

## The Boys in the Band

When a 22-year-old homosexual named Wayne April founded the Gay Students' Organization at the University of New Hampshire last spring, he touched off some predictable pyrotechnics—both on the campus and off. Many trustees were shocked, and New Hampshire Gov. Meldrim Thomson Jr. denounced the idea out of hand. Nevertheless, the 25-member GSO was duly recognized as a campus organization, and there the matter rested until summer vacation was over. But last fall, the homosexuals scheduled a dance on campus. This goaded the governor into fury and the trustees into drastic action. They



Larry Fernald

banned all GSO social activities and said they would go to court to outlaw the organization.

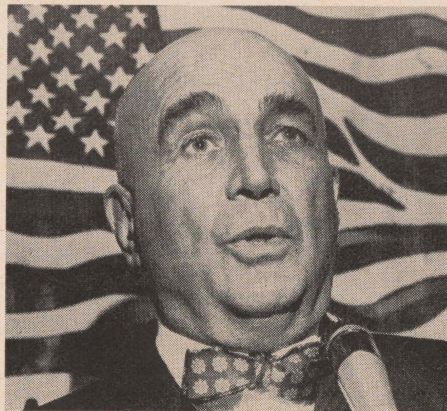
Then when the furor over the dance had died down, the gay students arranged for a campus performance of a play produced by Boston homosexual groups. The university administration decided that the play could go on as scheduled, but when the trustees learned that homosexual spectators had reportedly held hands and kissed during the performance—and that activist literature on how to convert normal males to homosexuality had been distributed—the uproar broke out anew.

**Campaign:** Scores of conservative clergymen deluged Governor Thomson's office with letters of outraged protest. In Manchester, flag-waving Union Leader publisher William Loeb launched a virulent front-page campaign against the gay students. And when a Federal court ruled, in response to a Civil Liberties Union protest, that the university must grant the GSO all the rights of other campus organizations, Loeb urged the trustees to fight the gay students all the way to the Supreme Court. To support his position, Loeb published an editorial on a District of Columbia court decision banning a homosexual club

there as a "bawdy and disorderly house."

Meanwhile, the controversy spread to neighboring Maine. Encouraged by the example of the New Hampshire homosexuals, a gay-activist group called the **Wilde-Stein Club** requested and received recognition at the University of Maine. Conservative groups attacked both the homosexuals and the university in the press. And when college officials refused to deny the club permission to hold a state-wide homosexual conference next month, right-wing legislators threatened to deny funds for the university's \$173 million budget if the gay club was not banned.

Two weeks ago, after a two-hour debate, the Maine House of Representa-



Ellis Herwig

New Hampshire gay activist at lectern (left), publisher Loeb and editorial

tives approved the budget in spite of the anti-homosexual outcry. But the issue is far from dead. Already, university officials report, alumni and other benefactors are threatening to cut off their contributions. In New Hampshire, the trustees are awaiting the next step in their appeal. Student leaders there, fearing that further controversy will threaten the existence of their school, have voted to deny student-activity money to the gay organization on the ground that they should not fund groups that "represent a viewpoint." And, to prove that they were being fair, they cut off funds for the Black Student Union, a women's center and a Jewish organization as well.

## The Humbug Patrol

In the past, most English teachers have been timid to the point of downright cowardice when it came to protecting the language from the onslaught of noxious neologisms, jargon, cant and the inane vogue words and phrases that regularly assault it. This was a task left to such scathing critics as Benjamin Franklin, who compiled a list of 228 eighteenth-century euphemisms for the word drunk; Ambrose Bierce, whose Devil's Dictionary contributed such marvelous

definitions as "PATIENCE: n. A minor form of despair disguised as a virtue"; and above all Henry L. Mencken, who regularly castigated the peculiarly American penchant for trying to disguise commonplace tasks with high-flown euphemisms, e.g., the attempt to turn barbers into "tonsorial artists," undertakers into "morticians" and garbagemen into "sanitary engineers."

But now the teachers seem finally to have mustered their courage and decided to man the ramparts themselves. In Urbana, Ill., the National Council of Teachers of English has organized a 29-member watchdog committee called the Committee on Public Doublespeak (from the terms Newspeak and Doublethink coined by George Orwell in his book "1984"). The committee plans to distribute books, pamphlets and curriculum

### Court Rules Against Sodomites

Now that the prestigious United States Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia has at the University of New Hampshire.

The trustees should now realize that they must continue to appeal Judge Bownes' rulings, if necessary all the way to the Supreme Court of the United States, in order to determine once and for all whether this nation is to be a nation run for the benefit of sodomites and prostitutes, or whether it is to remain a nation for decent people who at least attempt to adhere to reasonable moral standards.

*William Loeb*

William Loeb, Publisher

guides that it hopes will help the teachers fend off incursions of the vulgar. They will focus particularly on the techniques of obfuscation, distortion and evasion used by politicians and ad men. "We want 5-year-olds to understand how much sheer blah and humbug there is to most television commercials," says committee chairman Daniel Dieterich. "We'd like to have voters know what's really happening when a politician addresses them."

To underscore this point, the teachers' committee is considering an annual "Orwellian Award" to the public figure who provides the most atrocious example of Doublespeak, and already it seems clear that some Pentagon official may well be the first winner—provided the committee can find out who coined "combat emplacement evacuator" as the official term for a shovel, or "civilian irregular defense soldier" for a mercenary. Appropriately enough, the teachers will also keep a sharp eye out for miscreants within their own ranks. There are several obvious candidates here: the teachers who first called desks "pupil stations"; who decided that telling a child he has made a mistake should be called "corrective feedback," and who rechristened libraries "learning resource centers."