

GAYSWEETK™

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Briggs Rips Reagan's Initiative Stand

SAN DIEGO, October 5 (Union)—State Sen. John Briggs, R-Fullerton, said yesterday that if it is really true that Ronald Reagan is opposed to Proposition 6 then "someone has got someone convinced that it is better to pander to homosexuals than it is to pay attention to parents."

Briggs, leading advocate of the initiative measure to require the firing of lesbian and gay male teachers or any who speak positively of homosexuality, said he does not believe Reagan really is opposed to the measure.

"I can't believe that the Hollywood crowd has gotten him to take that type of position," Briggs told a news conference at Hotel del Coronado. "If he has, it will be his greatest mistake since the Schweiker selection back in the Republican National Convention.

(Prior to the 1976 presidential convention, Reagan announced that Sen. Richard Schweiker, R-PA, would be his vice presidential running mate—a move that disappointed Reagan followers who believed Schweiker too liberal.)

The state senator said he has asked Reagan aide Peter Hannaford to arrange a meeting with the former California governor in the near future to clarify



John V. Briggs

Reagan's stand.
Reagan, in a widely publicized comment, had said: "I don't approve of teaching a so-called gay lifestyle, but there already is adequate legal machinery to deal with such problems if and when they arise."

"This measure has nothing to do with those special so-called Gay Rights' issues in Dade County, Florida, and elsewhere. Instead, it has the potential of infringing on basic rights of privacy and perhaps even constitutional rights. It is cumbersome and has the potential for real mischief...."

Reagan could not be reached yesterday for comment on whether he has modified his position. A spokesperson said his quoted comments came from a private letter, not from a public statement.

As for a Briggs-Reagan meeting, she said that to her knowledge one had not been arranged.

If Reagan did make the statement, said Briggs, "He would rather be president than right."

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Berkeley Passes Strong Gay Rights Ordinance

BERKELEY, CA, October 11 (Seattle Times)—The Berkeley, California, City Council has given final approval to what is believed to be the strongest gay rights ordinance in the nation.

The ordinance, which passed last night and goes into effect in 30 days, forbids discrimination on the basis of sexual preference in employment, credit, schools, city services and facilities, and housing, except for two-unit, owner-occupied dwellings. ■



Jane Fonda

Fonda and Costanza to Speak Anti-Prop 6

SAN FRANCISCO, October 13 (BAR)—Former and activist Jane Fonda and former Presidential aide Margaret "Midge" Costanza will appear at receptions here this month to raise funds to defeat Proposition 6, the John V. Briggs anti-gay-teacher initiative.

Both women will attend events geared to allow Bay Area "No on 6" supporters to meet and talk with them. Important local elected officials are also expected to attend.

Fonda, a director of the California Campaign for Economic Democracy, will join Assemblyperson Willie Brown, Supervisor Harvey Milk, Chair of San Franciscans Against Prop 6 Phyllis Lyon, and others in speaking out against John Briggs and Proposition 6.

Costanza, who organized the first gay conference in the White House, will appear at a luncheon for the gay community and its supporters. ■



Gay Rights Symposium Held at Philadelphia Gay Community Center

PHILADELPHIA, October 15—About 100 people gathered at the Gay Community Center here yesterday for an all-day Gay Rights Symposium. Participants heard panelists discuss various strategies to increase participation by lesbians and gay men in the gay rights struggle, the fate of the Pennsylvania Governor's Council for Sexual Minorities, the importance of gay/lesbian culture, and "Should we keep away from religion?"

In the first panel of the day, gay activist Scott Wilds urged support for black elected officials, asserting that a gay rights bill will not pass the legislature unless it has the support of black politicians. "The enemies of black elected officials are ours too," Wilds added.

Judith Winne, a reporter for the *Courier-Post*, called for the development of personal ties with reporters and editors at straight newspapers. Most editors, she said, believe in the responsibility of getting the news out, and will print material that they disagree with. She felt that offensive headlines and news stories were often the result of "thoughtlessness," rather than any Machiavellian plan.

Various suggestions to increase participation by Third World gays and lesbians were made, including a comment by John Whyte, who is white, that black gays may want to organize their own causes within the black movement. That suggestion was later branded "presumptuous" from the floor. One of the handful of black members of the audience, explaining that he was "out" to other black people in West Philadelphia where he

lived, observed that he had been refused admittance to the Allegro, a local bar, even though two white men with blond hair accompanying him were admitted. He observed, "Racism is not going to be ignored."

Tony Silvestre, who heads the Governor's advisory task force, painted a "dismal" picture of gay rights in the state, saying that gay rights legislation is "something we can't hope for in the near future." He noted, however, that both major party gubernatorial candidates have promised to continue the existence of the council upon election.

Calling the bureaucracy the "fourth" branch of government, Silvestre predicted that since bureaucrats were more racially and sexually balanced than the legislature, "we can expect more support." Among accomplishments of the council, Silvestre mentioned the end of arrests in rest stops in the state.

Research psychologist Rose Weber, a

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

2 Parties Raise Funds for Anti-Briggs Orgs

NEW YORK, October 19—Two benefits were held this week to raise money to fight Proposition 6 (the Briggs Initiative), which will appear on the California ballot on November 7.

On October 16, a \$49-a-plate dinner was held at the Ballroom for the "No On 6" committee. Among those attending the function were Republican Congressman Bill Green and his Democratic opponent in the 18th District, Carter Burden; Manhattan Borough President Andrew Stein; former Commissioner Peter Smith; state assemblyman William Passanante; city council members Tony Oliveri, Jane Trichter and Ruth Mesinger; Rosemary McGrath, chairperson of the 5th Precinct Community Council; District Leader Kenneth Sherrill; Bob Mehl, Deputy Director of the Manhattan Community Board; Gary Deane, Ethan Geto, Jim Owles, Morry Manford; and Bill Woodward, Democratic candidate for the State Senate.

Several short speeches were given after the dinner. Messinger called Proposition 6 "a scary piece of legislation"; McGrath expressed a fear that anti-gay repression "is sweeping the country."

"It is the cutting edge of one of the ugliest political movements we have ever seen in this country," Trichter claimed, "and no one is safe."

A letter being sent by Andrew Stein to President Carter was read. In it, Stein asserts that passage of Proposition 6 "will surely cause ripples of repression in Manhattan," and urges Carter to speak out against the proposed amendment.

Mehl circulated a "Declaration of Human Rights" gathering signatures. Mehl hopes to arrange for the declaration to be hand-delivered to President Carter. The evening ended with a set of songs by Stephen Sondheim, sung by Audrey Lavine and David Summers, with Tom Babbitt at the piano.

On October 18, Ken Sherrill opened his house to a benefit reception for the Rev. Troy Perry, founder of the Metropolitan Community Church, and co-chairperson of the Concerned Voters of California (No On 6). Money raised during the evening was earmarked for the United Fund to Stop the Briggs Initiative.

Murray Edelman, from the United Fund, summarized the situation in California. Perry then gave a picture of recent developments.

He told the group that the latest polls, to be released Monday, show anti-Proposition sentiment to be ahead for the first time. He also said that conservative Senator S. I. Hayakawa has spoken out against Proposition 6.

Perry closed by remarking that the California gay movement has preserved its sense of humor. All over California, he said, there are billboard inquiring whether bisexuals can teach part-time—Robert Chesley ■

Chivalry Run Off Roads in West Germany

MUNICH, October 4 (ZNS)—A Munich psychologist reports that he staged mechanical breakdowns of various kinds of cars with both male and female drivers along German roadways.

He says he was startled to find that many more male motorists stopped to help when the driver of the staged breakdown was a man. According to the *German Tribune*, 600 out of 3000 passing drivers stopped to offer help, and 420 of those were men who stopped to help other males in distress.

The study also found that passing motorists are more apt to stop when the broken down car was similar in make to their own auto. ■



Rev. Troy Perry. Photo by Leland Moss.

Gays Push for New Rights Law in Dade County

MIAMI, October 9—Miami gays recently disclosed that work on the push for a new gay rights ordinance for that city, to replace the one repealed on June 7, 1977, was in progress and that Anita Bryant, currently at work on preparations for the opening of her first so-called treatment center for homosexuals, had been less visible in Miami politics than previously.

Bill Caffero, president of the Dade County Coalition for Human Rights (DCCHR), declared that though the DCCHR and Bob Kunst, who initiated the drive to get the new gay rights ordinance on the ballot, "didn't exactly see eye to eye in the past," the DCCHR will fully support the proposed measure and is urging Dade County voters to vote for it. Caffero says there will not be the kind of massive campaign that divided the county in June, 1977. He indicated that the DCCHR is in debt and cannot afford the kind of expensive media campaign used the last time.

Anita Bryant, president of Protect America's Children, Inc., announced to the press that her group will not be organizing a massive campaign either. She has said that her first center for homosexuals will be opening in Miami in November and that she is too busy to campaign against the proposed ordinance. She said that with a more than 2-1 lead last year, she was confident that the new measure would be soundly defeated.

Shortly after saying she would not campaign against the proposed ordinance, Protect America's Children took a full-page ad in the Sunday, October 8 *Miami Herald* headlined "An Open Letter from Anita Bryant," with a text denouncing the measure. Robert Brake, a leader of PAC, denounced the proposed ordinance on several radio talk shows.

Miami gays have pointed out that in the upcoming general election, twice as many people are expected to vote than voted in June 1977. They have also noted that each of the candidates endorsed by Bryant was defeated in the September 12 primary election, including Bob Skidell, who had opposed Ruth Shack, sponsor of the original gay rights ordinance in Dade County. ■

Ex-Marine, Court-Martialed for Being Gay, Sues Corps for \$12M

SAN DIEGO, October 5 (LAT)—A former marine officer whose picture was used on a recruiting poster but who later faced a court-martial on charges that he was gay filed a lawsuit Wednesday in US District Court in San Diego, charging he was maliciously prosecuted and asking for \$12 million in damages.

The court-martial found him not guilty of the homosexual charge. The suit, filed on behalf of Alan E. Davis, 30, of Oceanside, claims that Davis's commanding officer at Camp Pendleton had caught the officer cheating on physical fitness test scores.

Davis was charged with being a homosexual, but was acquitted after a panel of officers, serving as the jury, deliberated for three minutes, said attorney David L. McKenzie.

McKenzie served as Davis's attorney at the court-martial, which was completed in May 1976, and is again representing him in the civil suit filed Wednesday.

Davis was given a medical discharge after the court-martial ended, following a mishap in which he lost control of his motorcycle while riding it on Camp Pendleton, where he was stationed as a lieutenant.

Davis contended that while he was riding his motorcycle he was being followed by a Naval Investigative Service agent, and when he looked over his shoulder he lost control of the vehicle.

That incident occurred during the investigation leading up to the general court-martial.

In October 1977, Davis filed a \$3.5 million claim against the federal government, claiming he was maliciously prosecuted by his commanding officer, Lt. Col. R. E. Stoffey.

McKenzie charged that Stoffey sought Davis's court-martial after learning that Davis had requested a meeting with the Secretary of the Navy to charge that Stoffey had cheated on the physical fitness tests.

McKenzie also noted that one of the marines who was to testify that Davis was gay later admitted, in a sworn statement, that he fabricated the statement after being induced by the promise of being given illegal drugs.

Even though that witness's confession that he lied about the statement was made before the court-martial, Davis was nonetheless prosecuted, McKenzie said.

Last year's claim went unanswered by the US Marine Corps until July of this year when, McKenzie said, the Navy Legal Services Claims Office offered an out-of-court settlement.

"But they didn't talk enough money so we have filed the suit," McKenzie said Wednesday.

Davis, now employed as a code enforcement officer for the city of Oceanside, was decorated for his service in Vietnam and was the top student in his Officers Candidate School class, McKenzie said.

A victim of polio as a youth, he later overcame the handicap and became a long-distance runner—the role he was pictured in for the Marine Corps' recruiting poster which noted that "The Marines are looking for a few good men."

The lawsuit asks for \$10 million in damages from the federal government and \$2 million in damages from Stoffey. A Camp Pendleton spokesman said Wednesday he could not comment on the case since it is in litigation. ■

Catholic Charities Nixes Seattle Initiative 13

SEATTLE, October 11 (Times)—The Office of Catholic Charities has announced its opposition to Initiative 13, the antigay measure on the November ballot.

In announcing its stand, the board said it opposes "any law or ordinance which would encourage discrimination."

The initiative would remove portions of city ordinance which prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation. ■

Gays Flood US Gay Switchboard

NEW YORK, October 12 (ZNS)—A newly-established nationwide toll-free telephone switchboard for gay men and lesbians reports that it has been deluged with more than 400 calls during its first week of operation.

Among those requesting information were a 15-year-old woman whose mother is a lesbian, a 65-year-old man who has spent his entire life in the military hiding his gay feelings, and a man who accidentally came upon his son having sex with another male.

The Gay National Education Switchboard, based in San Francisco, reports it received calls from 34 of the 48 continental United States. It is staffed by more than 60 volunteers who have reportedly received training in human sexuality, communication and listening skills.

The switchboard is currently in operation from 2 pm until midnight in all US time zones. The toll-free number in every state but California is 800-227-0888. The California number is 800-652-1442. ■

One Man Dies in SF Bath Fire

SAN FRANCISCO, September 29 (BAR)—The old, largely wooden Ellis Street Baths, formerly called the San Francisco Turkish Baths, was destroyed in a blaze on September 29. Joseph McFarland, a patron, died of smoke inhalation during the fire which swept through the ancient four-story structure. Although 25 patrons were able to escape in towels, six firemen were injured in the 4 am fire, which took two hours, 19 pieces of equipment and 110 men to contain.

Fire Chief Andrew Casper reported that there was no evidence of arson in the fire that destroyed the 50-room bath house building, which formerly housed a medical-dental firm.

Two other bathhouses experienced serious fires within the past year: the Ritzy Street Baths, which later reopened as a Club Bath, and the Barracks. Arson was suspected in both cases. ■

US House Page Boys Want Equal Time with Female Counterparts

WASHINGTON, DC, October 4 (ZNS)—The latest cry of sex discrimination comes from page boys in the US House of Representatives.

The male pages complain that page girls are allowed to quit work at six every evening even when the House is in night session. Page boys, however, must work until the close of business—no matter how late—without overtime pay.

Congressional officials say they must let the young women go earlier than the men because Washington is not the safest city in the world, and they are afraid the women might be nudged or raped.

Page boys admit the nudging is a professional reasoning. They say that men are just as apt to be nudged as women, and that, in fact, three page boys have already been nudged in the city on their way home from work. ■

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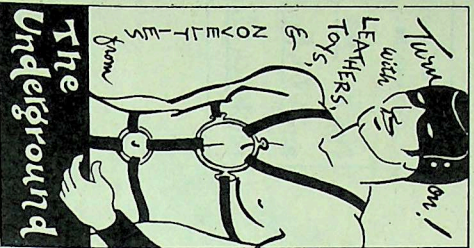
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Ads in Trades Seek Anti-Briggs Aid

LOS ANGELES, October 3 (ZNS)—Pacific News Service reports that those opposed to the passage of Proposition 6 in California have begun a major effort to enlist entertainers and artists to support their campaign publicly against the anti-gay initiative.

Proposition 6 would virtually ban lesbian and gay male teachers from the classroom, as well as anyone who "advocates homosexuality." *The Los Angeles Times* reported last month that the entertainment community in California, especially in Southern California, which usually supports human rights causes, has been particularly shy about coming out in favor of homosexuality and against Proposition 6.

The Times said artists and entertainers were fearing a McCarthy era-type of backlash and possibly a backlash against them if they publicly supported gays.

Now PNS reports that backers of "No On 6" have taken out full-page advertisements in *Variety* and the *Hollywood Reporter*, in attempts to confront the blacklist fears. The ads read: "If you liked the blacklist, you'll love Proposition 6."

PNS says that as a result of this ad campaign, the No On 6 campaign has now lined up "an impressive list of Hollywood talent" to help scuttle the anti-gay initiative. Said the chairperson of the No On 6 campaign, "Artists today don't want any recreating of the McCarthy era fear of clandestine whisperings and blacklisting with never any confrontation over their reason—alarm that we're on the brink of that has startled people."

Figure in Child Hustler Ring Guilty of Molesting Girl, 8

LOS ANGELES, September 28 (UPI)—Thomas Nicholas Liberto, 34, an aircraft plant worker from Downey accused of being part of an international child prostitution ring, pleaded guilty Wednesday to one count of molesting an eight-year-old girl.

In exchange for the guilty plea, prosecutor James Ferruzzo agreed to dismiss a conspiracy charge against him.

Liberto was one of nine men charged with operating an international child prostitution ring with nine girls and one boy, ranging in age from 4 to 14. The children allegedly were used for sexual purposes by men of the group, rented out to others for as much as \$1000 per session, and photographed and filmed while having sex with each other and adults.

One defendant was charged with selling his 10-year-old daughter for immoral purposes, but the other suspects were not related to the children, who reportedly were induced to cooperate by gifts.

Liberto, who has a prior conviction of child molestation, remained free on \$15,000 bail pending a hearing November 1 to determine whether he should be declared a mentally disordered sex offender. ■

Porn Film Appears on New Jersey Cable TV

BAYVILLE, N.J., September 29 (UPI)—A pornographic film made a brief appearance on the local cable television channel Wednesday.

Several minutes of pornographic film showing sexual activity appeared on the home screens shortly after 8 am in place of a weather and community message telecast.

Officials of the Clear cable television system said the mixup was the result of a "technical error" and issued an apology to viewers. They said they could not explain the mixup in detail nor identify the film. Station manager Candace Cox said, "Unfortunately" people got a little shocked. It was quite offensive." ■

Dirt Traded by California Pols

LOS ANGELES, September 29 (LAT, Oceanside Blade Tribune)—Lt. Gov. Mervyn Dymally and his Republican opponent, Mike Curb, have been trading charges of lying and dodging the real issues of the campaign, in a heated controversy stemming from Curb's involvement 11 years ago with a film having some lesbian overtones.

At issue is the film *Mondo Hollywood*, which has also been released under the titles of *Image*, *Hippie Hollywood*, and *The Acid-Blasting Freaks*.

According to Dymally, Curb's record-producing company provided the sound track and 50 percent of the financing for the film, and Curb himself sang with a falsetto voice under the name of "Michelle Curb" in the movie.

The producer of the picture, Robert Carl Cohen, stated that Curb had not only written songs for the film, but sang the lyrics of a song entitled "The Impossible Is Possible With You" as background to a scene in which one woman puffs on a cigar while she helps another woman get dressed.

Curb, whose clean-cut image has helped launch the recording careers of Debbie Boone and Donna and Marie Osmond, at first denied any role in the movie, but admitted yesterday that he did serve as musical director, and said that his singing performance had slipped his mind after 11 years. He also denied that the movie, which has some limited nudity, is pornographic.

Curb called Dymally "a liar" and accused him of being involved "in all kinds of shady business deals."

Dymally backtracked yesterday from his original declaration that the film is "pornographic." He said he may have chosen "too harsh" an adjective and taken some "semantic liberties" in describing the motion picture.

Dymally said if Curb had agreed to talk about "the real issues," *Mondo Hollywood* would not have come up.

Curb replied, "I think the whole thing is ridiculous." ■

Field Poll Detailed

SAN FRANCISCO, October 6 (AP)—The California Poll reported Thursday that there has been a heavy shift of public opinion recently to the "no" side on Proposition 6, an initiative that would ban gays and anyone who openly "advocates homosexuality" from teaching and other jobs in schools.

A poll taken on September 20-29 of 1075 persons representing a cross-section of California adults showed that 45 percent favored the proposition, 43 percent were opposed and 12 percent were undecided.

This compared with a 61 percent-31 percent margin in favor of the proposition in a survey taken a month earlier, when eight percent were undecided, pollster Mervin D. Field reported.

Field attributed the loss of support shown in his poll to "the increasing number of influential voices now being raised against the measure."

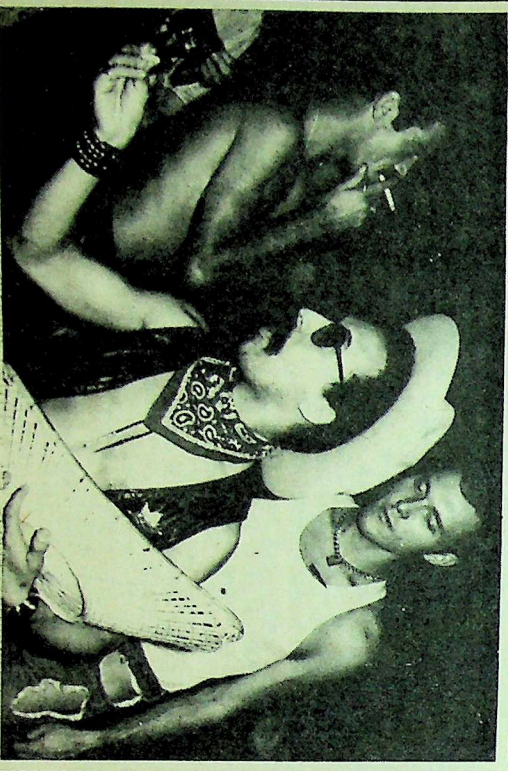
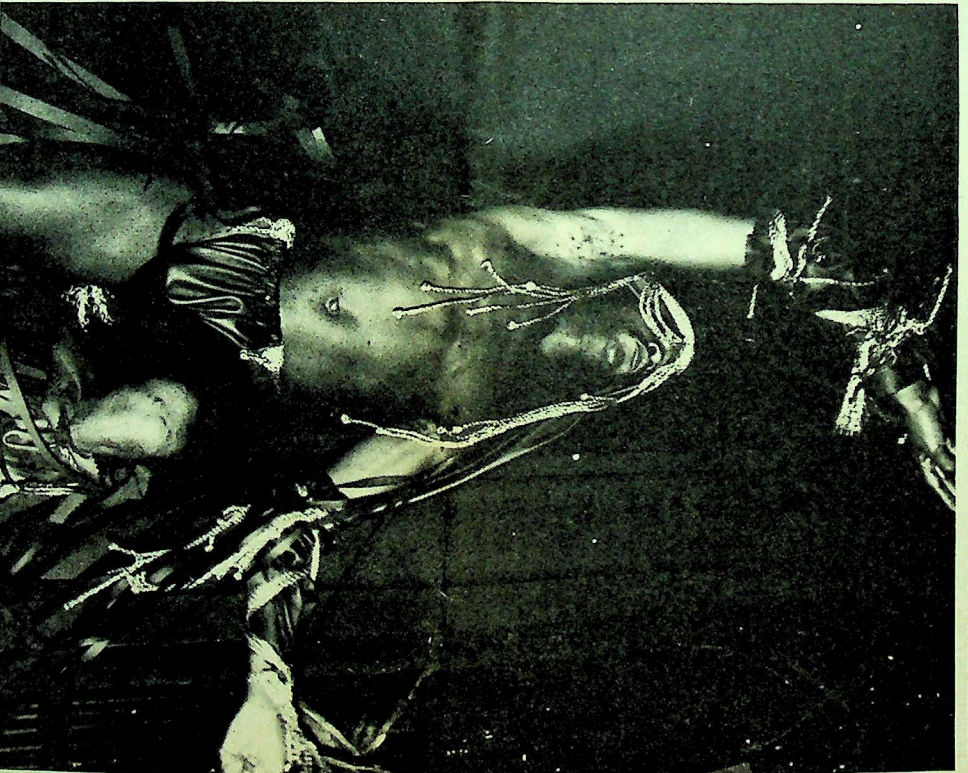
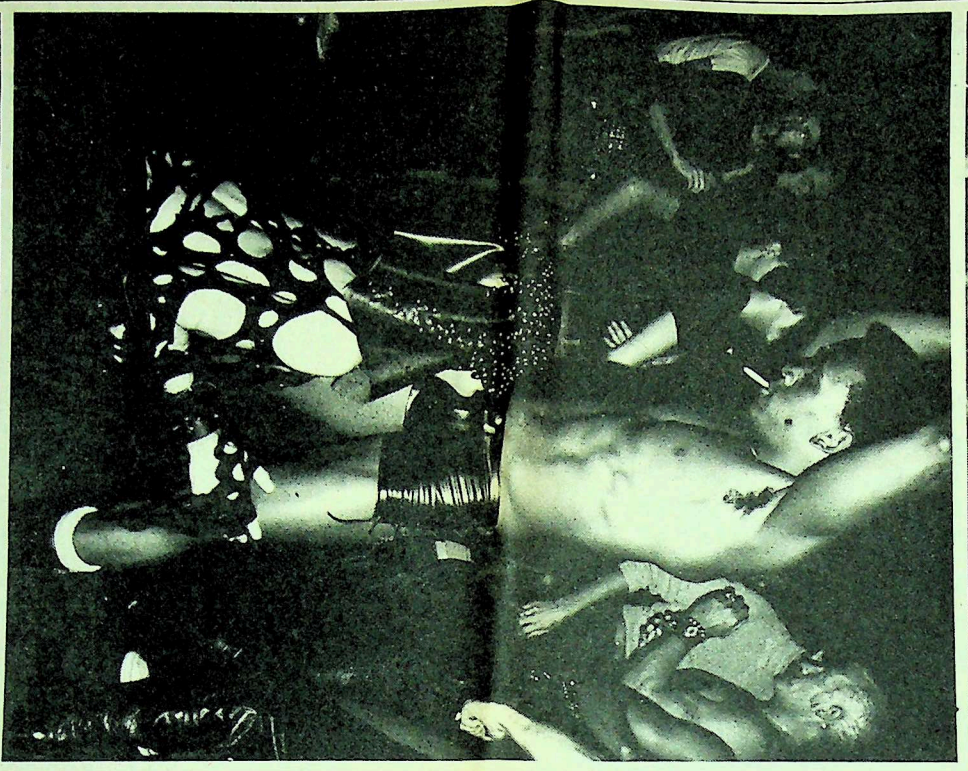
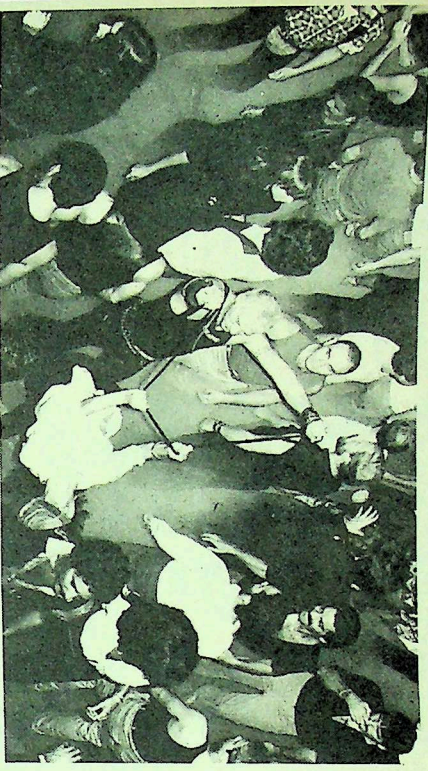
He said recently stated opposition to Proposition 6 by former Gov. Ronald Reagan and Howard Jarvis, sponsor of the successful Proposition 13 "tax relief" initiative, "may have an important impact, since many of Proposition 6's chief supporters are ideologically attuned" to these two "very prominent conservative spokesmen."

The greatest opposition to Proposition 6 comes from the state's two major metropolitan areas, Field said, with sentiment 50 percent against to 36 percent for in the San Francisco Bay Area and 46-40 in the Los Angeles-Orange County area. The issue divides somewhat along party lines, he added, with Democrats opposing it 50 to 36 percent and Republicans favoring it 57 to 32 percent. ■

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Photographs by Walter Friedman

Last week's bash at Xenon began as a double header between the Cockring and the Pleasure Chest. But the makers of those fine leather fashions later decided it would be wiser to keep their wars off the dance floor and in the window. So "Studio 43" joined with Christopher Street's hottest disco and came up with "a party for leather and gay friends." Can't wait to see what this duo will come up with next.



Buyl to all takers. In previous years.

Designer Clovis Ruffin.

Two Rape Cases Revive, Unite Divided Mexican Women's Movement

MEXICO CITY, September 24 (PCN)—Two recent rape cases in Mexico City have revitalized a floundering women's movement and generated a new and unexpected concern among justice officials about sexual violence against women in this country.

Last December 28, a drunken acquaintance of Cecilia Gonzalez, a 22-year-old university student, broke into her apartment and threatened at knife-point to rape her. She pulled a pistol, and in the ensuing struggle, the gun fired and killed the man.

The case attracted the attention of about 15 feminists, who set up a 24-hour watch at the jail where Gonzalez was in custody and proclaimed that the issue at stake was a woman's right to defend her sexuality. In a matter of days, six feminist groups previously divided by political differences, had formed the Coalition of Women and attracted further support from labor and political groups.

About a week later, the judge, accepting the defense argument that the man's movements had set off the gun, granted Gonzalez "unconditional liberty." His ruling that Gonzalez acted within her rights to defend her "sexual liberty" against violent attack is considered by feminists to be an important advance in a country where machismo is considered a proud expression of a man's national identity.

The coalition believes that their estimate of an average of 80,000 rapes each year in recent years is increasing.

In June 1977, Guadalupe Sanchez de Moreno, a 32-year-old primary school teacher, was forced into a car by three drunken men on the National University campus. One raped her while the other held her down, breaking her arm.

They were interrupted by university nightwatchpersons. The three identified themselves to police as "porros," student strongmen who are retained and protected by political interests within the university faculty and administration and sometimes the police.

The presence and publicity provided later in the case by the coalition was as significant for the judge as the victim Federal District Criminal Court Judge Rosalinda Serrano de Carreras said that during the course of the case, investigating agents admitted testimony from false witnesses and withheld medical evidence. The night-watchpersons contradicted their original testimony. And two brothers of one of the accused, claiming to be police agents, barged into the judge's chambers and threatened her.

The coalition not only gave its support for Sanchez, but also for the judge. After decreasing sentences of nine years or more imprisonment for each of the three men, Judge Serrano said, "This is the first time in my professional career when I did not feel completely alone in trying to insure sexual self-determination for Mexican women." After the sentencing, she continued to receive threats.

Mexican law does not provide damages for rape. Though Sanchez reported memory lapses and other psychological and physical disorders, she was awarded only \$9 in damages for loss of personal property. To publicize the need for fairer laws and consistent prosecution, she agreed to describe her case—the first Mexican woman to do so—on a national television news program.

The following day, the federal district attorney for Mexico City, Augustin Alami, bowed to the pressure of the coalition for improved handling of rape cases and ordered "discreet and careful" treatment by trained professionals for rape victims, thorough investigation and vigorous prosecution of sexual crimes and the suspension of bail for men convicted of rape. He also announced his intention to promote revisions in the existing laws, including stiffer sentences, and he invited the coalition to present proposals. Now his office has begun to direct rape victims to the coalition for counseling.

The Coalition of Women and its support groups encompasses a relatively small number of women, but their beliefs

span those of non-feminist leftists to moderate, radical, socialist and lesbian feminists. Amidst this diversity, however, there is agreement that the Gonzalez and Sanchez cases opened a new stage in the life of the movement.

"It's not the same to be a feminist in theory as it is to begin to live through all the dirt that is done to women," said Esperanza Brito of the National Women's movement. "The movement has been humanized, and suddenly we have learned to respect each other's differences. We can see that though there are still few of us, together we can get things done."

This was not always so. Feminism in Mexico began to stir in 1971, but it wasn't until 1976—the year the International Women's Conference was held in Mexico City—that a first coalition was formed to promote freedom of choice in having abortions. Relations among those in that coalition, however, were not always amicable. It took the two rape cases and a tide of complaints for the new coalition to form with reordered priorities.

"We have come to feel that in Mexico it will be difficult to turn women out in the street to demand free and legal abortion," said Susana Vidales of the socialist Women's Collective. "But rape and woman-hatred are issues Mexican women feel, and we can talk about them anywhere. So we've opted to push all three at once."

Cop Takes Bubble Bath

FORTH WORTH, TX, October 4 (ZNS)—An undercover police officer in North Worth, Texas, apparently likes to make sure he has plenty of evidence before turning someone in.

During a court hearing in which a judge ordered the local paradise massage studio to shut down, it was revealed that the undercover officer had no fewer than three nude massages and a bubble bath in the establishment.

The taxpayers picked up a tab of \$175 for the detective's so-called evidence.

Briggs Rips Reagan

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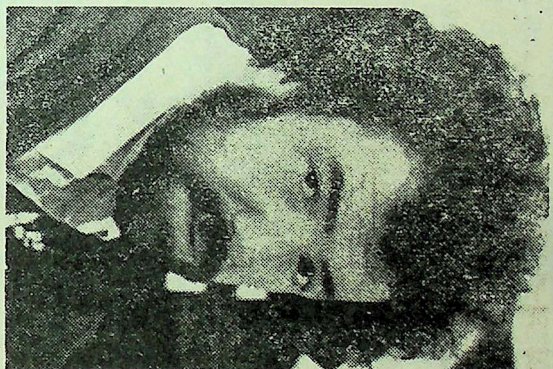
Briggs added: "I am personally more concerned with the safety and education of children than I am concerned about pandering to the homosexual community so that I might pick up a few dollars for my campaign or pick up that vote out there."

Briggs declared at the news conference: "Everybody knows that homosexuals are child molesters, not all of them but most of them. I mean that's why they are in the teaching profession."

Later in the day, Raoul Teitel, president of the California Federation of Teachers, debated Briggs before the Coronado Rotary Club, and told reporters the child molestation charge "is absolutely false."

"That is part of the mythology and the fear syndrome of the entire Proposition 6 campaign. The most recent Kinsey report, a very scientific and respected investigation, said a majority of homosexuals deal only with adults in consenting situations."

"There are both heterosexuals and homosexuals who have sexual tendencies toward the young, and 95 percent of all child molestation cases in California public schools are heterosexual in nature—that's from kindergarten through 12th grade," he added.



Rev. James H. Littrell, an Episcopal priest and director of the Philadelphia Gay Task Force.

'Decency' Federation to Boycott ABC TV

TULEPO, MS, September (Wall Street Journal)—The National Federation for Decency said it plans a November boycott of the American Broadcasting Company's television network in an attempt to "stem the tide of sex, violence and profanity" on the network and to "raise the overall quality of TV programming."

The boycott will coincide with the national "sweeps" by the AC Nielsen Company audience ratings service, during which local stations' audience ratings are determined. The stations' advertising rates are based on the result of the sweeps, which are conducted three times a year.

The federation, which claims 10,000 members, said its previous TV boycott in March, 1977 caused a drop of one million households during daytime viewing and 250,000 households during prime time hours.

The federation has previously boycotted Sears, Roebuck and Company for sponsorship of programs it views as offensive. A similar boycott of Ford Motor Company is still under way. Both companies have "cleaned up their act" recently, according to Reverend Donald E. Wildmon, the federation's executive director.

"We don't like using methods of economic pressure," Wildmon said in an interview. "But it's the only method that's understood."

Journal: Male Birth Control Pill in Making

WASHINGTON, DC, October 3 (ZNS)—A report published by the World Health Organization is predicting that a male birth control pill could be perfected in a mere twelve years.

Developing a suitable pill for men to take has been complicated up until now because the suppression of sperm formation required doses of hormones considerably higher than any of those used by women. Those doses have reportedly caused considerable harmful side effects, including reddening of the eyes and severe headaches.

Scientists, writing in the journal *World Health*, however, say that a new class of pill being tested consists of material which does not inhibit sperm production, but simply interferes with its metabolism and maturity. The researchers predict that the pill will be ready to market by "the end of the next decade."

The *World Health* bulletin also predicts that an "anti-fertility" vaccine could also be ready for use for manufacture by the end of the 1980s.

Gay Priest Charts Strategy for Gay Philadelphia Org

PHILADELPHIA, October 9 (Bulletin)—The Rev. James H. Littrell is a gay Episcopal priest who heads up a new outfit called the Philadelphia Gay Task Force, headquartered in the Christian Association Building on the University of Pennsylvania Campus.

"The idea behind the task force is that there is another way to approach gay rights," he says, "a low-key way over the long haul. These days social change can be an iffy business at best, and it takes a very long time to make any significant change. To my knowledge, no other gay organization in the city is trying to organize and promote a long-term strategy for gays."

"We're targeting institutions and corporations in Philadelphia that we're going to talk to quietly about discriminatory policies. We don't expect miracles right away. But we think we can get more done this way in the long run than we can with a lot of demonstrations."

Littrell received his divinity degree from Philadelphia Divinity School in 1970. After graduation he founded Voyage House Inc., a project for runaway youths with drug problems, and served as its executive director for three years.

He then moved to Buffalo, New York, where he was pastor of a downtown Episcopal church. He was married at the time and had a daughter.

From there he became chaplain at Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, New York. While he was there he decided he wanted to come out of the closet and tell the world he was gay, despite his wife and child.

"My wife and daughter have since moved back to Philadelphia, which is one reason I came back here," he says. "I take my duties as a parent very seriously."

Strangely enough, he feels Anita Bryant and her crusade to "Protect America's Children" have helped rather than hindered gay rights.

"I don't know if she realizes what she did, but Anita Bryant recognized the existence of gay people," he says. "It's good that people can talk about homosexuality." That's a giant step forward for gay people, Anita Bryant has made it impossible to ignore gay people, the same way Martin Luther King made it impossible to ignore black people.

"The implication is that all gay people are child molesters, which is baloney. One has nothing to do with the other. There are far more heterosexuals than gays who are child molesters, but you don't hear anyone talking about protecting children from all the straights in America."

"Her argument is that by our presence we would convert people to being gay. That might not be a bad idea. At least it would do wonders for the population explosion. But it's just not going to happen."

"We have no desire for a conversion campaign. Personally, I believe whether a person is gay or straight probably is genetically determined. I think we're born one way or another, not converted." He also doesn't believe Anita Bryant can make any significant progress trying to convert gays to become straight.

"That's like trying to convert kids away from being kids. Those conversions last about a total of two months. If you make people feel guilty enough about their gay behavior, certainly they will try to get away from it. But highly unlikely they'll be able to stay away from it. It's part of them. That's the way they are."

"We don't need any rights that anybody else doesn't have. We simply want to be treated like any other people."

"Gays should be able to live and work without fear of losing a job or a home because of the person they spend their sexual time with."

Male Rapist Has Lesbian Psyche: Shrink to Court

COLUMBUS, OH, October 6 (UPI)—Police say William Milligan, 23, raped four young women near Ohio State University last year. A psychiatrist says the rapist is one of Milligan's ten different personalities—that of an 18-year-old lesbian.

Armed with samples of the wildly varying handwriting and drawings of the ten separate William Milligans, defense lawyers today will try to persuade Franklin County Common Pleas Judge Jay C. Flowers their client is incompetent to stand trial for the crimes of his subconscious personalities.

He is charged with four rape counts, and three each of kidnapping and aggravated robbery.

One of the nation's top authorities on multiple personalities, Dr. Cornelia Wilbur, met five of the personalities when she examined Milligan in the county detention center. Wilbur, of Lexington, Kentucky, was the psychiatrist who treated "Sybil," a multi-personality housewife and the subject of a best-selling book and a movie.

Wilbur is convinced Milligan could not fake the ten personalities' complicated and intertwined memories and stories.

She said one of them was a nine-year-old boy who does nothing but scream and bang his head against the wall remembering the beatings Milligan took from his stepfather as a child.

Arthur, a poet with a clipped British accent, is a good influence. Ragen, 22, is evil. Danny is fourteen.

She says Ragen has vowed to kill the lesbian—thus killing himself and William Milligan—if she is brought to trial. "The real tragedy," Wilbur said, "is this young man. Billy is extremely bright. He has an IQ of 150 and is a very talented artist."

During one interview with Milligan, she said she asked Ragen to let Billy come out. Ragen said he and Arthur were keeping Billy asleep because he was so suicidal.

"But they let him come out for a minute," she said. "And I have never seen a human being so frightened in my life. He jumped up and slithered behind a chair."

Footballer Offsides in Contract with Wife

PALO ALTO, CA, September 11 (HS)—Palo Alto, California, high school coach Bob Peters admitted last week publicly that he failed to fulfill a contract to take on his wife's homemaking duties while she went to work.

The couple drew up the notarized motherhood pact in June, to run the 70 motherhood pact in June, to run the 70 days of Peters' vacation until coaching duties required his return to school.

After 68 days and nights of housekeeping chores, spouse pampering, and coping full-time with the couple's four children, Peters said he's convinced that "motherhood is an impossible task for a normal human being."

Peters said he knew his switched role of house husband had stretched to the contract-breaking point when he went into the family den one day and discovered his youngsters smearing his freshly cleaned windows and squabbling over television shows.

Peters says he's now "tickled" to get back to teaching football. He adds, "At least when I snap my fingers, things get done. While I was a mother, someone was more likely to stick their tongue out at me."

Peters, incidentally, has now hired a housekeeper to come in several days a week to handle the chores he was happy to surrender. ■

Convict Man on Fed Child Porn Rap

BALTIMORE, October 9 (UPI)—A former national defense employee was convicted by a federal jury of soliciting Baltimore boys eight to 18 years old and photographing them in obscene poses as part of an international pornography business.

The jury ruled William Inglis, 35, a former computer expert for the Defense Communications Agency, illegally used the mails for distribution of the pornographic pictures from 1975 to 1977.

The jury also found Inglis guilty of transporting three boys, who were between the ages of nine and 14, from Maryland to Virginia for prostitution.

The jury, however, ruled Inglis was innocent of charges that he took two Maryland boys to Florida for prostitution.

Inglis's defense attorney, Parker Smith had argued the films, "sick as they were," were not erotic enough to be obscene.

Smith said "I'm not talking about using young boys for these movies. It's wrong. It's sick. But are they so bad you can't look them? They are disgusting, gross, boring but they are not obscene."

Greater Incidence of PCBs in Mothers' Milk

WASHINGTON, DC, September 15 (ZNS)—Mothers' milk is getting more deadly by the year. If recent samples taken from nursing women in the US are any indication.

The Environmental Protection Agency reports that 309, or 31 percent, of some 1038 samples of breast milk taken nationwide showed measurable amounts of PCBs, or polychlorinated biphenyls.

PCBs are industrial chemicals which have caused tumors, birth defects and adverse liver conditions in laboratory animals. They are suspected carcinogens.

Harvard researchers last year reported finding traces of the toxic defoliant 2,4,5-T in mothers' milk, and several years ago, researchers reported finding large amounts of the pesticide DDT in samples of breast milk.

The EPA says it will now conduct a study to find out if the presence of PCBs in mothers' milk is adversely affecting their children. ■

Philly Teen Convicted in Child Sex Assaults

PHILADELPHIA, October 9 (Bulletin)—A North Philadelphia teenage girl was convicted yesterday of beating and sexually assaulting five children ranging in age from nine months to eight years.

Victoria Thurston, 19, was found guilty by Common Pleas Judge Alfred J. DiBona of "involuntary deviate sexual intercourse," corrupting the morals of a minor, aggravated assault and indecent assault, after pleading no contest to the charges.

DiBona deferred sentencing pending the outcome of psychiatric tests and ordered that the defendant continue to be held in lieu of \$25,000 bail.

Thurston also pleaded no contest to charges of tampering with a witness and allegedly making terroristic threats in a letter written on prison stationery to a prospective witness against her. ■

Employed Women Favor Radio over TV

NEW YORK, October 12 (Wall Street Journal)—Working women listen to radio more than they use any other medium, including television. An NBC Radio survey finds that radio reaches 97.2 percent of the weekly audience of full-time working women, versus 91 percent for TV. Radio should benefit as the ranks of employed women grow, NBC Radio predicts. ■

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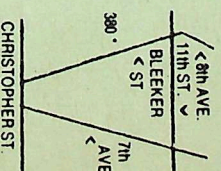
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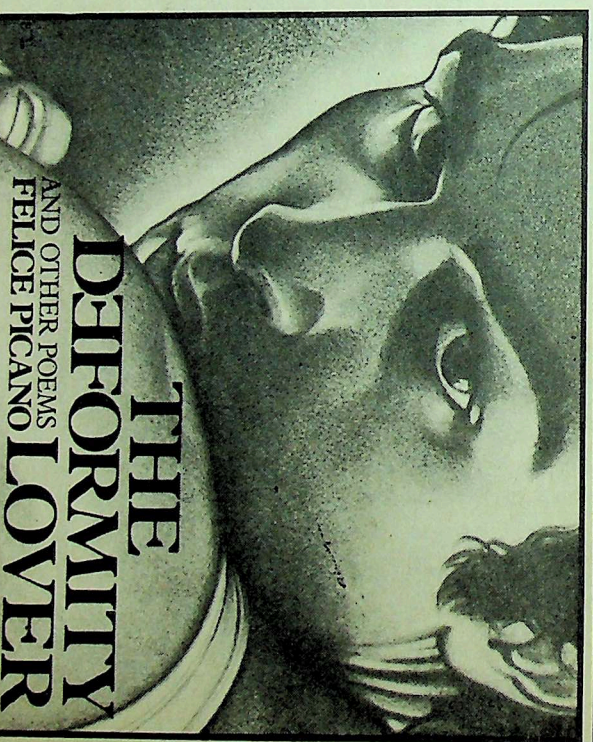


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Letters

GAYSWEEK welcomes letters on any subject of interest to gay people, including comment on items published in GAYSWEEK. In order to include a broad range of views, please keep letters as short as possible. We reserve the right to edit letters as necessary. Although all letters must be signed, we will withhold your name on request. Please include your address and telephone number for verification.

Lesbian Opera

A propos your article, "Opera Recordings: The Gay Themes" (GAYSWEEK, October 2, 1978), a point of information (though not entirely "to the point," since your piece dealt with already recorded works): *A Lesbian Play for Lucy*—written by myself, with music by Tamara Bliss, and rather more overt in its homo-aesthetic themes and outlook than the works mentioned in your article—recently completed a run (limited to 12 performances by the Equity Workshop Pilot Project Showcase Code) at the Off-Off Broadway Medusa's Revenge Theatre.

In *A Lesbian Play for Lucy*, the actresses cast in the classical roles of Demeter/Hecate, Persephone and Athena replay the mythic triangle of mother-daughter-sister relationships through text and song that draw as much upon classical and modern traditions of drama, opera and musical theatre as upon American vaudeville and 1930s and 40s movie musicals. It is, naturally, a "comedy"—perhaps even an experimental chamber-opera-musical.

The Workshop production given at Medusa's Revenge Theatre was a scaled-down staged dramatic reading concert version—with all of the limitations that that implies, including that of two of the three actresses not being professional singers. Perhaps that is why no review of *A Lesbian Play for Lucy* has, to my knowledge, appeared in GAYSWEEK—though we certainly would have welcomed a serious, critical appraisal.

In any case, we are now in process of making a demonstration tape (with three professional singers and full accompaniment), hopefully, this will lead to a recording as well as fuller productions in the future.

*Eleanor Harkin
Manhattan*

Wrangler Fan

The interview with Jack Wrangler (GAYSWEEK, August 7, 1978) . . . I thought it to be a superb job. I have not been a fan of Wrangler's but the surprise information that he is only 57½ tall does make him more attractive—to me.

*Fred R. Mehered
Honolulu*

Not Gay Novel

David Rothenberg's recent column, *Another Voice* (GAYSWEEK, September 18, 1978), which dealt with my forthcoming novel, *Project Lambda*, was as much a delight as a surprise, and I am sincerely grateful to him and to GAYSWEEK.

May I take exception to one small point or two? David refers to the book as a "gay" novel. It's emphasis is on the dangers of widespread repression of gays, not at all on what two people do in bed.

Also, *Project Lambda* was written specifically for neither a gay nor a straight audience. It was written for all Americans, of whatever sexual orientation, whatever minority allegiance, whatever

religious affiliation, whatever political stripe. It was written, too, for those who may have lost sight of what America is all about, including David's benighted gym-mate.

*Paul O'M. Welles
Belvidere, New Jersey*

Factual Inaccuracies

Iwould have preferred not to answer Manfred's article, but I consider it irresponsible to let so much ignorance and inaccuracy go unnoticed. The number of factual inaccuracies is extraordinary, and too long to mention in a letter which you would be able to publish. I wish to correct only a few of the more glaring errors:

- 1) The insiders/outside dichotomy was true to an extent in 1977, but it ended early in 1978. Only a few major groups in the gay community remain officially unaffiliated with the Coalition of Lesbian and Gay Rights, and these groups have been working in tandem with the coalition with exceptional smoothness for many months. Also, the coalition's statement of purpose has been endorsed by over 40 organizations including the Americans For Democratic Action. The New Democratic Coalition, hardly "outriders" to the political progress.
- 2) The Trotskyists (not Trotskyites) do not in any way control, dominate, or co-opt the activities or decisions of the coalition; the SWP have however, been extremely helpful and cooperative allies to the gay community.
- 3) The contributions of GAA to the community in the last year cannot be dismissed as "negligible," but I wonder if anyone heard of the Coalition of Conscience which Manfred plugs here. (Also, has the study group met more than twice in the last half year, and has it had more than six people in attendance at either of those meetings?)

I recognize any individual's rights to have different opinions about the directions and strategies for the movement. However, if one wishes to attack an organization, it might be good to visit and see what is actually going on. Manfred relies on a single unnamed individual who attended one meeting well over a year ago. Why is he afraid to give a name? He has attended none of the open weekly meetings of the coalition or even the large community meetings which have been sponsored so everyone could express his or her views. Manfred is both cowardly and destructive. Many of the groups he describes as "nonactivists" or as "cultural and social" have gay firm support to the coalition and the attempt to pass a gay rights bill. His perception that they are inactive is based only on his own inaction and wishful thinking. Manfred has never been willing to accept that groups of which he disapproves are making important contributions while the groups in which he leads are ineffective. I sincerely wish that you hadn't give him so much space to express his personal pique about his failures. Should the gay rights bill fail to pass, his help to our homophobic enemies must be noted.

*Jim Levin
President
Gay Independent Democrats
Spokesperson, CLGR*

Losing Battle

Thank you for printing Morty Manfred's provocative challenge to our political strategists ("Why We Should Postpone New York's Gay Rights Bill," GAYSWEEK, October 16, 1978). As an early Vice President of the Gay Activists Alliance, I was there at the beginning,

and I, for one, am willing to recognize a losing battle when I see one. It is more important that we use our collective energy in devising ways in which we can win than in walking down the same path and tripping over the same rock year after year after year. More of the same old strategy can only produce more of the same old results. That much should be clear by now. And even if we could win in the City Council, the thought of living in a city where our neighbors have officially renounced our equality in a public referendum is rather chilling.

I'm not sure if Morty's suggestions are the best solution to our problem, but at least he has dared to propose that we look elsewhere for our success. We are all bored with endless despair and repetition. At least Morty is willing to face the challenge of the reality that confronts us and to search for a new arena in which to center hope. If more of us were willing to put our heads together to devise a new approach to our common problem, we might come up with an effective program to secure the future of the gay community of New York. It is time for some public discussion of where we are going and how to get there.

*Arnie Kantrowitz
Manhattan*

Outraged

I was outraged at your printing Morty Manfred's essay against the New York City gay rights bill (GAYSWEEK, October 16, 1978). His call for gays to ditch our current fight for equal rights would have been more appropriate in *True Confessions*, urging gays to repent before it's too late. To print such a divisive and slanderous article the very week Intro 384 was introduced into the City Council will only stiffen the bigoted opposition to our rights.

What is the position of GAYSWEEK toward a New York City gay rights bill? If it is reflected in your publishing Manfred's plea for us to sit on our hands, then it's time to rename your paper *GaysMeek* and let supporters of gay rights look elsewhere for news of our struggle.

*Rich Finkel
Managing Editor
Pathfinder Press
Manhattan*

Pro-Diversification

Morty Manfred's article (GAYSWEEK, October 6, 1978) has been a long time in coming. It will be some while before I know whether I agree with him on all points, because what he says is startling and opens up all kinds of paths for non-rigid thinking. This latter quality is what makes his piece problematic.

It has almost become a truism that the Gay Lib Movement *should* be bogged down in internal political squabbles because of differing views on short-, medium-, and long-term goals (the latter two being too often ignored). Factionalism is the primary witness to gay and lesbian diversity. However, by investing all hope for the desired change in attitude by the larger society, in the passage of one piece of local legislation, the Movement is guilty of a parochial obsiveness that can only push it into the farthest corner of the closet. All-the-eggs-in-one-basket thinking is no less hazardous here than it is for the individual who believes a magical change in the richness of life can be effected by meeting the right person or making X amount of money.

If we are to take advantage of the diversity in the ranks of lesbians and gay men, we must have more, and more diverse, goals. The Manfred article offers one way of looking at the options open to us. As long as the list of our options is kept open, then the multiplicity of talents and viewpoints in our community stand a better chance of being utilized toward realizing the single goal we all want: universal acceptance of homosexuality as

just another way of living, neither better nor worse than any other.

*Aaron Cohen
Manhattan*

Current, Future

Articles appearing in two recent issues, David Rothenberg's October 2 column and Morty Manfred's October 16 article, raise serious and provocative questions about the current status and future direction of the "gay movement," questions for which no ready, formulaic answers do or should exist, nevertheless, I do want to try to carry their critiques a step farther.

Rothenberg suggests that the movement is one still troubled by a male-female split and that the "leadership" of the movement is out of touch with the real concerns of many gay men and women. He is certainly right on the first point, but what he failed to say indicates to me that his viewpoint is somewhat dated. It goes without saying that gay men are still suffering from their male-sexist upbringing and that many if not most lesbians experience their greatest discrimination because they are women and not because they are gay; the result is that many gay men bring the unwanted baggage of sexism with them into the movement, and that many lesbians are appropriately sensitive to that sexism and confront gay men about it, even at the cost of organizational efficiency and political unity. But who would want it otherwise?

How else do we as individuals and as political beings experience growth except through challenge? And yet my recent experience with the movement, particularly in NYFAC but also in other contexts, leads me to believe that things are getting better. Gay men are beginning to understand, with the help of women, not only the depths of their internalized sexism but the degree to which homophobia has its roots in sexism; as many have said, *gay men are seen as inferior because they are perceived as women-like*. On the other hand, lesbians are growing more patient, if rightly not yet satisfied, with the rate at which gay men are changing. Together, we have all come to understand that the long-range goal of changing the way in which men and women relate to each other is enhanced, not diminished, by our ability to work together on specific projects which are to the short-range benefit of all gay people. Like passage of Intro 384.

Rothenberg's second point is that the leadership of the gay community is out of touch with the needs of gay men and women. He cites as an example the growing concern and outrage about violence directed at gay men on the street, a concern which he hears expressed in the bars but not in political meetings. Again, I think he is somewhat out of touch. The recent meetings between gay people and their precinct police officers in the Village and in Chelsea are an attempt indirectly to direct police attention to the special security needs of gay men (particularly). The swift response of many gay people and those who understand gay needs to the outbreak of violence in Central Park, seeking to ensure that justice was applied even-handedly, is also encouraging. But *ad hoc* responses are not adequate, he is right about that. What we need are institutions which can carry on the fight. The dialogues which he helped to initiate have slowed to a halt (in the Village), precisely because neither he nor I nor any of the people who attended those meetings have yet devised an organizational principle or form through which continuity could be achieved even as old participants drop away and new ones come forth. Perhaps the Chelsea Gay Association offers a model that gay Villagers should study. Moreover, while I agree that dealing directly with the violence is an urgent priority, many also believe that violence is possible only in a climate that sanctions it, and that symbolic changes in the climate may have as much

Chaplain Vernon E. Berg, Jr.
and his son.



OUT TAKES from 'GET OUT MY SHIP'

From Recruit to Admiral:
A Chaplain's Perspective
of Gays in the Navy and Marine Corps

BY E. LAWRENCE GIBSON
ILLUSTRATED BY VERNON E. BERG III

tinomy' about homosexuality. Their conduct had reflected the fact that the issue within the military is highly controversial and causes reactions far more disproportionately adverse than within the public at large.

Yet, however adamantly officials deny its presence, homosexuality is pervasive throughout the ranks and rates of each

branch of the armed forces. As recently revealed in the Navy's long-suppressed study of gays in uniform, a specially appointed naval board concluded that approximately thirty-seven and a half (37.5%) per cent of male personnel have had one or more homosexual experience. The average discharge rates of some two

Homosexuals that I have known in the military," Chaplain Vernon E. Berg, Jr. testified, "have done extremely well, getting to exceedingly high ranks."—The statement was made in sworn testimony during the 1976 administrative discharge hearings of the chaplain's son, Ensign Vernon E. Berg III, the first naval officer to publicly challenge the military's policy of categorically excluding homosexuals.

Questioned under oath whether he knew officers of the rank of commander who were homosexuals, Chaplain Berg replied, "Yes, sir."

"As high in rank as captain?"

"Certainly."

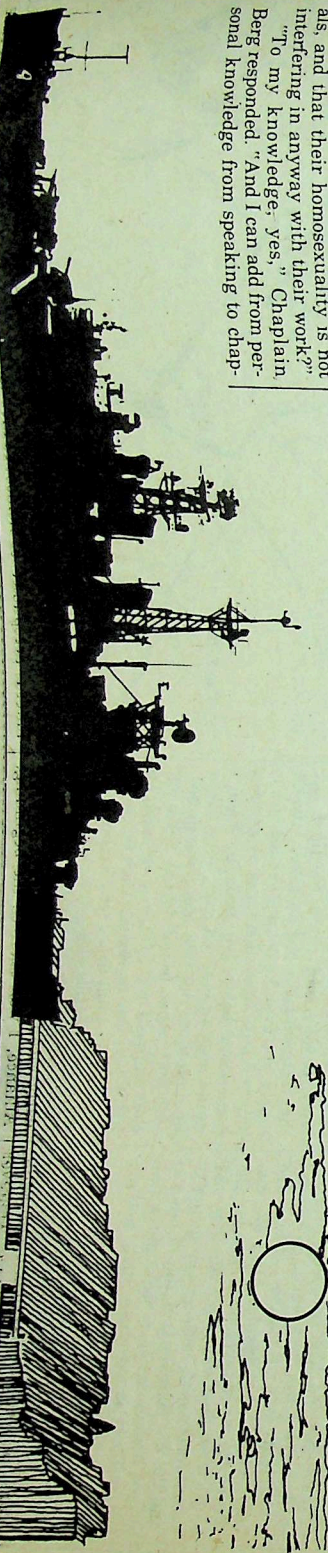
"As high in rank as rear-admiral?"

"Yes, sir."

Chaplain Berg, who has served in the Navy for over eighteen years, was asked to clarify his testimony for the board of five officers hearing the case. "Are you saying that there are officers in the US Navy up through the rank of rear-admiral who are undetected homosexuals, and that their homosexuality is not interfering in anyway with their work?" "To my knowledge, yes," Chaplain Berg responded. "And I can add from personal knowledge from speaking to chap-

lains who are friends in the corps that they also have such knowledge."

As members of the press hurriedly wrote notes to quote from Chaplain Berg's testimony, the officers on the discharge board were visually stunned and embarrassed. Throughout the public hearings, the five officers had been uneasy and had had evident difficulty in raising questions and listening to tes-



Counterfeit Homosexuals

One difficulty I have found over the years, when we use the word 'homosexual' or 'bisexual,'" Chaplain Berg told the board, "is the number of



The son.

exceptionally well, bravely and patriotically."

Currently stationed aboard the aircraft carrier USS Independence, which is homeported in Norfolk, Virginia, Chaplain Berg graduated from Davis and Elkins College, received his Bachelor of Divinity degree from Columbia Theological Seminary and a Master of Theology from Princeton Theological Seminary. Prior to his entering the Navy in 1960, he served pastorates in Georgia, New Jersey and New York. Among his duty assignments in service were those as naval hospital chaplain, base chaplain, squadron chaplain on amphibious ships and submarines, chaplain with Naval Air and with the Marine Corps. While serving with the First Battalion, 26th and 27th Marine Regiments in combat in Vietnam during the Tet Offensive of 1969, Chaplain Berg was awarded the Bronze Star.

"Within your experience," asked a member of the board, "how many, if any, come to you with admissions of an attraction toward other male members of a unit, and yet feeling frustrated in that they were suppressing their homosexual desires?"

"I wouldn't say many," Chaplain Berg replied. "I would say some. Normally, that kind of individual does not remain much beyond boot camp. He finds out that he has made a bad mistake early. Of course, the mistake is compounded nowadays because they don't ask if he is a homosexual before he comes in. When I came in as an enlisted man, they asked that question. But that was discontinued, and that paper is not signed anymore. Personally, if we don't ask whether an individual is homosexual when he enters the service, I fail to see why in the world we can persecute him after it is discovered. This is a very difficult question, and I hope someone will resolve it very quickly."

thousand men and women annually therefore reflects only the iceberg-tip proportion of homosexual officers and enlisted personnel who serve honorably—refuting the Pentagon's contentions that gays are an "intolerable threat to national security and military efficiency."

Apparently doubting Chaplain Berg's testimony that he was aware of undetected homosexuals serving from recruits up through the rank of admiral, the discharge board asked if he had "diagnosed" the individuals as being gay, or if they had admitted their orientation.

"Admitted it in talking," Chaplain Berg answered. "There are times when people are upset and disturbed, and they come to a chaplain seeking counsel. I would not restrict this to homosexuals, but many people that have marriage problems—problems which may or may not relate to their homosexual nature."

"How do homosexuals perform in the military?" an officer asked the chaplain.

"A person is a person," Chaplain Berg asserted. "People say homosexuals have different problems. They have the same problems as anybody else. A homosexual can perform badly or spectacularly well. There are so many homosexuals—male and female—in the military that are never discovered. The ones that we generally see are the ones who are sick and disturbed—not because they are homosexuals, but because they are disturbed for other psychiatric reasons. Because of studies which indicate that men experiment mostly between the ages of 17 and 20, it's possible that the number of active homosexuals or bisexuals within the military is extremely high, perhaps up to 20 percent or 30 percent."

"Most of these people have no difficulty. They don't have adjustment problems. Because so many homosexuals in the military are never discovered, the indication would be that many of them perform

disc our prejudice without any internal problems.

"I submit that there are significant occasions when heterosexuals have pretended to be homosexuals to get out of the Navy. Perhaps this is the reason for some very real bias on the Navy's part," Chaplain Berg stated.

Asked if these counterfeit homosexuals affected the military's perception of gays in uniform, Chaplain Berg replied: "The line officer who has an opinion of a homosexual thinks of him as a person who won't defend his country, won't fight for his country, can't perform his duties. His opinion could well be based on his coming into contact with this person who refuses to serve his country for any reason whatsoever."

Prejudices and Fears

A board member, admitting some difficulty in trying to interpret homosexuality, asked Chaplain Berg what he might consider as "normal heterosexual behavior."

"I don't think we can say what is normal," the chaplain said matter-of-factly. "You can't say what is normal for me, and, again, I can't say what is normal for you. If I'm going to say what's normal for me, then you have to do what I do, and you may not like to do what I do. I don't think psychiatrists use the word 'normal.'"

"What is 'normal behavior' for people in love?" asked Chaplain Berg rhetorically. "Some couples run barefoot through the surf down Virginia Beach in the wintertime. To me," he said with a wide smile and a quick shrug of the shoulders, "that's not quite normal. And I don't want to do that. But they are in love and they don't feel the cold, and they think it's wonderful."

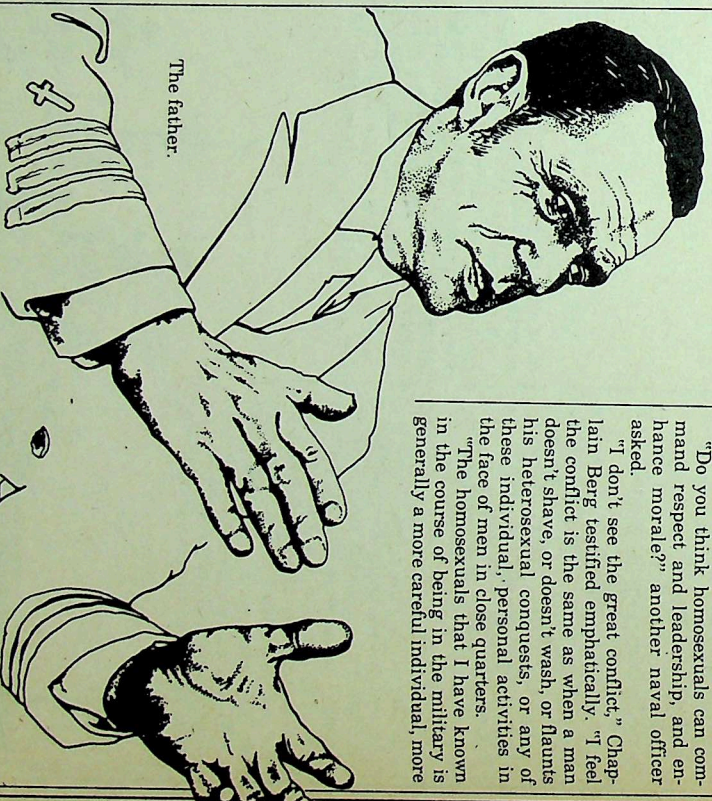
When asked if some homosexuals suffered from ridicule and jokes, Chaplain Berg exclaimed, "Oh, sure they do. So do women, but they function beautifully. Blacks get these ungodly, prejudiced jokes, and they function very well. So do homosexuals."

Comparing the homosexual's situation in the military with other minority groups and the prejudices demonstrated against them, the chaplain made this observation: "It is a white who fears that a black is going to take his job, or a man who fears that a woman will take his job, or a male who fears that a homosexual will steal his virility or his masculinity. I think each of these is equally ridiculous. I don't think there is any more pressure on one of these than on the other."

"Do you think homosexuals can command respect and leadership, and enhance morale?" another naval officer asked.

"I don't see the great conflict," Chaplain Berg testified emphatically. "I feel the conflict is the same as when a man doesn't shave, or doesn't wash, or flaunts his heterosexual conquests, or any of these individual, personal activities in the face of men in close quarters."

"The homosexuals that I have known in the course of being in the military is generally a more careful individual, more



The father.

Gaystweek

GUILDINES

SPECIAL EVENTS

Wednesday, October 25

Party
Uniform Night, Chaps, 1558 Third Ave., 4:27-8:30p. 10 pm. \$10. Members only. Membership available at door.

Party
Airlines Party. Show and buffet. A Touch of Class, 113-24 Queens Blvd., Forest Hills, 268-4837. 11:30 pm.

Thursday, October 26

Discussion
Robert Mehl on Gays in Western Europe. West Side Discussion Group, 26 Ninth Ave. (at 14th St.), 242-1212. 8:30 pm. \$2.

Women's Meeting
Susan Schechter of the Family Abuse Project, Henry Street Settlement, speaks on Battered Women. Gay Women's Alternative, Universalist Church, Central Park West & 76th St., 532-8669. 8 pm. \$3. Women only.

Conference
Women Business Ownership Conference sponsored by United Sisters, E. Rutherford, N.J. Details (201) 233-8348. 8:30 am-8:30 pm.

Information for Guildlines must be received by the Friday preceding the Wednesday of publication. Specify whether a donation or admission charge is involved, if women and men are welcome, and include, if possible, a telephone number for confirmation. All listings are free.

LISTING EDITORS: Roger Evans, Regular Events; Frances Green, Bars and Baths; E. C. Kruse, Theater; Richard McGuinness, Movies; John Oliver, Cabarets and Skin Flicks.

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Bar Night
Nova Motorcycle Club meets at The Ramrod, 394 West St. 9 pm-midnt, men only.

Friday, October 27

Conference
The Responsibility of Gay People. First Anniversary Region II Dignity Meeting, St. Boniface Church, 10 W. 107th St., Brooklyn, 852-5187. 7 pm. \$7 registration through Oct. 29.

Party
Halloween Party with prizes for costumes, buffet, A Touch of Class, 113-24 Queens Blvd., Forest Hills, 268-4837. 11:30 pm.

Saturday, October 28

Women's Party
Halloween Party. Prizes for best costumes. All The Queens Women, 36-23 164th St., Flushing, 359-9204. 8:30 pm. \$2.50 members; \$3.50 nonmembers. Women only.

Party
Halloween Party sponsored by Chelsea Gay Association, at Identity House, 544 Sixth Ave., 245-7627. 8 pm.

Women's Dance
Medusa's Revenge presents a dance for women only. 10 Bleeker St., 532-4151. 10 pm. \$10.

Party
Halloween Party. Girth and Mirth. 738 Broadway, 3rd floor, 569-1809. 9 pm. \$12.

Dance
Comite Homosexual Latino Americano. Halloween lesbian and gay male dance. Costumes optional. Earl Hall, Columbia University, Broadway at 116th St. 9 pm. \$2.50.

Conference
Region II Dignity Meeting. See Oct. 27

Party
Halloween Party. Costumes optional. GAANI, 17. Kanass St., Hackensack, N.J. (201) 343-6402. 9:30 pm. \$4.

Sunday, October 29

Conference
Region II Dignity Meeting. See Oct. 27

Trip
Hyken Dykes go to the Bronx Zoo. Meet 1:30 pm, Rainey Entrance. 569-1888.

Women's Discussion
Lesbians Taking Control of Our Media Image. Lesbian Feminist Liberation, 243 W. 20th St., 691-5460. 3 pm. \$1. Women only.

Monday, October 30

Dance
Halloween Dance. GAA Morris County, Unitarian Fellowship, Normandy Heights Rd., Morristown, N.J. (201) 691-0388. 8:30 pm. \$2; \$3 nonmembers.

Volunteer Night
Listen to Mozart, Broadway or disco (the groups' choice) while meeting new friends and helping put out GAYSWEEK. Light refreshments. All skills put to good use. 216 W. 18th St., 8th floor. 929-7720. 6 pm.

Tuesday, October 31

Women's Dance
Halloween Dance. Costumes optional. Gay Women's West Side, 26 Ninth Ave. (at 14th St.), 242-1212. 8:30 pm. \$3.

Presentation
Gay Saints Who Have Touched Our Lives (following service at 7:30 pm). Integrity/Episcopal Gay Society, Church of St. Luke-in-the-Fields, Hudson at Grove St., 447-4427. 8:30 pm.

Party
Halloween Party sponsored by the Eulenspiegel Society. Disco music by Alan Bell. 24 W. 31st St., 2nd floor. 327-3107. 8 pm. \$5 members, \$6 nonmembers.

Presentation
Gay Saints Who Have Touched Our Lives, following service (7:30 pm), Integrity/Episcopal Gay Society, Church of St. Luke-in-the-Fields, Hudson at Grove St., 447-4427. 8:30 pm.

Wednesday, November 1

Anniversary Celebration
Sixth Anniversary reception for Dignity/NY follows mass for All Saints Day. 152 W. 66th St., 869-3050. 7:30 pm.

Thursday, November 2

Discussion
Promoting Positive Gay Images in the Straight Media. Speaker: Phil Carey of GAYSWEEK. West Side Discussion Group, 26 Ninth Ave., 242-1212. 8:30 pm. \$2.

Women's Discussion
Blanche Cook discusses her book *Crysal Eastman: On Women and Revolution*. Gay Women's Alternative, Universalist Church, Central Park West at 76th St., 532-8669. 8 pm. \$3. Women only.

Women's Concert
Paulette (a woman's band) will play at the Lesbians at Queens College coffeehouse. Wine and cheese. Queens College Student Union, Rm 208A, 65-30 Kissena Blvd., Flushing. 8-11 pm. \$1.

Bar Night
NYA Motorcycle Club meets at The Ramrod, 394 West St. 9pm-midnt. Men only.

Friday, November 3

Speaker
John Bucalo, of Lambda Independent Democrats, will speak following the service. Congregation Beth Simchat Torah, 55 Bethune St. (up courtyard ramp). 929-9498. 8:15 pm.

Saturday, November 4

Women's Dance
A dance for lesbians, sponsored by Gay People's Union at NYU. Top of the Park, Loeb Student Center. 8:30 pm. \$1 with NYU ID, \$2 others.

Sunday, November 5

Women's Discussion
Lesbian Resources. To be attended by members of lesbian groups in New York City. Lesbian Feminist Liberation, 243 W. 20th St., 691-5460. 3 pm. Women only.

Monday, November 6

Volunteer Night
You could win this week's door prizewhen you help out at GAYSWEEK. Come stuff envelopes, set type, write news, type letters: we can use all kinds of skills. Friendly, informal atmosphere. 216 W. 18th St., 8th floor. 929-7720. 6 pm onwards.

Tuesday, November 7

Women's Concert
The Varied Voices of Black Women. Music and poetry featuring Linda Tillery and band, Mary Watkins, Gwen Avery, Pat Parker. Call ahead for childcare. Medusa's Revenge, 10 Bleeker St. 989-6615. 7:30 pm. \$5 suggested donation.

General Election
For Gay's Sake, Vote. Polls open 6 am, close 9 pm.

Wednesday, November 8

Hearing
The General Welfare Committee of the New York City Council will hold a hearing on Intro 384 (the Gay Rights Bill) and possibly vote on its approval for introduction to the City Council. Hearing open to the public. City Hall, 10 am.

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AIRWICK LIQUID 3 VARIETIES DISINFECTANT REG. 73¢ 5-oz. btl.	JOY LIQUID DETERGENT 32-oz. btl.	\$ 1 39



The father.

likely to be controlled in his behavior. In my personal feelings, the homosexual has to learn control in a society that doesn't understand him, and probably he's a better officer or better performer within our system because of this matter of self-control. A homosexual, or any other individual, out of control has no place in our controlled Navy society because we do have to perform the vital mission of defending our country. Therefore, the homosexual without self-discipline is the same as heterosexuals who have to go out and rape women. Rape has no place in the Navy.

"Now, I am a man who lives in a world of regulations," Chaplain Berg continued. "I know what the regulations say and I respect the commanding officer who feels he must put an avowed homosexual on report and in a position of exposure. But as a clergyman in uniform, I certainly hope that this practice will sometime be discontinued. I know it can be done through the courts, but I personally respect my son and others who say that we prefer to work for changes from within the system if it is at all possible."

His Accused Son

As Chaplain Berg sat in a metal-armed chair in front of the five board members, his oldest of four children sat at another table with his defense counsel. Slightly built, with sandy hair and a blond mustache, the blue-eyed son clearly resembled his father. The fact that both wore the uniform of a naval officer accentuated the resemblance.

Vernon E. Berg III, a 1974 graduate of the US Naval Academy, had been selected by Vice Admiral Frederick C. Turner to become the Assistant Public Affairs Officer for the US Sixth Fleet aboard the USS Little Rock, the Sixth

A naval officer asked the chaplain to explain why then, when homosexuals are discovered, they are discharged.

"Panic regulations," replied Chaplain Berg decisively. "I think the biggest thing—and I am surprised my son didn't bring this out—I listened and I tried to find out what the Navy teaches young officers to do when they find out they have a homosexual in their division. The Navy teaches them nothing. The word 'homosexual' or 'bisexual' is never mentioned, as far as I can determine, once in the curriculum of the Naval Academy. Nothing is said either of a hearing. We are advancing hopefully into an age of enlightenment." Then, looking at his son who sat 15 feet away, Chaplain Berg spoke a little more slowly. "Hopefully, that will make such inquiries unnecessary in the future."

Gay Marines in Combat

One of the board members stated that in his personal experience, homosexuals were outcasts and that he couldn't understand how the Navy or the Marines would tolerate a known homosexual. Another officer asked Chaplain Berg if he knew of homosexual Marines who had served in combat with him in Vietnam.

"To my knowledge, yes," replied the chaplain. "Did that impair their ability to fight in combat?" asked a naval officer.

"Not at all," Chaplain Berg said. "In the Marines, we're talking about a Marine unit. When one of those guys in that small unit finds their buddy is a homosexual, and if anybody else tells on him, watch out. They will protect him.

"Why would a given unit of Marines, once they know a man, live with him, fight with him, watch friends die with him, what do they care what he does in his bedroom? It becomes unimportant, like color, or like male and female. Gosh, who cares?"

"All through my career," admitted Chaplain Berg, "the definition of the term 'homosexual' has been a struggle for me as I have tried to interpret it for the Command. What does it mean? Even for my own church services, when we all kneel in prayer for somebody, we put our arms around each other. When some of the Pentecostals have a wonderful experience, they speak in tongues and they hug each other. And, Lord, if we were to do that in the Navy, on a ship, they would throw us *all* off."

"So I get paranoid and bothered myself," continued Chaplain Berg. "When I hold a Marine in my arms and cry because he is dying, and I stroke his face and kiss him on the head, am I a homosexual?"

Tears flashed to the chaplain's eyes. His right hand quickly left the arm of the metal chair as he partially covered his face. The members of the board looked down or averted their eyes.

"Pardon me," resumed Chaplain Berg. "When I talk about Vietnam, I get out of control. When I talk about the Marines, I get out of control because I love them.

"What is a homosexual?" he asked the board in a voice that no longer reflected his painful recollections of giving last rites to Marines on the front lines in Vietnam. "Where does emotion and love stop, and perversity take up?"

One of the officers asked the chaplain if he disagreed with the military's general policy of excluding all homosexuals.

"Absolutely," Chaplain Berg exclaimed. "We used to burn witches because we thought they caused evil, and when we finally realized that there were no witches, we stopped burning them. We stopped hanging homosexuals years ago, but they used to do it. We used to hang blacks. God be praised, we stopped some of this idiocy."

The Navy's Response

Questioning Chaplain Berg, the board of officers stressed compliance with naval policies "regardless of what those regulations have to do with, regardless of whether the individual thinks these regulations are right or wrong." Obviously upset that the chaplain had questioned the merit of policies that automatically excluded all identified homosexuals, the board asked Commander Berg if he didn't feel that failure to conform to regulations was a "deception to the organization" as well as "illegal and immoral."

"I think it behooves us all to look at what we do," Chaplain Berg told the board. "We condemn blindly with prejudice and we must be careful whom we condemn."

When the Navy's attorney presented his final arguments at the Norfolk hearings, he asserted that Chaplain Berg was simply "a loving father who has unfortunately let his love for his son understandably interfere with his perceptions of military life." Every effort was made to qualify, disparage and negate the chaplain's testimony.

In heated reactions to news releases covering Chaplain Berg's testimony, several Navy officers telephoned authorities to recommend that the chaplain be removed from his position. An irate admiral demanded that action be taken against Chaplain Berg because of his outspoken testimony of undetected senior officers. Others wrote that he should not remain in the service or, at least, should not be promoted to higher rank in the future.

Among the documents provided Ensign Berg in his appeal of the Navy's discharge was a letter that had been sent to the Chief of Naval Personnel. A former Army man wrote a six-page complaint about the Navy's "demise due to the well-publicized 'perversion' and the testimony in the Berg case.

It would appear that Berg's father, a chaplain, has committed a far more moral violation than the son. When he has stated publicly that "even an admiral has admitted to homosexuality," this chaplain betrayed a supreme confidence. If anyone should be discharged unsuitably, it should be him. . . . This chaplain cast his own Navy in an extremely bad light.

Status of the Berg Case

In July 1977, Chaplain Berg was passed over for promotion to the rank of captain. In July 1978, despite excellent fitness reports and letters of commendations from his command, Chaplain Berg was passed over a second time for promotion, forcing him to retire at the rank of commander.

Ensign Berg was separated from the Navy on 3 June 1976 with an "other than honorable" discharge. Under the sponsorship of the American Civil Liberties Union and the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, the Berg case was appealed to the federal district court. Though describing the 24-year-old ensign as "a first-class, top-notch, efficient, well-trained, competent naval officer," Judge Gerhard Gesell ruled that the court had no basis for overturning the Navy's discharge or its homosexual policies.

Oral arguments were presented in May of this year before the Court of Appeals in Washington, DC. The decision in the Berg case is still pending.

Therefore, what began as one Navy officer's vendetta against Ensign Berg has mushroomed into an historic confrontation with the Pentagon and a landmark judicial case that has effected significant policy changes regarding the estimated 200,000 homosexual officers and enlisted personnel currently serving in the American armed forces. ■

TIME & MONEY

OPERA

Romance, 'Rigoletto,' Rudel, & Rimsky

BRUCE MICHAEL GELBERT

Metropolitan Opera: Werther by Jules Massenet, October 14; Rigoletto by Giuseppe Verdi, October 12

New York City Opera: Die Zaubertafel by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, October 11; Le Cog d'Or by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov, October 15

The Metropolitan Opera recently revived Jules Massenet's 1892 *Werther*, after Göthe, in Paul-Emlie Deber's production, with picturesque rococo settings by Rudolf Heinrich and basic staging recreated by Fabrizio Melano. The opera had been absent from the repertory since 1972. The score of *Werther*, like that of *Manon*, boasts more musical moments of true beauty and of convincing dramatic urgency than do those of such others of the composer's confections as, say, *Esclarmonde* and *Thais*. Typically, however, melodic fragments, variations on minor scales, and other filler, as well as syrupy-soggy orchestration, often substitute here for authentic inspired composition. This review is based on the October 14 third repetition of the season.

Conductor Julius Rudel, making his company debut with *Werther* and replacing the scheduled Richard Bonynge, treated this variable score with the same respect he accords *Manon* at the City Opera. Most of the soloists were introducing their portrayals this season for the first time here. Despite individual flaws, they constituted an ensemble of voices of the requisite lyric timbre but with the power to cut through the heavy, imitation-Wagnerian orchestral texture. Placido Domingo's impersonation of the melancholy romantic poet Werther showed sensitivity and he sang fairly lyrically. Some of his topmost notes were pressured and metallic but others were floated in a soft near *voix-mixte*. Elena Obrazasova was, in the early scenes, appropriately serene and lyrical as the level-headed, proper Charlotte, object of the lovesick Werther's affections, and gave her customary fiery performance in the more emotional final scenes. Betsy Norden contributed a spirited portrayal as Charlotte's young sister Sophie. Her light soprano had clarity but was lacking somewhat in vibrato. Dominic Cossa, returning to the company after several seasons' absence, as Albert, Charlotte's fiancé and, later, husband, had sung his part here previously. Though some of his voice's former polish is now absent, he generally sang well. Veteran Bass Ilaio Tajo was delightful in his cameo appearance as the bailiff, here called the justice of the peace. Charlotte and Sophie's father, Charles Anthony and, to a lesser extent, Andrij Dobransky were entertaining as the bailiff's cronies Schmidt and Johann.

The October 12 first hearing this season of Giuseppe Verdi's *Rigoletto*, in the John Dexter (direction)/Tanja Moisewitsch (designs) production introduced last October, featured Giuseppe Patané's welcome initial performance

here of the familiar score, Judith Blegen's first Gilda locally, and Kurt Moll's first Met Sparafucile.

The title part was taken by experienced dramatic baritone Cornell MacNeil. Though past his prime vocally, interpretively he remains a master, creating a striking, incisive characterization of the vindictive, tragic jester. Neil Shicoff, a young talent much-courted by the company, made a dashing appearance as the Duke of Mantua, but his sung performance is a not-as-yet-finished product. There is too much of an air of a Broadway music-theater singer "selling" a song about his delivery, an impression furthered by his open-throated, unsubtle vocalism. The role of Gilda was for years the province of high "twittering" coloratura sopranos. Toscanini opined that Zinka Milanov had the correct vocal weight for the part and recent years have seen a gradual move toward the more dramatic soprano Gilda. The part here, however, was taken by Judith Blegen, whose lightweight approach was either based on a decision that the character's youthfulness demanded such a timbre or dictated by a tessitura of uncomfortably low for her. She found the role's upper reaches as problematic as its lower ones. Her top notes were tentative, a climactic high D flat in the duet "Addio, addio, speranza ed anima" insecurely placed, and her "Caro nome" awkwardly phrased. Kurt Moll made a towering, sonorous presence as Sparafucile. Isola Jones's Maddalena was once again a vivid creation. John Cheek impressed as Montenero.

Patané's reading was an inspired one, a fresh, richly-colored tonal blend. The ugly lower-of-Babel unit set, a monstrosity at worst and an annoyance at best when seen from the upper regions of the house, disturbs not quite as much when viewed from a location nearer the performers, from which its unused portions can be better ignored.

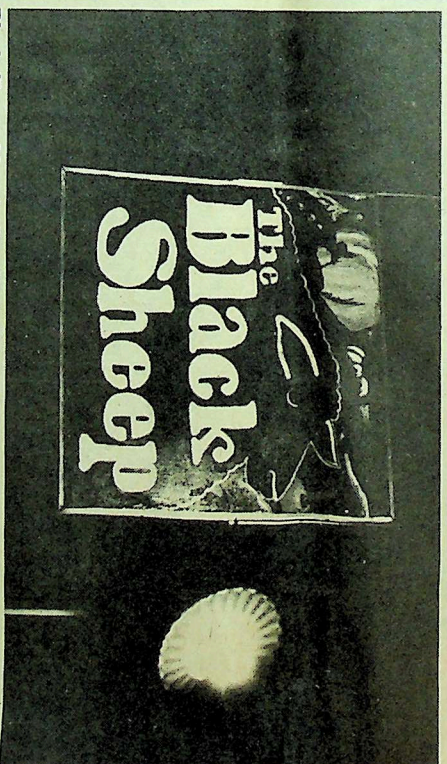
The initial *Die Zaubertafel* (*The Magic Flute*) of the season, on October 11, had Maestro Julius Rudel and the New York City Opera orchestra's sensitive, spirited realization of the splendid Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart score to commend it, but the vocalism was decidedly mediocre. As Pamina, Faye Robinson's high soprano sounded pinched and fluttery and evinced the expected clarity in only the uppermost notes and the well-supported piano passages. In her company debut, Judith Dickson sang the Queen of the Night's first act "O zittre nicht" in three distinct, unrelated and unattractive registers, improving marginally for the challenging Act Two "Der Hölle Rache." The music of the patriarchal priest Sarastro lies beyond Araberian's current vocal capacity. Appearing as Tamino for the first time, Gerald Gramame disclosed a pleasant enough lyric middle range but a thick, metallic high range. Thomas Jamerson made a lackluster Papageno, while the trio of Queen of the Night attendant ladies camped excessively. Lack of refined and unified sound characterized the choral contribution.

The sexist Masonic view of women in Emanuel Schikaneder's text is toned down to a certain degree in Ruth and Thomas Martin's quarter-of-a-century old English translation. The racism is entirely eliminated. The current staging, by

Rudel himself, and the 1966 Beni Montresor designs remain charming but are not in themselves sufficient to make a success of a performance thus stricken with vocal inadequacy.

The first *Le Cog d'Or*, of Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov, of the current NYCO season, on October 15, featured a cast largely familiar from the revival last spring in an amusing, if vocally variable, and orchestraally accomplished hearing. Gianna Rolandi's funny/sexuctive/sinister histrionic impersonation of the Queen of Shemakha and, in a way, pleasant lyricism, were marred by unfocused tone and a basically undisciplined singing approach more appropriate to the Broadway than the operatic stage. William Wildermet's humorous King Doodon was sung in rather resonant but unfortunately squeezed, explosive tone. Abraham Morales's Astrologer, though still somewhat tentative and lacking in ease in shifting from the upper-middle to the topmost register, generally showed im-

RESTAURANTS



Black Sheep. Photo by Rex Gardner.

Tending the Flock, At Last

DAVID WILLIAM LINGER

The Black Sheep 342 West 11th Street Telephone: 741-9772. Reservations necessary.

The Black Sheep is named after a dog, who is named something else. It is located way west on 11th Street, in an area not exactly famous for its "fine eating," but that doesn't seem to make any difference to the people waiting in line to eat there. It is something of a landmark in the relatively recent attempt by gay professionals to compete seriously with better restaurants in New York, and seems to be doing a remarkable job.

The Black Sheep is a pleasant place to dine; you're not quite sure, looking around the room, if you're in Maine or Provence, but you're definitely in the country, and it feels good. There are baskets of shallots and garlic hanging from a sturdy old stove, bouquets of dried herbs rustling against the walls, flowery dishes and porcelain chickens propped up on high shelves. Even the dinner service is rustic, and when your water is poured, it

provement, in this extremely high-lying, demanding role, over his previous performance. Muriel Greenspon's Amelfa, introduced here in 1967 when the production premiered, was again delightful, but her head tones had a tendency to spread and go off pitch. Marc Embree, new to the part of General Polkan, had impressed in the semi-professional Bel Cantò's *Auber Manon Lescaur* and New York Lyric's Pasateri *Washington Square* last season, but, judging from this performance and his mouthy *Zaubertafle* Speaker earlier in the week, he has not yet achieved ease in projecting to a larger house. Maria Spaccagna, Howard Hensel and Harlan Foss were the other soloists.

Conductor Imre Pállo's reading of the colorful score, with its endless Orientalisms, was once again an eloquent, dynamic one. Ming Cho Lee's imaginative fairytale settings enchanted once more and Ronald Bentley's staging was appropriately whimsical. ■

comes out of a glazed ceramic pitcher.

The relaxed atmosphere of the Black Sheep is shared by the staff, who welcome you, tell you what there is to eat, and then pretty much leave you alone; no pressure, no hurry. The policy of this restaurant is to provide more than just good food, and owner Michael Safdiyah has taken something of an immovable stance. He will serve nothing short of a six-course meal, and he wants every visit to the Black Sheep to be "an experience." While some might think the quantity of food they are expected to consume at this restaurant quite exaggerated, Michael does not. "Nobody ever walks out of here hungry," he says.

The menu is price-fixed, and runs from \$9.50 to \$14. All six courses are included, and at that the Black Sheep must be considered more reasonable than other local restaurants in its class.

The first course is refreshing and unusual. It is a bowl of cool, crisp, fresh vegetables served with aioli, a smooth provincial garlic mayonnaise. Each vegetable has been treated individually—some are steamed, some raw—and each has the unique texture that it should. The sauce is so good that it's usually gone long before the vegetables; I suppose you could ask for more.

The second course, cream of leek and watercress soup, seemed, slightly under-

stated when I tasted it for the first time; by the second time this soup seemed very tired. Although I suppose it would be classified as "discreet" or "classical" by some, I really don't think it merits the permanent place it occupies on an otherwise interesting menu.

The third course is a slice of spicy country pâté, and this makes up for the lack of pizzazz in the leek soup. It's rich and tasty, if a bit grainy from all the liver that goes into it, and it gives you the perfect punch to set you up for what's coming next.

After the pâté comes your entrée. You can choose from a wide list of daily offerings or a smaller list of specials, and you'll invariably come up with something interesting. On the first night I chose a whole red snapper, stuffed with sautéed spinach, covered in mushrooms and served with a sort of hollandaise sauce. The fish was as delicious and delicate as it sounds, free of superfluous flavors and perfectly broiled, but the hollandaise had separated and was not as smooth as it should have been.

My friend across the table ordered a roast duck in white grape and cognac sauce with watercress. The duck was a little less crisp than he had expected, but the flavor was excellent, and the garnish of watercress was a welcome tart taste. Both the fish and the duck were presented beautifully, with the same care and attention to detail evident in the decor and service at the Black Sheep.

Entrées ordered on other occasions in-

cluded a steak au poivre, a truly excellent steak served in an unusually creamy pepper sauce (the waitress charmingly suggested that this was the best piece of meat in the house), and quail with chestnuts. The quail were sweet, as usual, but less sweet than usual, and the accompanying starchy sauce of chestnuts, red wine, bacon and shallots, was a nice change.

After one of these entrées, most people begin to flag. Even the simple salad of butter lettuce which follows seems too much, but it is good (comment overhead: "He really knows how to pick his leaves"), and will probably make you feel healthy.

The last course is dessert, and it is offered either very dubiously or quite triumphantly, depending on how full you look. There are many desserts—tarts, cakes, compotes, pies, fruits and even a hazelnut daquoise, a fantastic combination of slowly toasted rounds of meringue and pastry cream. I tasted two of these desserts, a tart and a Sicilian rum cake, on my first visit. Both were excellent, but on the second night I couldn't manage it. Just too much. I finished my steak, whispered to my waitress that I would just like a cup of espresso.

"Have some fruit," she said, with some thing like tenderness. "It's very light."

So I did. And it was.

The Black Sheep is open from 6:30 pm to midnight daily, with Sunday brunch from 10 am to 2 pm. Visa, Mastercard, and American Express cards accepted. ■

DANCE

Out of the Grab-Bag

AARON COHEN

Lakshmi Shanmukham
New York University Theatre, September 22, 1978

William Dunas (The Trust Co.: Dances)

American Theatre Laboratory, September 23, 1978

Dance Theatre of Harlem

Wollman Auditorium, Columbia University, September 26 and 29, 1978

David Gordon/Pick Up Co.

American Theatre Laboratory, September 28, 1978

When the ninth generation of a family of Indian dancers and musicians makes her New York debut, it is an occasion not to be missed. All the more so when the artist, is the daughter of the most esteemed practitioner of her art in the modern era. I first saw Lakshmi Shanmukham when she provided vocal accompaniment for the Bharata Natyam concert her mother, Balsaraswati, gave in Town Hall about five years ago. She struck me then as being extremely beautiful. When the curtains first parted at this performance, Lakshmi's smile and dimples were reassurance that my first impression had been well remembered.

This introduction is by way of avoiding saying I was disappointed in Lakshmi's dancing. Her mother's shadow seemed to lay over my perception of her, not the least because Balsaraswati was also there on stage as part of the musical ensemble (along with other members of the family). Certainly Lakshmi's *mudras* (hand gestures) were as eloquent as one might wish, which is half the battle for a Bharata Natyam dancer. However, the *nritya* portion (pure dance movements) was meager in the *Varnam*, which is more ideally a balanced combination of the two elements. I also found her facial gestures (*rasas*) not as varied as they might have been in the first part of the program, though their range grew in the three *Padam*s and the *Sloka* of the second part.

Tiliana, as the program stated, is "a rhythmic exposition of pure dance, using

intricate footwork." Lakshmi's anklebells rang out clearly enough, but her legs and arms were a bit lackadaisical; she seemed to have difficulty in straightening her elbows to make sufficient contrast with the diamond position (arms raised overhead). She also showed a general reluctance to work with the space behind her, overhead, and to the sides. A good dancer she undeniably is. Perhaps, with time, Lakshmi will acquire the individuality needed to let her stand alongside Balsaraswati as a paragon of spirituality and technical mastery.

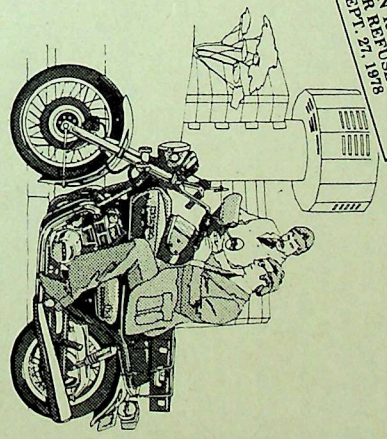
It is a brave choreographer (William Dunas) who will undertake to set each of the movements of Beethoven's Piano Sonata No. 21 in C Major ("Waldstein") and Chopin's Sonata No. 3 in B minor as solos for different dancers. It is also a most accommodating concert pianist (Van Zandt Ellis) who will consent to accompany dance. Bravery and accommodation, though, are not the only elements necessary to the success of such a venture. It should be taken for granted that the dancers selected will be equal to the performing requirements. It should also be taken for granted that the choreography is strong enough to sustain interest in itself with the distraction of such strong and familiar music. All of which goes to show that nothing about a dance performance should be taken for granted.

I was not fully aware of how weak the choreographic ideas were till the first dancer was followed by someone else. All the steps were almost pure *danse decolée*, in *enchainements* that might be fun in a classroom, but they could not seem to coalesce into a larger design. Chopin fared a bit better than Beethoven; then again, Ludwig never could write decent ballet music. Fine piano playing made the evening enjoyable if not stimulating.

Repeatedly, I could not help but speculate about what an even greater range Katherine Dunham might have been able to explore had she had available a company as technically clean and brilliant (and well disciplined) as the Dance Theatre of Harlem during the years hers was the most potent influence in black dance in the United States. Whether they do *entrées/chats* or hip swivels, these dancers are all one could want both technically and theatrically. If

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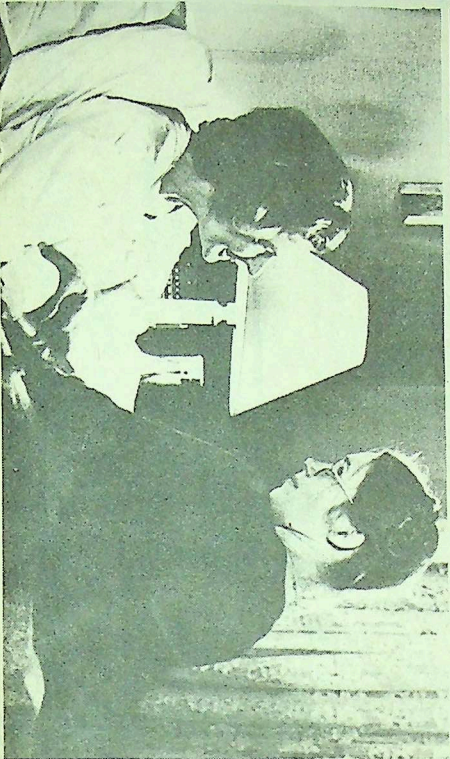
All Welcome!

Eucharistic Catholic Church—1946
Bishop Robert M. Clement

the repertoire they were seen in at this engagement was not of uniformly worthwhile caliber, it nevertheless displayed them well.

On the first program, I particularly liked *Shapes of Evening* (by Carlos Carvajal), which fulfilled the modest goal of recreating in dance terms the opening and closing of a lotus, and *Doña* (by Royston Maldoom), an eerily zombie-like piece mostly for women that impressed with its use of the weblike costumes. *Troy Game* (by Robert North) showed off the macho dexterity of the company's men with good humor, but it really did not challenge them to do more than settle for easy effects. The second program started with *Variations Sérieses* (by Choo San Goh), set to Mendelssohn, Op. 54. It clearly was the best-made piece offered in this short season, though it was hampered by the small stage and with having the accompanist's piano take up a good deal of the performing space. All of these works were New York City premieres.

MOVIES



Ingrid Bergman and Liv Ullmann in "Autumn Sonata."

Mother

RICHARD MCGUINNESS

Autumn Sonata written and directed by Ingmar Bergman. With Ingrid Bergman and Liv Ullman.

In *Autumn Sonata*, I think Ingmar Bergman shows some evidence of being affected by his exile from Sweden, of the diluting effects of being cast into the international film scene. The film is characteristically modest in scope, but under the weight of important stars Ingrid Bergman and Liv Ullman, as well as working under unfamiliar production conditions, Bergman seems to have trouble precisely reproducing his usual brand of claustrophobic drama.

In outline the film is pure Bergman. Liv Ullman is present to give us his traditional mousy, sexless wife of the self-doubting parson. And with the arrival of Ingrid Bergman's concert pianist-mother, the film takes us all the way from the usual brisk reunion of well-meaning neurotics to the inevitable emotional cruelty and emptiness. In an anguished climactic scene, Liv Ullman desperately accuses her mother of every sin under the sun—from adultery to causing the multiple sclerosis of her—Liv's—sister, to almost every kind of loveless behavior a neglected child could experience from an imperious independent parent. The silence following this nasty explosion leaves us in a typically Bergman mood of unpurged, shame-filled sobriety.

The Bergman blueprint is followed to the letter, but the acting gimmicks and dialogue (Bergman's own) appreciated by art audiences years ago for their stark believability now seem like a collection of relics. The most common directoral device is still to have the actors aim their denuded faces into the camera. The na-

Watch out for the Dance Theatre of Harlem's Broadway season in February and March.

Dance is more than merely any combination of movement and sound that comes to mind—even to the minds of those with talent. David Gordon failed to convince me I should stick around to find out whether or not he had talent after the first piece of his program, *Chair*. Gordon is of the mental-debris school of choreography. All those vague, half-formed ideas most people have around the age of five, when it first dawns on them that the world consists of more than the immediate environment, were included in this presentation. By acting out such regressions, Gordon undoubtedly comes up with material that has great potential value to a therapist. However, I wore my critic's cap to this performance, so I declined becoming further involved in his brand of self-indulgent conceptual infantilism. ■

ture of the dialogue and the tone of the readings—with the exception of Ingrid Bergman's hearty bantering—is textlike. Letters are recited or lengthily descriptions of spouses' characters or explanations of the speakers' past lives are given. The dialogue is spare without being plain; something like "We sat and talked and played the harpsichord" comes out stilted and almost funny.

Actresses who are larger than life, both Liv Ullman and Ingrid Bergman convey oversized qualities that unbalance Bergman's overprecise world. For the first half of the movie, Liv Ullman seems intent on parodying her earlier work with him. For her Ingmar Bergman schtick here her equipment includes little-girl braids, strained, bespectacled eyes, drab, bulky clothes and an immature little voice, all of which are thrust at us with such obvious hamming that we can neither take our eyes off her nor take her seriously. One keeps thinking, as one watches. See Liv the International Star Play Drudge for Ingmar, her mentor from a long time ago. Even when her character becomes more vindictive midway in the film and Ullman begins to develop some kind of credibility as an actress, she keeps falling back into the overfamiliar Bergman method—drinking wine to make her honest, she lets a little of it dribble down her chin, in addition, she transmits a homely Swedish throat sound every time she swallows.

While Liv Ullman distorts the Ingmar Bergman style by making her Master's mannequins too large, Ingrid Bergman brings to the role of dragon mother a different style altogether. She is unapologetic, her voice is hard and, most importantly for this film, she conveys a sense of worldly life and interests refreshingly outside those of her ugly duckling daughter. In fact, until Ullman blasts her with all barrels, she doesn't fit at all into the (Ingmar) Bergman tradition of successful but slightly seedy and gull-ridden pa-

rents. Though she is a shattered old woman for a time near the end, the instant she leaves Liv and gets on the train she puts her worldly mask back in place in a way that seems to reduce her daughter's exercise in mother-killing to just another of the world's slings and arrows.

Though the script gloomily emphasizes her unloving qualities, the character Bergman actually plays is quite sane, and one gets the sense from her performance that there is a tough but still agreeable life to be lived outside (Ingmar) Bergman's movies. Ultimately, her presence throws a shadow over the confused neurotic Ullman plays and, indeed, over the neurotic ventilations occurring in almost all Ingmar Bergman's movies. In her big scene here, Ullmann wrenches all her bad feelings out in front of her mother. She loses control for what seems like the first time in her character's life, and it is believable and terrifying in an almost embarrassing way. This is the sort of halting regurgitation of bile and venom at which the director has always excelled. But despite its effectiveness, Ullmann's fit has had little point, has been of little use. After it, she seems to have no place to go except the therapist's couch, where this kind of sick explosion can be explored and used. But the only thing Bergman can think of for her to do is have her recite the truism—carried over from "Through a Glass Darkly" 16 years later—that we should just help one another. She is allowed to avoid completely the reality of her neurotic nature, as well as the responsibility for the harm she does because of it. But this has always been in the nature of Bergman. He releases purely neurotic confusion in his films and then lets this dead-end misery just sit there, as if this enormous directorial copout were an example of pure truth laid before the audience.

Bergman's limitations are more obvious in *Autumn Sonata* because this whole enterprise is less tightly held together than most of his earlier films. The angst, mannerisms, monologues are still there but the work is less concentrated and claustrophobic. Sven Nykvist's photo-

graphy here, unlike his dreary northern black and white of the past, has a pleasant, muted, dark-beige look to it. And of course the acting of Liv Ullman and Halvar Bjork, who plays her husband, is broader, lacking the etched quality of more serious Bergman. Though this is the work of a closed-in mind, there are nonetheless moments in *Autumn Sonata* when its director allows the daylight of the outside world to distract him. And this daylight comes mostly from Ingrid Bergman. There is a scene where she is expressing unconscious sadism toward her sensitive daughter by criticizing her piano playing. Instead of the distaste we might feel, we watch rapily as Ingrid Bergman, conveying something of the Chopin piece, how best to display its pain.

As she finishes talking she begins to play and it is pure magic, a fulfillment of what her words had been telling us. Although Ullmann's hurt is prominent throughout the scene, Ingmar Bergman has allowed the focus to shift from his own dead-end preoccupations to a sense of values outside the film. Ingmar Bergman allows Ingrid Bergman to give a sense of space and freedom to *Autumn Sonata*.

Though the film is less introspective than the Bergman norm and tinged with self-parody, and the quality of being a showpiece for its stars, I still enjoyed it as much if not more than his respectable work of his recent serious period—*Through a Glass Darkly*, *Shame*, *The Silence*, et al. There's one scene in the film—when Ingrid Bergman comes out to dinner in a flaming red dress—that puts this particular Bergman in focus for me. Disoriented at first, I then recalled seeing a very similar scene recently, also at the Baronet. The earlier scene was in *Heritors*, and it was Maureen Stapleton, who appeared before a dried-up family in flaming apparel. Ingrid Bergman's dress is just as shocking and life-giving as Maureen Stapleton's, but oddly enough the effect in the Ingmar Bergman is much less worked on, less Ingmar-Bergman-like. ■

WITHOUT COMMENT

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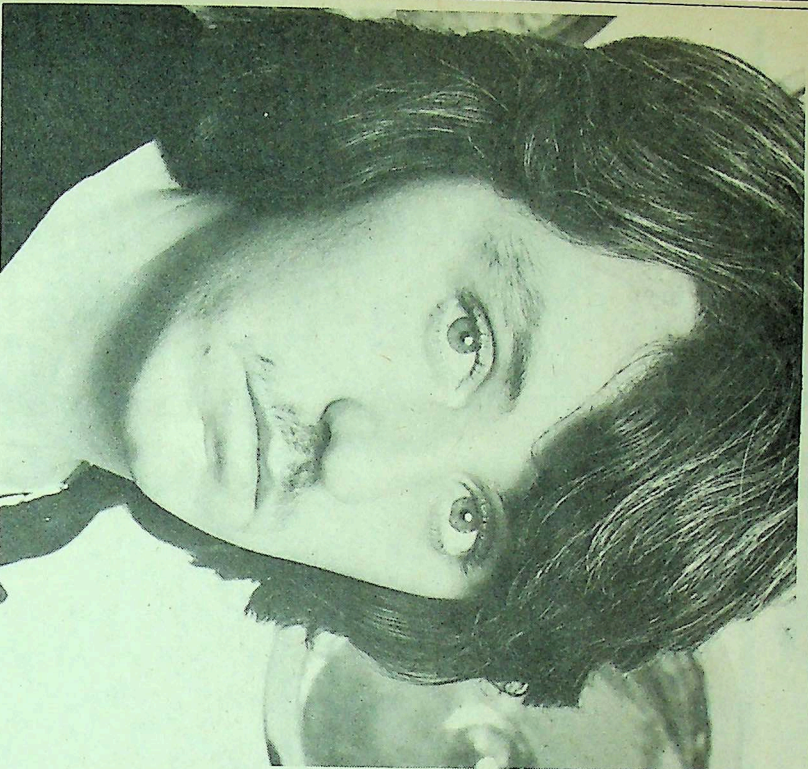
Pornography and obscenity seem to be overtaking our newsstands. Innocent youngsters are being sexually assaulted to satisfy the perverted needs of homosexuals... and thousands of unborn babies are being slaughtered because of our liberal abortion-on-demand laws. If something isn't done soon, God will judge our nation severely! This is why I'm launching a crusade to CLEAN UP AMERICA—and I desperately need your support. Will you use the enclosed ballot and I vote against homosexuality, pornography and abortion-on-demand?

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In Christ's Service,
Jerry Falwell



Jean-Marc Cerrone



Gregg Diamond

Thinker's Disco; Manu's 'Big Blow'

BRIAN CHIN

Much of Cerrone's most striking work displays a sense of social consciousness arising both from emotion (Don Ray's "Got to Have Loving") and imagination (his own "Supernature"). The lead cut of *Cerrone IV: The Golden Touch* (Cotillion), "Je Suis Music," is serious business, pushing his most complex lyrical statement yet with synthesizers carrying both melody and percussion. Leading in with echoes of "Love in C Minor" and "Give Me Love," the staccato rhythm breaks to Cerrone's shimmering drums and builds again with hollow-sounding bass and synthesizer hisses. Guitar and horns decorate the track, which rates high both on thoughtfulness and dance impact. "Rocket in the Pocket" has a funk-rock sound, ringing with multiple guitars and accented with cowbell and

recent *Sarcus*iser. "Chains" recalls Zachary Sanders, done across fuzzy guitar and bass and unison shouting. Guitars and a screaming noise pan back and forth, while two sets of cymbals play in opposite channels. "Cream (Always Rises to the Top)" rides a gulping bass acoustic and electric guitars. A straining low voice leers in a breakthrough, which, along with a whispered retrain, sounds rather lewd to me. Only the rhythm section appears on "When the Shit Hits the Fan," stomping by at a fast clip with rocky electric piano and guitars, shaker and handclaps appearing later in the cut. My favorite is "Paradise," boasting hoigeous, bitersweet harmonies and a woozy, waver-ing high unison retrain. Casanets and comb accompany the male falsetto lead. "Press Up to the Boogie" suggests the sound of Diamond's earliest hits, with a dense, humming piano-based arrangement that borrows a bit from K.C., while a fuzz guitar and phased voices bring it up to date. *Hot Butterfly* asserts its identity with its rock overtones, at the same time retaining the pop gloss and finesse (with an edge of hysteria) that marks all of Gregg Diamond's work.

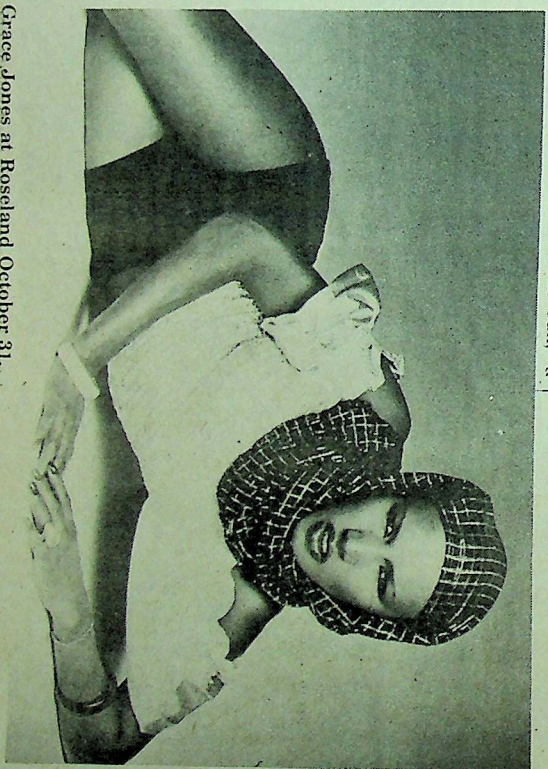
Breaking fast is James Wells's *My Claim to Fame* (AVI), produced and co-written by English disc jockey-archivist Ian Levine. Diverse influences of Sixties and Seventies soul show up in the prominent guitar riffs and James Brown-sounding trombone lines in the title cut, which leads with an imaginative breakdown of percussion, guitar and sweetening. The song's 16 minutes are focused on by an invincible hookline. "My claim to fame is your love for me," which is draped with carefully scored horns and strings, stretched by the strangest modulations and changes (Levine insists on writing his own songs) and punched across with maddening rhythm breaks (note also the crazy percussion passages of Evelyn Thomas's "I Wanna Make It On My Own" (Casablanca) and "Never Let Go" by Eastbound Expressway (AVI), both currently poised for club and radio breakthrough in New York). Also receiving play is "True Love is My Destiny," rather more cohesively written and given a very appealing synthesizer line. Two guitars play around each other, while the bass undulates sinuously. And Levine knows how to put a break together. Another well-crafted British product is Delegation's *The Promise of Love*, a collection of ten well-written soul songs, two of which, the title track and "Soul Trip-pin," have appeared on a Shadybrook disco disc. Other possibilities for lengthened remix might be the semi-mellow "Love is Like Fire," swaying with chunky guitar and a pushing bass line, and "Let Me Take You to the Sun," a

hotter piano-based cut.

Other international disco includes a cut that flabbergasted Manu Dibango's "Big Blow." Dibango, one will recall, recorded the seminal disco hit, 1973's "Soul Makossa," and catalyzed everything (yes, *everything*) that followed. "Big Blow" was an enormous hit in the British soul market, pounding through with riffin'g guitars, alternating ensemble horns with Dibango's sax, all overlaid with his scat-along and adlib in his own Donata language. The flip, "Aloka Party," threatens to burn up with sizzling, high hat and comb percussion, with wah-wah and electric piano hurtling by. There's just enough time for a wild break and tambourine to send off the cut. Recorded in Boston, but possessing a similar Afro-cosmopolitan sound is Jo Bissos' *Love Somebody* (Marini), whose title cut eases in with tweeting harmony and a walking bass passage, suddenly leaping into a hot tambourine and cowbell break. The chorus sighs and squeaks, the bass player gets *down* further and further and the synthesizers get wilder and wilder. Eleven minutes can barely contain the steam generated. A sleeper, perhaps, but I'd dance to it.

El Coco's *Dancing in Paradise* (AVI) has the clean, classy, vaguely mysterious sound of Rinder and Lewis's previous productions, highlighted by the vocals of co-writer Merria Ross. The title hit is accompanied by "Afrodestia," a drum-punctuated synthesizer instrumental, lightened with a beautiful string melody and a breezy title chant. My own favorite is the sly "Ugly People," stumbling in on synthesizer bass and cowbell, with a shouted chorus and coy verses. That cut, I think, would add some humanity to a playlist. More darkly ironic is "Coco Kane," leading with three synthesizer lines and an echo shout, jumping and jittering all the way through a bass and piano break. The pun is noted with a sigh, and *Dancing in Paradise* gladly welcomed as a meticulously executed and rather canny new offering from a reliable source. Nice work.

Ask and it's done: glad to report the disco disc remix of two wonderful cuts, Funkadelic's "One Nation Under a Groove" is now over 11 minutes long; a longer performance, I think, although instrumental and percussion breaks are created earlier in the cut, a Warners disco disc. Richie Rivera has extended Zulema's vibrant "Change." (London) removing reverberation from the lead vocal and adding instrumental and break passages, nearly doubling the original time. Zulema scored some of the earliest disco hits; it's great to see her out with material that lives up to the fresh energy of the early Seventies disco underground. ■



Grace Jones at Roseland October 31.

Fifty-one Percent

SANDRA TRIMBLE

Not Fifty-one Percent
Vol. 1, No. 1



Diana Ross. Photo by Walter Friedman.

Rhesus' Monkeyshines

Dr. Christine Orzick, researcher with the Monkeyshines Institute of Simian Behavior, is beginning a new project to determine the cruising patterns of lesbian rhesus monkeys. "I've always been fascinated by the little devils," said Christie (as she's known to her friends). "On a good night, one of them can pack away a quart of Jack Daniels and still perform. And I adore the little keys they wear on their little jeans. I'm thrilled, just thrilled that the money came through."

But Christie, who holds a PhD in DNA from MIT, would not disclose the source of the project's funding. "Let's just say it's someone who digs monkeys."

If you are, or are close personal friends with, a lesbian rhesus monkey, you can contact Dr. Orzick at the Monkeyshines Institute, 434 Curry Drive, Old Delhi, India #26. You'll be helping to dispel some stereotypes that have been borne for ages by a much maligned group of swell simians.

"Totaled Women" to Join Dyke Commune

Mirabel Mogen, whose book *Complete Woman* brought her instant fame and a passel of dough, has announced that she is leaving her husband and children. "I just couldn't hack it anymore," Mogen told one of GAYSWEEK's typically unrelatable sources. "All that Saran Wrap and fallen soufflées. And those damned brats." When questioned about her future plans, Mogen, who is known for her gleaming Crest smile, grimaced and shook her fist. "I'm going to join a lesbian commune in Kentucky. As soon as I settle my affairs, I'm splitting." She added that the rumors about her relationship with the rightist-activist Phyllis Shoofly are "pure bunk." Said Mogen, "We're just good friends. She goes her way and I go mine."

Former Pope to Headline at Copa

The recently elected Captain of the Holy

Another Voice

DAVID ROTHENBERG

Gay Teachers

Gay teachers in the New York City area are of two minds about the Briggs Initiative. That is, if you only talk to two gay teachers. If you speak with a third or a fourth, you might discover that the city's instructors are of three or four minds concerning the impending California axe.

Not surprisingly, there is no consistent gay viewpoint of the potential threat of California's Proposition 6. The perspectives are as wide as the Napa Valley, ranging from passionate fear to total indifference.

Typical is a 33-year-old, quasi-closeted male teacher, a veteran of nine years in Manhattan high and elementary schools. He stated, "I am aware that there is a possibility of some legislation in California but I didn't know what its name was. That in itself should indicate that I do not view it as a threat to me."

Quite different from Joe Zogby, chairman of the English department at John Dewey HS in Brooklyn. Zogby hopes that the Briggs Initiative will create "a militancy among NYC school teachers." He is well aware of all the nuances of the Briggs bill and is gravely concerned about its probable passage. "I think in terms of attitude and precedent. It will greatly affect teachers everywhere," says Zogby, who has taught in the NYC school system for 17 years.

I inquired of the aforementioned closeted teacher what was the talk around his school. He responded, "Where I teach, I know that some of my colleagues are gay. My friends on the faculty consist of gays and straights. Some of my close friends they know I'm gay, irrespective of what they themselves are, and that depends on the closeness of our friendship. There has been no discussion among any of them about the California thing. Now concerning New York's City Council bill, there was a lot of conversation at the time of Anita Bryant. I haven't heard much of anything since then."

It was pointed out that the spirit behind the Briggs Initiative, and one prevailing across the country, is that homosexual teachers are a threat to school children. He observed, "In my nine years as a teacher, I have never heard of a homosexual teacher having a thing with a student, though it probably exists somewhere. I have heard of heterosexual incidents with students. Most of them are things you can figure out just by watching a relationship. I do know of one woman teacher who has assignments with her high school boy students."

At a recent meeting of New York City's Gay Teachers Association, there was a lengthy exchange about the implications of the pending California bill—and its ripple effects here on the east coast.

The GTA is composed of several hundred teachers and principals from the five boroughs, activists and well-closeted tutors. Unlike most other gay groups, GTA seems comfortably and evenly composed of men and women. Their common denominator is a collective commitment to good education and the protection which they seek for themselves and their fellow homosexual teachers.

The GTA discussion made it clear that its members were sensitive to the implications beyond the Briggs bill—that homosexual persons are perceived as a sexual threat, not only as aggressors but if they are seen by students as role models. Meryl Friedman, GTA's co-spokesperson, is a 33-year-old, 13-year veteran

of Brooklyn's JHS #111. She states that she has never heard of a gay teacher being involved with a student but, like most of those at the GTA meeting, was cognizant of heterosexual affairs between male teachers and female students. Ms. Friedman added, "Even the heterosexual teacher-student dating is rare, but the comments heard are almost daily: such as 'She's got some pair for a 14-year-old' or 'I wouldn't mind getting a hold of that one.'"

Responding to the fear of gay role models, Friedman suggests that it is important for gay youth to have open gay teachers and that "it is also vital for straight kids to have the same opportunity. White kids deserve to have black role models. We'll never get past our prejudices and ignorance and petty hates if we do not have positive images."

A suburban instructor who lives in a small community does not see his homosexuality to be an issue and is not concerned about the Briggs Initiative. "I don't feel threatened. I don't think it will pass. It's just not an issue at my school." He did express more concern about the slight pressure he is beginning to feel as an unmarried 31-year-old.

Recently he was disciplining a teenager in the school and was startled when the youth—in a burst of anger—called him a "fag." It was pointed out to him that "fag" was a frequently used term of derision and did not indicate any specific knowledge, on the student's part, of the teacher's sexual orientation. That information served as a mixed blessing.

While there is a multitude of interpretations of the Briggs Initiative, among gay teachers there is a greater unanimity of intent, should it pass.

A young elementary school principal does not see the bill itself as a threat. He remarks, "It is unconstitutional. Even Reagan is against it." Yet should it become a reality, he sees it as the issue which might provoke him to surrender the security of anonymity and the closet.

Another teacher added, "So many of us who won't use our names are halfway out of the closet already. Most of our close friends and relatives know that we are gay. You can no longer bottle up your life. When you get halfway out, it is virtually impossible to go back in. Briggs might give us the push."

A lesbian reading instructor, who has taught in Brooklyn schools for a decade, offered the perspective that "the children aren't the concern in all of the talk about gay teachers. The adults fear their own sexuality. In all my years, I never heard that a gay teacher had an affair with a student. It's the heterosexual men who are having affairs with female students. The legislation is really being addressed to gay men. They don't even know lesbians exist, much less consider them a threat. But we would suffer just as gay men would."

Activist Marc Rubin reflects on his 23 years as a NYC teacher (now in special education at Charles Evans Hughes High School in Manhattan), "This bill is a threat to all of us, not just to teachers, not just gays. I don't think any minority group is safe." Rubin told his fellow teachers at the GTA meeting that "Democracy is majority rule with protection for basic democratic principles. When one is threatened, all are threatened."

And one woman made an aside: "Whenever I put up a notice on the bulletin board of a meeting for gay teachers, it is pulled down by the next day."



"You don't have to be a house to be haunted"

—Harry Katoukas

"Being a witch is like royalty... You have to inherit it from someone"

—Judith Rossner

"I was almost November, when upon every street All the studs were stirring to the disco beat."

Earrings were hung upon the ears of a knave In hope that Tallulah would turn in her grave.

—Author Unknown
(Found scribbled on discarded copy of *Drummer*)

Yes, Virginia, it is Halloween time again. And even though your derriere is still bumping to the Pine-teadance-sambas pumping through your mind, all I can say is, "Get over it." In fact, go procure for yourself a pumpkin, get out your switchblade, and start carrying. Some not-arduous-to-cut features are: a Terry Thomas smile, a Nanette Fabray nose, and two Madame Jagger pinpoint pupils.

As for parties, as always you have options. You can float on into Steve Rubell's Studio 54 (Rumor has it that Steve's dressing as Patty Arbnuckle, A bottle fetish, maybe?), spook up the evening with the coltal Ms. Holly Woodlawn



There and Back

BRANDON JUDELL
Photographs by Alfred Germain

Dressing Up

at Ice Palace 57, bewitch an unhitched soul at Roseland, or buy Mechtoshes, throw them in a bucket of water and have a shindig of your own.

Costumes? You must be careful if you dress as Joan Crawford. All and sundry will think you have a Bonwit's credit card and did not come as anything in particular. Better decide on her daughter Christina. Don a little white party frock, tear it, and rub all exposed areas of skin with rose thorns. Egypt will also be very vogue this year, what with Tut, Thomas Hoving's doodlings, and Sadat. If you do decide to go Nile, please! nothing is tackier than a toga with Adidas.

"In," celebrity get-ups: Dolly Parton, Arthur Treacher, Gloria Grahame (but don't go to the same party as Arthur Bell,



Who needs two G.G.s?), Maria Ouspenskaya, Sartre, and Norma McLain Stoop.

"Out" celebrity get-ups: Dame May Whitty, the Fonz, Helen Twelvetrees, Mr. Purdie or Mr. Carvel, Dorothy Hammill, and the Kingston Trio.

If you are into Surrealism, Baalhim, or acryllies scoot on over, as Emerald City's host Frank O'Dowd and illustrator Toby Donsberger did, to Brooks-van Horn and Eaves Costume Company for the most chic or wanton outfits you could not sew together yourself.

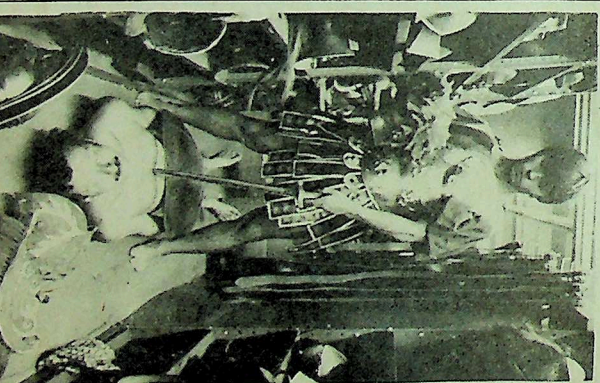
Brooks-van Horn, 117 West 17th Street, 989-8000. Ask for the incredibly personable Burt Stillman or Kevin



Philips to advise you on fulfilling your All Hallows's needs. There are three astonishing floors here chock full of goodies from your favorite shows (see *Mary Martin's Hello, Dolly!* gown being fingered by Toby in photo), monster and animal outfits, wigs and footwear. This is the largest costume house in the world. Prices range from \$35 to \$100, depending on complexity.

Eaves Costume Company, Inc., 423 West 55th Street, 757-3730. Around since 1863, Eaves houses over 165,000 fantasies for you to dream in. Used for such movies as *The Wiz*, *Buffalo Bill and the Indians*, and *The Great Gatsby*, if you want it they have it here. For help, ask for Raymond with his 18 years of experience in the field. Mr. Johnson has more years, but less patience. Prices start at \$25.

Make-Up Center, Ltd., 150 West 55th Street, 977-9494. Whether you want a fake nose, wart or Texas dirt powder, go no farther. Also, there's stage blood, black tooth wax, every shade of lipstick and sometimes Myrna Loy (as customer) here. So if you want to appear as Penelope Tree or Lon Chaney, Jr., the Make-Up Center has the finishing touches you'll need. On Saturdays, Ira is a great authority. Otherwise feel safe with the whole staff. ■



Letters

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to do with preventing violence as rerouting police car patrol routes. Like passage of Intro 384.

Manford's analysis of the gay movement is, I think, right on target, though I think his prescription for remedying the problems is inadequate, and I think he is somewhat out of touch as well. Where he sees the movement "troubled by factionalism," I see simple diversity. Part of the growing sophistication of the gay and lesbian community lies in its tolerance of diversity. We cannot and should not all be "Activists," if one means by that term something more than simply being aware of our political self-interests and acting on those self-interests when the opportunity routinely presents itself, as in voting. Those who would organize politically do so because it is their appropriate means of expressing their gay identity and their commonality with other gay people. Others make that same statement by playing softball, others by participating in gay and lesbian cultural events, others by acting cooperatively in gay business and professional activities, some simply by telling family, friends and work-mates who they are. Let us celebrate our diversity.

Among the "Activists" this diversity embraces most of the normal (and fading) left-right continuum. It is not unusual or even troublesome that organizations have grown up at several points along the spectrum (except perhaps at the far right). In fact, it tends to confirm the hope that many of us have that what we are dealing with here is human need and not just a political/ideological question. Just as the many political organizations are not in any sense "representative" of the gay community, none of us having been elected or selected by more than a few hundred gay men and women at most, neither are the issues which these organizations choose to address nor the specific goals pursued "representative" of the wishes of the gay community. They are nothing more than the best judgments of men and women largely of good will who have an affinity for political organization. But let us not underestimate that either. None of us can be all things; we must depend upon others to help shape our political thinking, just as we seek the guidance of others on aesthetic, personal and professional issues. What is quite remarkable is that there has been such a unanimity of feeling for the past several years in the gay community that we need the protection of law to be truly integrated into the larger community, that is the way and the lay of our land. And we agree that that protection will make easier the long-range task of re-educating the larger society about who we are, and, if I may be presumptuous, about the nature and quality of human relationships generally.

If I read him correctly, Manford does not disagree with this larger goal; he does believe that the path on which we have traveled for the last several years, of securing passage in the City Council of civil rights legislation, is less effective than would be efforts to pass a Charter-amending referendum question, and perhaps even dangerous, in that the Intro will spawn a referendum before we are ready to tackle it head on.

The Intro has been a rallying point, an organizational tool, a means of re-educating our neighbors, and, most importantly perhaps, a means of educating ourselves about the workings of politics in New York City. This "cause" has generated an increasingly sophisticated political activity in our community, and should not be discarded easily. In fact, in early discussions at NYPAC meetings about whether to pursue passage even in the face of possible defeat or, even worse, a losing referendum, discussions which

were lengthy and serious, the unanimous conclusion was reached that even defeat would not be worse than abandonment of a goal with such deep historical roots, and that temporary defeat would probably strengthen the commitment of our community to moving forward. We cannot forget that, legally speaking, we have nothing to lose.

On the other hand, organizing for a referendum is an enormous task, one which I believe we are not ready to take on in the absence of a threat to something we already have. We need the passage of Intro 384 as a necessary social/psychological support for mass organizing. As deeply moved as we are by hope, we are activated by threats. Moreover, the general public (that portion of it aware of political activity) sees the Intro as a symbol. I believe that the possibility of a Charter-amendment would be more off-putting than is a Bill passed by the Council. A referendum to repeal a gay rights law requires that politicians share with us the obligation of community education, and a voter addressing that kind of referendum must pass judgment on the political establishment, and not just on us.

I do not think that Manford understands the diversity of goals and efforts even among the "Activists." Passage of Intro 384 is a primary goal, but not the only one. Some groups are working on the full implementation of the Mayor's Executive Order (an Order which, by the way, might never have been issued even by the most sympathetic Mayor if there were not the very real possibility and active organizing to pass legislation which would give the Order political legitimacy). Some groups are working to make government more responsive to the service needs particular to the lesbian and gay community. Some groups are working to ensure full participation of our community in the electoral process, from voter registration and turnout to providing gay people with information about candidates' stands on gay issues to organizing political clubs, and so forth. Finally, some gay people are running for political office, as openly gay people (we have all known or heard about closeted elected officials). Again, I ask Manford to celebrate this diversity, and to understand that the fight to pass Intro 384 gives a spark of vitality and a common language to these varied political activities, qualities which a Charter-amendment effort would lack.

Finally, I have very serious questions about the timing of Manford's raising this issue. He must know that our opponents will use his article to argue against passage. I expect that our "liberal" friends will now be able to do less than they might for the bill, and use Manford's arguments to make a case; they may well claim that opposition to the bill or lackluster efforts in support of the bill are in the best interest of the gay community. He must also know that, at this late stage in the game, with hearings on the bill now scheduled for November 8th, it is impossible to change the game plan even if we agreed with his analysis and prescription. I wish he had thought so carefully about the consequences of his article as to have published it six months ago or a month from now.

The organization to which I belong, NYPAC, is fully committed to passage of Intro 384; that decision was reached by NYPAC assembled several months ago, and it has guided our activities since then. Manford's proposal is therefore irrelevant to us at the present time. If the bill is passed, it will still be irrelevant; for we will then know whether the opposition has the muscle and the commitment to organize the kind of referendum which he fears. If they do, we shall have to rise to the challenge; if they do not, our City will simply have taken an important step forward in treating all our neighbors with the respect and the privacy which is theirs by right. If the bill is defeated, we

can take the article out of the drawer and re-consider its merits. I for one intend to do everything possible to make sure that that drawer stays closed, by working for the passage of Intro 384.

Nick Bollman

Guest Column

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lory Co. along with Al Carmines and Charles Ludlam have consistently provided gay images, references and sensibilities in their work, though too often failing to satisfy the politically conscious gay activist. Eyns *Drivest Show in Town* was his answer to *Oh, Calcutta* and while it was superior (anything would be), it suffered from a somewhat similar low consciousness level. McNally's *Red Habits* was often quite funny but the bitchy bickering of two fussy old faggots was too superficial, quickly grew thin and began to border on offensiveness. He seems to do better with plots that have nothing to do with homosexuality, although that sensibility still comes through.

Score, written and directed by Jerry Douglas, was about a triangular, soap-opera love affair. The fact that some women were now competing with other men for their husbands or lovers was now plot (and plodding) material. It was later made into a hard core film starring clean-cut Cal Culver. My playbill lists a Sylvester E. Stallone in a supporting role, Jackie Curtis's 1971 *Vain Victory* was a campy extravaganza in a teapot, sparkling with thrift shop glamor, inspired by tarnished visions of glory. Candy Darling headed the cast which was composed of a galaxy of stars, satellites, asteroids and just plain space particles too numerous to list. Among them were Agostio Machado, Mario Montez and Eric Emerson, all of them gayly suffering through the "vicissitudes of the damned" (being a star) as well as missed cues, forgotten lines, etc. The audience was indulged, the cast indulgent.

Bruce Jay Friedman's *Steam Bath*, directed by and starring a modest, well-hung Tony Perkins in boxer shorts, featured a gay male couple on their way to the great gay beyond. Their sensitively and compassionately written exit almost made up for the stereotyping.

The tasty Hot Peaches are a new breed. Their satire is reinforced with what might be called theatrical gay activism. Over the years they have produced spoofs on classics such as *Ms. Hood* (Little Red Riding Hood), original plays, revues ("The TV Show") and cabaret acts. Backed up by a very compatible group of four talented musicians (who often double as actors), the Peaches strive to deliver what Ian McKay, the director, calls "gay theater." A high level of consciousness through comedy and song and a large dose of gay sentiment. Some people believe that gay politics do not belong in theater. I think however, that anything positively and openly gay in theater is by nature political. It's a question of what compromises are acceptable in order to gain that questionable and illusory "acceptance."

Rudy Grillo is a gay activist who resides in New York City. This set of recollections was inspired by John Paul Hudson's column series on gay theater in the 60s and 70s.

Philadelphia

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

council member, said "research is going to make the difference" in winning gay rights. Saying "we have the rhetoric," which bureaucrats "are not going to believe," Weber called for documentation to present to the government showing gay people as being able to provide alternative social services to their own people. "The most radical change is that we present the government with such con-

sive data that they have to recognize the problems that we face. Only by giving us the money to serve our people are they going to serve our needs." Bureaucrats love statistics, Weber argued. "They'll eat it up."

Another council member, Jeff Britton, who heads the gay Walt Whitman Democratic Club, called for more "sophisticated" lobbying of politicians. Not only do bureaucrats love statistics, politicians also "eat it up," Britton asserted. Only ten percent of all politicians are decent men, Britton charged.

Britton announced that the Walt Whitman Club had endorsed the Democratic gubernatorial candidate Peter Flaherty, because Flaherty was expected to win. The entire strategy, Britton explained, was to make friends with politicians *before* they begin office, so that they will owe you something.

The Club's endorsement of Flaherty brought an angry outburst from many lesbians in the audience, who pointed out that Flaherty refused to support the ERA. Barbara Davis called the decision to endorse Flaherty "anti-woman," and blasted the Club for making decisions based totally on one issue. Another woman told Britton, "You're more than myopic if you think you can play the game with them and come to us and ask us to deliver [the votes!]"

Finally, Britton conceded that with "two fools running," he was disgusted with the race. Calling it a "terrible compromise," Britton nonetheless said he did not regret it.

Larry Scott, calling himself an "anarchist researcher," noted that only sound research should be presented to the government, to preclude any attack on the way the data were collected. He criticized the Walt Whitman Club for ignoring third party candidates, asserting that a vote for the Socialist Workers Party candidate would "strengthen the correct, left side."

A lesbian visitor from England expressed "alarm" that people are relying on research and lobbying. If one relies on reform, what is granted can always be taken away. She called for the development of a political theory to guide political tactics, asserting that "capitalism may accommodate gay men, but not gay women."

In rebuttal, Weber said she also had once believed in radical politics. "We live here now . . . the only way we're going to make concrete changes is to do research and legislative change," Silvestre added. "We can't sit back and plan for the revolution. I want no more Kenneth Myers blowing out their brains, a reference to a gay man who committed suicide." "Immediate action is necessary to reduce the likelihood that some lives are destroyed," Silvestre's comment was later termed by the British woman "emotional blackmail," and she argued that no one was saying that immediate needs should not be met.

On the religion panel, Tommi Avicoli, whose reminiscences on the gay movement in Philadelphia appear in a recent issue of *Gay Community News*, argued that "we do not have the time or the money to waste on religious matters." He called for the avoidance of debate with fundamentalist ministers, and the separation of the moral issue from the separate rights question. He noted that the Judeo-Christian tradition has "denied our very right to exist." MCC minister Don Boebe retorted by calling Avicoli's religious phobia, and likened it to homophobia. "Religious phobia demeans argued, can second guess another person's experience."

Avicoli's statement about avoiding debates with ministers brought a reaction from a visiting Dade County gay man, with fundamentalists, he argued, because it was important to appear "visible." — Daniel Tsang

