financially) support the Newsletter is to attend MGTFF Benefit Dances. These are extremely important for MGTFF solvency and will hopefully be a more regular event during the summer months. But if you can donate a half-dozen first class stamps that's appreciated also...believe US!

THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS: EXPERIENCE IN GYNERGY

REPORT ON A CROSS-COASTAL GATHERING OF WOMEN

TO EXPLORE SPIRITUALITY

By Miriam Dyak

Picture if you possibly can one of Boston's biggest oldest churches in the center of the city filled with a thousand women (most of them lesbians), chanting, swaying, clapping, singing, dancing, throwing off their clothes, climbing the altar, the vision of Isis rising over head. I heard one woman say, "The city of Boston just got a tre-

mendous rush tonight and they don't even know what hit them." Everyone agreed something had started, been born, changed, that it would never be the same.

I didn't go to Boston with the intention of reporting the gathering and there will be longer, more detailed reports in *Womanspirit* and other all-female publications (where I feel they are more appropriate), but I want to share at least some of the "gynergy" (Mary Daly's new word) with sisters who read this newsletter. Keep in mind then my limited vision--I avoided the political workshops, not because I don't want to work politically but because I went to learn something different this time--and I didn't even attempt to cover any workshops I wasn't specifically interested in for myself. Though I heard scattered complaints from women who didn't get the workshops they wanted or the ones they wanted turned out different than they expected, I have to say the whole weekend from Sally Gearhart's rousing speech on Friday night, April 23, to the last rippling notes of Jeriann Hilderley's marimba on Sunday afternoon, was a total high for me.

I began Saturday morning with a workshop on healing, polarity therapy, zone therapy, with Hallie Mountainwing, a member of Ursa Major coven in California. I have been working with healing for several years now, trying to break away from dependence on patriarchal corporate medicine, trying to build the positive energy in myself and others that we need to take control of our lives starting with our most basic physical needs. This was the first time I was with a large group of women who recognized that necessity too; I lost my feeling of isolation in that workshop and gained a few new techniques I can use at home.

I moved on to other workshops on the Tarot, on the lives of Victoria Woodhull, Annie Besant, Anna Kingsford (all feminist spiritualists of the last century), on the components of ritual and magic, on the matriarchies and goddesses of the Native Americans, on yoga and poetry, on nature and intuition (led by Jean Mountaingrove a so-beautiful, 50-year-old reborn child-woman who lives with her lover, Ruth Mountaingrove, on the west coast). Other workshops ranged from Womancraft to I Ching meditations to Dying to Astrology to Spiritual Politics to Amazons and much much more. There 25

were also rooms set aside for healing, for sharing herbs, for making music, sharing poetry, selling food and crafts and books, for childcare and for many spontaneous workshops not on the program. Deborah Johnsen told me of wandering into something called Moonjam Rhythm Session, a gathering of women making their own rhythms and sounds with the idea "that if we keep on going long enough each woman will find the rhythm of her own heart."

There were many women I had heard of and was excited to meet, but the highest high point for me was the workshops with Mello Rye called "You Are The Beloved" and "You Are Majik" Mello Rye, the program said, "is a woman born more than 50 years ago, of Cherokee and Scots Irish parentage. She began studying in the Bear Clan at the age of three and has since moved up through all the clans into the Sun. She has built a Temple of Sun Mother's Garden in California so that the teaching of the so-called secret knowledge may continue while the freedom energies are still flowing." Whew! I knew right away that was for me! Everything she had to say was so simple and so strong. Wendy Ashley, who managed to catch her workshop on Sunday after the Maine Gay Symposium, said, "Mello Rye made me feel comfortable with being angry and spiritual at the same time. I have always thought that people who are 'spiritual' are apathetic politically but she wasn't that way." Mello talked about helping with the Wounded Knee struggle by using a chant so powerful that the government guard slept and the medical and food supplies came through to the weakening Natick People. She says, "the government still can't explain what really happened." Someone in the workshop asked "what about the violence in the Native Resistance Movement?" Mello said "what?" She repeated the question. Mello said, "what, I don't hear you. I don't hear anything negative; it's just a wind in my ear. There is no violence, only growth and change." I took away with me a strong sense of love and faith and the knowledge of ancient rituals for sharing energy with sisters back home.

Helen Beardwoman, a feminist lesbian from Mississippi who does have a beautiful long beard ("My family knows I'm a lesbian and a witch, but I haven't told them about the beard yet.") led a workshop on "Lesbianism and Witchcraft."

26 Much of the workshop was taken up with basic information on

witchcraft according to one woman I talked with who attended it. Helen related that at first their coven was open to all women because they were into teaching as much as possible, but now it is closed and has a completely lesbian membership. She said they are planning to explore using the energy of women making love for healing other women, something they couldn't do if the coven were open.

As the majority of the women at the gathering were lesbian, the majority in most workshops were lesbian too. The workshops which were set up specifically to deal with such topics as "Woman-Identified-Woman" seemed to attract those lesbians who wanted/needed to work with the ideas of separatism and other issues of controversy within the movement. One such workshop raged in debate for 45 minutes or more between lesbians angry that energy was being taken away from them by straight women and lesbians who argued that they are where they are now because other lesbians had been willing to reach out to them when they were straight. None of the straight women present (and there were some) dared speak up.

One woman related her own story of multiple rejections from women, men, everyone and the spirit of the controversy became gentler though nothing could be completely resolved. Wendy Ashley commented that "lesbians are especially wrapped up in the pain inflicted on them," and I feel these struggles are necessary before women can come through to a place where they are comfortable with their anger and know that they are powerful and can stop anyone from ripping off their energy. Wendy felt too that workshops on matriarchies and amazons are especially important for lesbian women who don't have as many models and sources of energy to draw from as other women do. One way or another the workshops seemed to all balance out.

Another lesbian political activist group, Dyke Tactics, came to the Gathering to round up support for their court case in Philadelphia where they were arrested and physically abused by the police for refusing to leave a sit-in for Gay rights in time. They felt that the workshops did not deal strongly enough with political issues and set up their own workshop called "The Economics of Spirituality." They felt strongly that one has to be fairly well-off to "indulge" in

spirituality, but other women at the workshop pointed out that spirituality is often most strongly evident among the poorest peoples, not just going to the "Father's Church" but keeping the traditions of majik, witchcraft, goddess-worship, alive. Some of the problems were semantic, but none of them could be completely resolved, rather ideas were joyously shared.

With all our joy we do have to remember that we are playing with fire, however sacred, and that we must guard it carefully, use its strength but not get burned. On Friday Sally Gearhart shared a nightmare of a new and more terrible witchhunt springing from a lack of unity among women. On Sunday I talked with a woman who was convinced she could no longer pray out loud because her house had been broken into. Often in the workshops I felt that too much energy was going into complaining against the Patriarchy (especially the feminist tarotists seemed ready to abandon half the cards in the deck because they had patriarchal symbols in them, rather than being willing to reclaim that energy as their own) than into affirming womanstrength and gynergy. But even as we dance our spring dances, gather on full moons, study our astrology or read the Tarot, we have to remember that it's a big world out there and it is not ready for us and we won't get there without each other.

SS SS SS

RAP GROUP

A Gay alcohol and drug abuse group has formed and is meeting weekly in the Portland area. It's called "Confidential Gay Drug and Alcohol Rap Group" and will soon announce a permanent meeting place. Notices of time and place will be listed in Portland area newspapers as soon as possible.

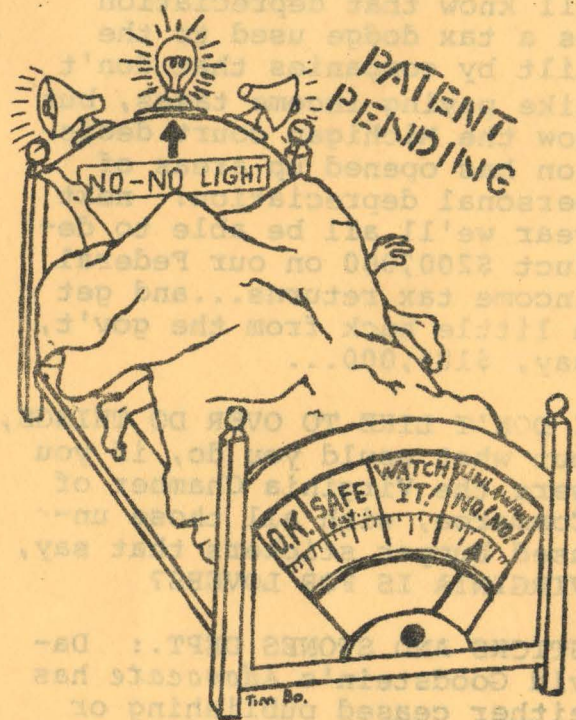
Additional information may be obtained by calling the MGTFF office weekdays, at 773-5530.

THE STATE STREET STRAW

By Peter Prizer

VATICAN WEST: Burger Court Says, "While in Virginia and South Carolina...have it *their way!*" Now that the Supreme Court has pontificated that a state has a vital interest in proscribing adult, bedroom behavior, perhaps some of the more perceptive non-Gay people will take more notice of the legal battles Gay people have been fighting against the state for years. Every survey I've ever seen indicates that a fair number of non-Gay adults can usually be counted on to be creative enough to violate more than a few of the sodomy laws in the 36 states that still have their legislative heads in the sand... (I say, "in the sand" to be polite.) The fast-service Court decision may, in fact, provoke the scheming mossbacks in these states to begin criminal prosecution against *all* offenders, and not just against the "petty homosexuals," as has been the enforcement procedure in the past.

BROWN OUT: Among the items personally removed by (unmarried) Gov. Jerry Brown from last month's *Playboy* (sic) interview was his response to Viscious Rumors of homosexuality. What sayeth the Zentellectual?... "When my father was running for governor and people would ask him, 'Aren't you a little bit Red?', he'd reply, 'Aren't you a little bit queer?'" Gov. Brown has announced for the Democratic nomination for President... let's see what pious crumbs he tosses the Gay rights movement...



TAX ADVICE: A precedent-setting court room decision may ultimately bankrupt the Federal government; monetarily, that is. A jury in Michigan recently awarded \$200,000 to a man who claimed that he turned into a homosexual after being injured in a rear end auto accident. That's right, the jury determined that this person had, in effect, depreciated \$200,000 in his untimely switch from whatever he was before to whatever he is now, which he says is homosexual. Now, we all know that depreciation is a tax dodge used to the hilt by companies that don't like paying income taxes, but now the Michigan court decision has opened up areas of personal depreciation: next year we'll all be able to deduct \$200,000 on our Federal income tax returns...and get a little back from the gov't, say, \$185,000...

I DON'T LIKE TO OVER DO THINGS; but what would you do, if you were the Virginia Chamber of Commerce, with all these unused bumper stickers that say, VIRGINIA IS FOR LOVERS?

STICKS AND STONES DEPT.: David Goodstein's *Advocate* has either ceased publishing or has cancelled our exchange of

publications after our editorial in Vol. 3 No. 3 condemning the kutsie-pie confab he arranged in Chicago last month...the conference, by the way, featured a walkout by practically all the women in attendance when presented by Pa. Gov. Shapp's dinner speaker replacement (the guy couldn't make it): the editor of *OUI* magazine! For the uninitiated, the mag is a oui bit sexist...

IN ONE EAR: The half-joking phrase "Dull Seventies" in no joke...not only is Jerry Ford taken serious by many, but even worse, when the April column noted that the son of a Democratic Presidential candidate had been sniffing the wind in Portland about "alternative bars" with a member of Gay People's Alliance, the response from the rest of the Gay media was a large yawn...

FIRST THINGS FIRST: At the same time the Supreme Court was upholding archaic statutes against adult sexual acts not blessed by religious scripture, the *Portland Press Herald* and *Evening Express* were busy hustling editorials suggesting that an archaic state law pertaining to gubernatorial succession (in case the Guv

is accidentally nuked by an ICBM or an overheated C.M.P. power plant) is, alas, indeed archaic and should be removed...

LOOKS LIKE Ford might have to start campaigning, unless he wants to see a rabble of wild-eyed Reagan delegates glaring back at the podium this summer in Kansas City ...about time the GOP injected some dialogue into their politics, even if most of it is irrelevant... And Carter's so close to the Democratic nomination, he can almost taste Executive privilege...and let's hear it again for Ronnie Reagan, probably the first candidate in history to use Federal matching funds to buy cosmetics for his hair... and a good farewell to Geo. Wallace, who found out the sad way that American voters have yet to deal with their prejudice towards crippled candidates...

COLLECTOR'S ITEM: When Stan Fortuna and I went placing MGTFF Benefit posters around shop windows in Portland, one of the businesses where we got an OK was Bill's Bicycle Shop (a.k.a. Portland Bicycle Exchange) on Fore Street...so we thumb-tacked a poster to their bulletin

board of local events. Walking by the shop window a half-hour later, we noticed that the poster had been removed and, sensing a rip-off, we went in to see what the story was. In a lazy monotone, the shopkeeper gave us the straight word...seems a friend of Bill's who has a light touch for 8x10, green and black posters, ducked into the shop immediately after we thumb-tacked same and absconded with...the benefit blurb! Un huh, and I've located a different shop to service my little 3-speed Raleigh...

NAME DROPPERS...Gay people in San Francisco are organizing a mass demonstration on May 8 to protest and call for a reversal of the recent Supreme Court decision upholding the sodomy laws of Virginia and South Carolina. The organization planning the demonstration is called The Coalition Against Supreme Court Oppression, or ...CASCO, for short.

GO WEST, YOUNG DYKE

By Karen Bye

[Editor's note: Karen's new address, for those wishing to correspond, is: 2522 East Grant Street, Fresno, CA 93701]

The last hurried running around the house, desperately trying to figure out what I'm forgetting to pack. Trying to catch up with the various people we've hardly seen in months. Tying up so many loose ends prior to moving again; this time from Portland to the west coast. A big move for a native Mainer.

After the initial trauma of leaving everything familiar and everyone friendly--for the unknown of God-knows-what--the trip was quite uneventful in and of itself. Quickly learned to sleep sitting up. And to ignore crying children, motion-sick adolescents and small-talkative, boring adults. Which still left some interesting people to talk with.

Spending over two hours wandering around the Port Authority Terminal in NYC was an education. One guy panhandling walked up to me, "Hey Brother, got fifty cents?" Oh well... The amount of eye contact with many of the men was simply amazing! On the basis of the fact that each one closely fit the Gay male stereotype, I'd guess they were making a tiny mistake at the time. Standing there with shoulders back and chest out *did* make a difference.

Pittsburgh at 6 a.m. "Steel Capital of the World," or some such propaganda. Not particularly impressed. A little noise, a lot of foul-smelling air, expensive coffee (25¢ a cup, with no refill); not much more.

One of the sidelights near Columbus, Ohio, was a state trooper hauling over a Greyhound bus. An educated guess is for speeding, particularly since the thing had passed Trail-

ways a few miles back and we weren't exactly parked.

Watching the scenery change progressively to more green and lush was a real treat. Beginning around Hartford, Conn., roadside shrubbery was blooming. Yellow forsythia, sparse green grass, an occasional flower in sight. Traveling west and south, as the temperature got warmer, more and more flowers and crops were poking through the ground.

Today's bits of trivia: there is a Cumberland County in Illinois, and a Red Lion Lounge in Joplin, Missouri (and in Bangor, Maine).

Traveled part of the way on the fabled Route 66. Four lanes of (technically) 55 MPH traffic, for state after state. And just about as fascinating as Maine's I-95.

Riding along Route 40 across the Texas panhandle, just west of Amarillo...Up ahead, there's a storm cloud coming closer. For about 5 minutes the rain beats down, literally pushing the bus across the road. Looking out, the rain is coming down on an angle, connecting cloud and ground. Can see the sun all around the cloud. Coming out of the storm was like going through a door: one side wet and wild, the other dry and calm.

Waking up in Flagstaff, Arizona on Saturday morning came as a shock. There were 4 inches of new snow on the ground, and more still gently falling. The driver made a wry comment about having a white Easter there this year.

Today's trivia: on a low hill in Camp Verde, Arizona, is a small commune with a large sign, "The Glory Hole." About 500 feet away is a Baptist church. Quite a combination!

Crossed the Arizona-California line, and stopped for lunch. Stepped from the air-conditioned bus into 75° sunshine. Riding along the four-lane highway, looking at orange trees on either side as far as I can see. Just like all the travel books picture California. Chalk up one for tour-

ist propaganda...

Excitement building as 6:45 p.m. crawls near. Emotions a mixture of missing east coast people and waiting to renew contact with someone I hadn't seen in quite a while. Near-riding Los Angeles terminal...riding finally over...Steve (Bull) and a friend waiting! Find the luggage; then home to a meal and the first bath in almost four days. So much to talk over, a huge city to catch glimpses of, and finally a chance to sleep lying down again. For once, at a loss for words.

The PCL (People's College of Law) people I met are a fantastic group. Don't know if it's the common interest in law, or the common status as minority group members, or the affinity for bridge that draws everyone together. Mix together two men from Maine, a farmer's son from Texas, a medical technologist from Michigan, at least one Black person and other assorted women and men. Combine with the study of law. Sift in a couple dozen Doonesbury comic strips on the bulletin board, and various activities every month. Shake well. End result? The PCL Gay Caucus.

Spent three days in Los Angeles, then moved on to my final destination: Fresno. The transition from early-morning L.A. and Glendale auto smog to decent breathable air was a welcome change. The bus ride (yes, *another* one!) took almost 6 hours, and went through some beautiful country.

Rode along through scenic green mountains, to an elevation over 4200 feet. Heading down, looking at the lush green flatland stretching to the distant horizon was a real trip! Further on, orange trees and flowers lined each side of the highway. Although the basic growing things changed little as the ride went on, the variety of colors and fragrances made sightseeing anything but boring. And, after keeping track of luggage for 3200 miles, there was a screw-up the last 275 miles--from L.A. to Fresno. Came in about 3 hours later. It figures...

Finding where things are around Fresno was almost the

first order of business. "Things" consisted of (1) the nearest bar, (2) the local chapter of N.O.W., and (3) the most direct routes there and back home. All three objectives were accomplished relatively painlessly. The nearest bar (one of only two in town) is only ten blocks or so away. The local N.O.W. is also about 10 blocks away. It has a Lesbian Task Force (LTF) which sponsors various activities on a fairly regular basis. And, since the streets are laid out on a grid, everything is quite easy to find with the aid of a street map.

The little bit of contact I've had with various Gay women--and a few Gay men--is the basis for "jumping" to the following conclusions: (1) There's no Gay community as such in Fresno. Just an assortment of individuals, cliques, bar groups and so on; (2) Gay politics is a non-existent entity, although a few of the LTF women I've met are interested in effecting change; (3) Being "out" in this city is roughly equivalent to being a deer during November in Maine. Which, I suppose, goes to prove that all of Maine isn't necessarily still in the Dark Ages. Only time will tell for sure. And, one way or another, I'll find out.



a bar and restaurant
135 Middle St.

POST CARD SURVEY

Dear Readers,

As you may have already noticed, with this issue of the Newsletter we've experimented with a different format. The stencils have been typed on the side rather than vertically, and the legal size paper was folded and stapled in the middle; hence the "pamphlet effect." Previously the carriage of the typewriter used was too small to take a 15 inch stencil horizontally, but the recent anonymous donation of \$500 towards the purchase of a new IBM Selectric II has greatly increased our typing flexibility and, hopefully, the legibility as well.

Whether or not the new format is an improvement is a judgment that will be decided by the Newsletter staff and, to a greater degree, by the readers yourselves. To this end we've enclosed a pre-addressed post card for you to send us your opinion on any aspect of the Newsletter(s) you've seen. This comment may include your views on the content of articles, the political direction (if any), observations on editorial

content, spelling, syntax, etc., the list is endless...

A similar post card survey 9 months ago was extremely informative for the volunteer staff, and with a little time and honest criticism, the result can be a better Newsletter for all.

We hope you've enjoyed reading this Newsletter, and we look forward to hearing from you. Thanks...the MGTF Newsletter staff.

ADVERTISING INFO.

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

RATES approved are \$3 per column inch, graphics included, with a 10% discount for three consecutive ads and a 15% discount for six consecutive ads. No ads will be taken that are insulting to people or the environment. This policy applies only to regular commercial advertisers.

MAY CALENDAR

SATURDAY, May 15: Meeting of New Hampshire D.O.B. in Northwood, N.H. Send a speedy note to Miriam and Ginger for directions. Their ZIP is 03261. Don't use the word 'Gay' on the envelope.

SATURDAY, May 15: Gay hike up Mt. Cutler in Hiram, Me. [see page 17 for info.]

MONDAY, May 17: Local meetings statewide to discuss formation of a Lesbian-Feminist group in Maine. [see page 22 for info.]

SATURDAY, SUNDAY, May 22, 23: Rural Gay people's "get together" in Falmouth. [see article on page 18.] For info write G. Merola, PO Box 1036, Scarborough, Me. 04074, or call Gerri at 781-4603.

SUNDAY, May 30: "Lilith," an all-woman rock band will highlight a benefit for the Portland Women's Center, at the Oasis, 195 Middle St., Portland. It's their 1st Maine appearance, and starts at 8:30PM

SUNDAY, June 6: MGTF monthly meeting. At 1PM in the office; 193 Middle St., Portland. Rap and business.



Roland's
Tavern

413a Cumberland Ave.
Portland

37

ODDS & ENDS

LEWISTON AND BANGOR AREA PEOPLE: Earn no money in your spare time!! How? Easy...just write a monthly column of your area's activities for the Newsletter. Your column may be as long or short as you wish, and our (fairly) experienced editors can make a friendly check for spelling and unintended grammatical license. There are plenty of readers in your area who'd enjoy a monthly article of local interest. If you think you're willing, give us a call at 773-5530 and we'll work something out...

...Richard Steinman: have a pleasant and safe trip to Europe!.

...Tim Bouffard did the N'letter cover graphics.

...forgot to add a short blurb in the Symp. III booklet thanking Californians Steve Bull and Karen Bye for their extensive help with Symp. I and II..

...and would the owners of the two large stainless

steel (?) serving trays used at the Symp. III dinner please contact the MGTFF office to claim them?? Thanks.

Goof in April N"letter: The Central Maine Gay Alliance [CMGA], while serving the Kennebec Valley, is not limited to the valley or county of similar name, as inferred by the front page's headline. People in Lewiston, central Maine and all points NSEW are welcomed to participate in the Alliance. Their address is: PO BOX 2242, Augusta, Me. 04330.

WINDS OF CHANGE DEP'T: The beer license for Roland's Tavern went untabled through the Portland City Council for the first time in 8 yrs.

FOR QUICK RELIEF, rest in bed, drink plenty of fluids, and consume two bottles of Pepto-Bismol...a writer to the *Portland Press Herald* commented recently: "I wish you would find some subject more intellectual and interesting than homosexuals and lesbians for your front page. I am thoroughly disgusted and have gone thru two bottles of Pepto-Bismol..."

bits...BITS...bits

(Cont.'d from back cover)

One year; 12 issues, \$4.
Sent in sealed envelope.

NAME _____

STREET _____

TOWN _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

* * * * *

GAY MAN in Bangor/Brewer wishes to meet and/or correspond with other Gay people. Please contact: Kevin, c/o MGTG Newsletter, Box 4542, Portland, Me. 04112.

##

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

+ + + + +

"WOMEN SOUNDS--A COLLECTION" is a program devoted to understanding the world as seen by women. For more in-

formation on this series, please contact the UMPG Student Activities at 773-2981.

0000 0000 0000

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

*** *** *** ***

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

ooo ooo ooo ooo

COMING IN NEXT MONTH'S NEWSLETTER: A PREVIEW OF THE PIN-BALL ACTION IN GREATER PORTLAND...

...only in the MGTG Newsletter!

\$\$\$ \$\$\$ \$\$\$ \$\$\$

bits...BITS...bits

DEADLINE FOR JUNE NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY MAY 28, 1976

PUBLICATION DATE: JUNE 4

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

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

###

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

Rosanna Morelli
146 Washington Ave.
Portland, Maine
04101

bits...BITS...bits

FOR SALE- White 1972 Impala convertible with 53,000 miles. Has new tires, air cond., tinted windows, power steering and brakes, no rust. Best offer.

622-9487
Winter Haven Apts.
Box 57
Augusta, Me. 04330

@@@ @@@ @@@ @@@ @@@

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

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

SUBSCRIBE TO THE MGT F NEWS-
LETTER

PO BOX 4542, PORTLAND, ME
04112

--- --- --- --- ---
(Cont.'d inside back cover)