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## Gaze, February 1981

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## Gay Civil Rights Bill Reintroduced To House

WASHINGTON-With far more co-sponsors than at any comparable point in a Congressional session, Representatives Ted Weiss (D-NY) and Henry Waxman (D-CA) have re-introduced the national Lesbian and Gay civil rights legislation in the House of Representatives. According to the Gay Rights National Lobby, which remains the only full-time lobby for Lesbian/Gay civil rights on Capitol Hill, this Session's bill, H.R. 1454, has a total of 34 initial sponsors. H.R. 1454 is virtually identical to the last Congress' H.R. 2074.

Although last Session's bill had 55 sponsors at one point, only 49 returned to Congress this year. And the general disorganization accompanying the beginning of a Congressional Session probably accounts for the fact that some of the former co-sponsors have not yet signed on H.R. 1454.

While the current 34 sponsors is a high mark for this early in the Congressional session, Steve Endean, Executive Director of the Gay Rights National Lobby, warned that we could lose some of the former co-sponsors from the 96th Congress.

Both the general apprehension about the apparent rightward shift politically and the unique factor of extra cautious Congress-people who are uncertain what reapportion-

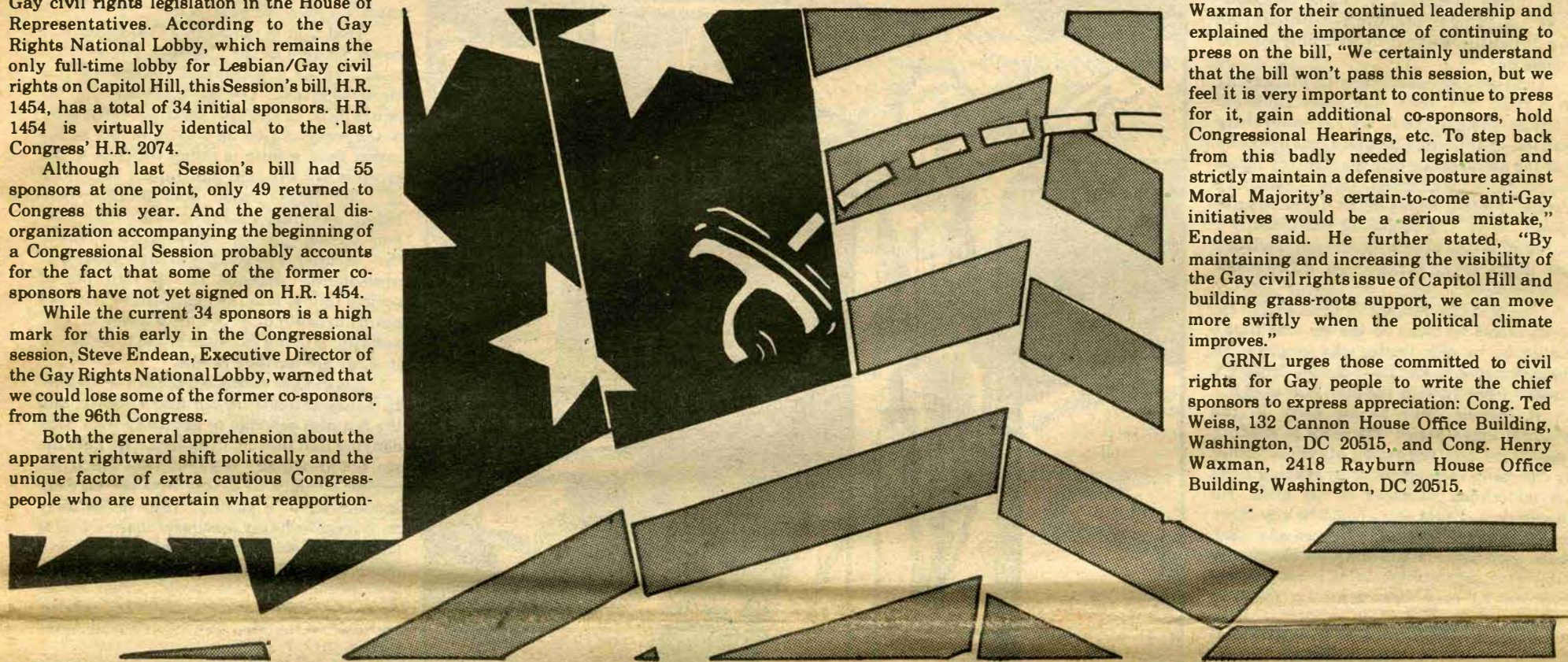
ment will do to the shape of their districts could contribute to reluctance to again co-sponsor Gay civil rights legislation. Endean also pointed out that several former co-

sponsors took a lot of "political heat" for their co-sponsorship without off-setting positive feedback from Gay constituents. Among those who have not yet signed on the bill is

long-time sponsor Rep. Norman Mineta (D-CA). Mineta's district includes San Jose, which recently repealed its local Gay rights ordinance by a margin of 2 to 1.

GRNL praised chief sponsors Weiss and Waxman for their continued leadership and explained the importance of continuing to press on the bill, "We certainly understand that the bill won't pass this session, but we feel it is very important to continue to press for it, gain additional co-sponsors, hold Congressional Hearings, etc. To step back from this badly needed legislation and strictly maintain a defensive posture against Moral Majority's certain-to-come anti-Gay initiatives would be a serious mistake," Endean said. He further stated, "By maintaining and increasing the visibility of the Gay civil rights issue of Capitol Hill and building grass-roots support, we can move more swiftly when the political climate improves."

GRNL urges those committed to civil rights for Gay people to write the chief sponsors to express appreciation: Cong. Ted Weiss, 132 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515, and Cong. Henry Waxman, 2418 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515.



### "G-A-Y-Z-E?"

By Regina Russell

Radio talk show host Chip Bramlett, WWEE ("sister" station to WLVS), attempted to discredit GAZE on an afternoon broadcast shortly after the "court injunction" story was fabricated by Ron Jordan on WLVS.

Bramlett began by saying, "This is the January, 1981, issue of G-A-Y-Z-Emagazine... and this is the article [referring to "Bruce Puce Is Back"] and they are so proud of it they don't even say who wrote it. As a matter of fact when I read the article-after I got my chuckling done-I tried to get in touch with someone...and for the life of me I can't find 'em. They obviously don't want it to be easy...They list an address in here where you help! They were givin' these things away folks where I got 'em...."

(Editor's Note: First, of course, there is no "Y" in GAZE. We do list the names of writers of news items under our masthead. We generally do not run a by-line in conjunction with news items because the articles are generally written on the basis of information provided to us from outside sources or from press releases (as stated, also, under our masthead).

We also list under our masthead and in our Gay Memphis section the address of our publication. We list our phone number under our masthead. The masthead section of any publication is the traditional place for listing the address, phone number, contributors, etc., and we find it odd that Mr. Bramlett was seemingly unaware of this.

Mr. Bramlett might find Gay Pride Week quite humorous, considering his obvious prejudice, but his non-contextual reading leaves a great deal to be desired. The ad from which he was reading was an announcement for the appearance of Robin Tyler during Gay Pride Week. Non-contextual reading, of course, has long been used in attempts to incite bias against groups of people.

For example, Bramlett read that GAZE is published on the third Friday of each month except January, and then he exclaimed that he was holding a January issue. He neglected to read the sentence immediately following, which states that the January issue appears on the fourth Friday.

We hope that Mr. Bramlett derives great pleasure in his derision of Gays and of GAZE; we take great pleasure in writing about it.)

Bramlett adds, "Again, I wanta again thank the people at GAZE for publishing my comments and letting it be known how I feel about the whole silly thing."

After reading part of the article (deleting the last few paragraphs which mention an encounter Jordan had with the police), he says "Oh, big, big news coming up-coming June 20, 1981 is gonna be Gay Pride Week." This observation was followed by a high-pitched laugh.

Later in the broadcast, a caller reported that she knew a way in which Bramlett might get information about GAZE. She suggested calling the Gay Switchboard.

"Oh boy!" Bramlett cackled. "What's that number?"

After noting that she did not know the number, the caller said, "I used to call 'em up and tell them all these jokes and things. I just think it's the funniest thing in the world."

"You'd call 'em up and harass 'em, huh?" Bramlett said.

After the call, Bramlett said, "I just spotted something here; GAZE is published on the third Friday of each month except January. What do I have here but a January issue?" He added, "Subscriptions are \$6 per year and I picked this thing up on the newstand absolutely free. If you can get it free off the newstand and you're willing to pay \$6 a year for a subscription, you gotta need some

### Jordan Airs Phony Court Injunction Story

By Emily Rochman

After reading the article "Bruce Puce Is Back" (January GAZE), DJ Ron Jordan charged on his WLVS morning radio show that GAZE had obtained a court injunction prevention his "BrucePuce" characterization from being aired.

The charge was repeated in a Memphis Commercial Appeal article on February 3, based on information given Commercial Appeal reporter John Knott by Jordan. When questioned about the article by GAZE reporter Ric Sullivan, Knott said that he had not seen a copy of GAZE. The article contained a "quote" from GAZE which was not, in fact, a quote from GAZE, but a paraphrase by Jordan.

Jordan continued referring to the restraining order on his show for several days and mentioned GAZE's address, encouraging listeners to write and protest the action. GAZE received one letter requesting that the paper drop charges against Jordan.

Editor Bill Johnson, however, noted that not only was the court injunction pure fab-

rication, but such a measure was "not a legal option in a matter such as this."

WLVS General Manager Chris Butterick told GAZE that the injunction was "all conjecture and not in fact reality." Butterick expressed that he failed to comprehend the offensiveness of the "Bruce Puce" characterization.

Jordan complained on the air that GAZE had not interviewed him, calling the paper "a rag." After arranging an interview with Jordan for the February issue, GAZE was unable to conduct the interview because Jordan had been arrested on various charges relating to driving while intoxicated.

Jordan was back on the air at press time with "Bruce Puce," although the characterization, according to Johnson, had been "toned down considerably."

Jordan has contacted GAZE and rescheduled an interview which will appear in the March issue.

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## Britt Suggests "Citizen's Arrest" For Editor

Ever wonder what happened to Charles Britt (head of the fundamentalist group which protested the Southeastern Conference of Lesbians and Gay Men last August?) He's still around—with a new line. He has now become the self-proclaimed surgeon of the Gay community.

Britt proclaims that he is the best friend of "sodomites" in Memphis. (We need enemies?) He compares himself to a doctor who is cutting out a cancer (yes, us).

Not only does he seek to deny us every other conceivable right (unless we happen to wake up straight tomorrow morning), but now he has the audacity to determine who our friends are.

I had the displeasure recently of speaking on a radio talk show (the Dave Diamond Show on, you guessed it, WVEE radio) along with our dear friend Charles. I had been told that the discussion would involve Gay rights issues; of course, given Dave Diamond's history of latent homophobia, I should have known better. The encounter was actually a two-against-one attack on me, and included just about every conceivable myth about homosexuality.

One of the first things Charles said to me—even before we went on the air—was that I should be in jail. During the program he suggested that he and Dave make a "citizen's arrest." I dearly wish the man had tried it.

It became clear to me early in the program that Charles was adept at evading every issue and answering questions either by changing the subject or by reading from his underlined passages of his bible. He clearly denied that there could be any other interpretations of that bible, saying that those were God's words and were clearly not subject to interpretation. I find it odd that the passages he read were generally followed with a, "Now, what that says..." If those words are all that clear then I suggest that Britt's occupation was outdated by the invention of the printing press.

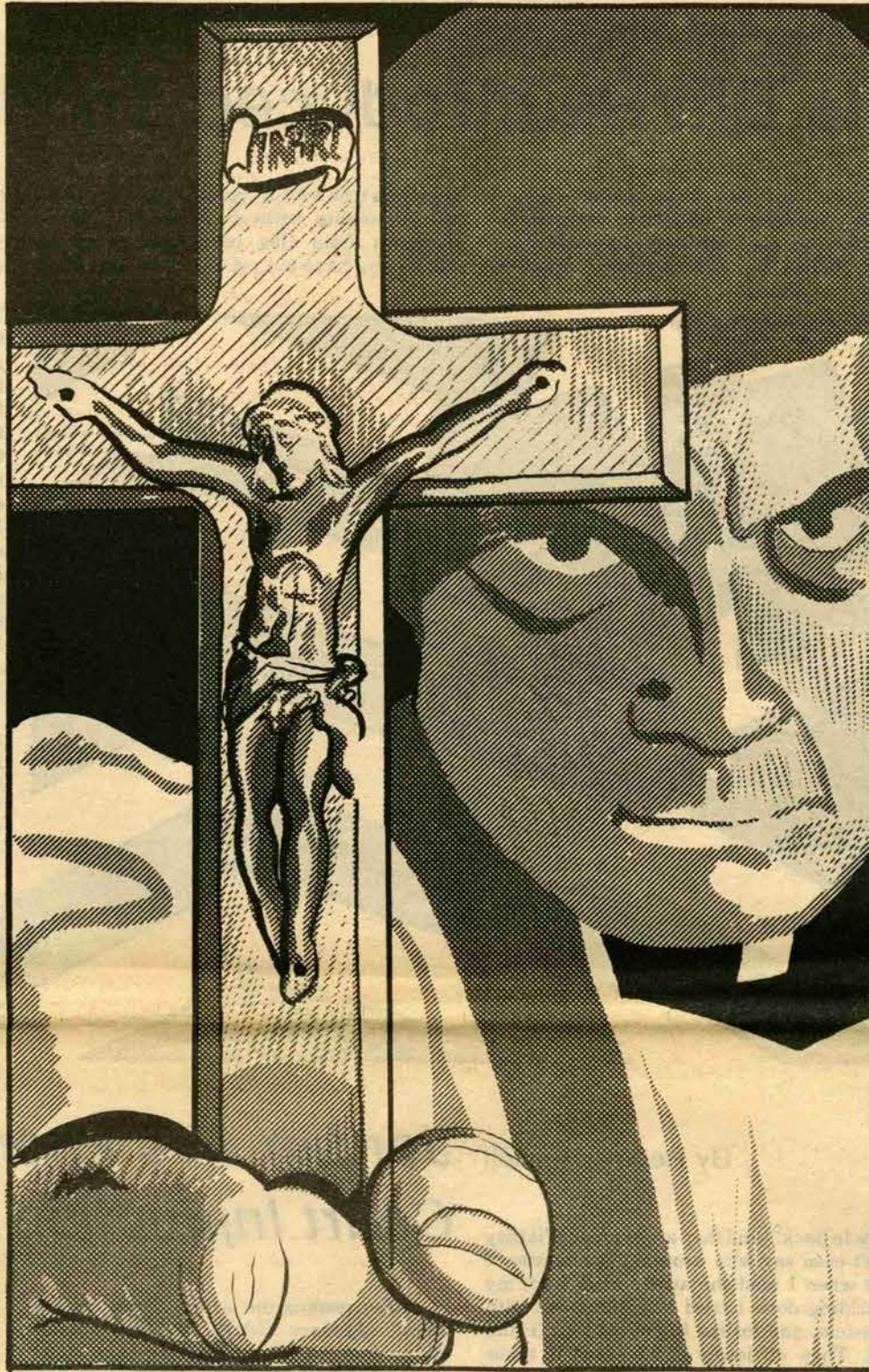
If we choose to believe the bible (a choice Britt favors denying Americans), then it is obvious that we will believe it in different ways. Most Christians believe that the bible is subject to interpretation. Britt stated that it isn't. To say that the bible is cut and dry and not open to other interpretations is an interpretation. To state that what the bible says is clear and to cite its passages out of context and thereby deny their contextual meanings (as Britt consistently does) is a self-righteous statement that says "I know what God says and if you disagree, you're wrong." To say "I know" rather than "I believe" is to place an individual on the level of God.

To preach what a person believes to be the word of God is one thing; to deny others the right to believe differently—despite what the majority belief might be—and to determine the law of the land on an individual's religious beliefs is anti-American, un-Christian and downright fascist.

"Listen to what the bible has to say about your perversion..." Has our friend Charles read what the bible has to say about his perversion? Did Jesus not say to let God be the judge and let that person without sin cast the first stone?

Or so says that bible. The fact remains that a very serious threat looms on the horizon. It is a threat to the existence of American freedom and ideals. It wears the most clever disguise of any fascist movement in the history of the world, a disguise that preys on human fear. It wears the disguise of religion, one religion, and proclaims that the laws of our land are and should be based upon the teachings of that religion. The movement seeks to stamp out all that does not fit into the guidelines of that religion, starting with that group in society which is least tolerated—Gays. Hitler very cleverly started with the same group, declaring that homosexuals were not productive members of society and would lead to societal genocide.

As Dr. Harry Moore, Regional Director of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, said to a recent meeting of the Memphis Gay Coalition, "If they can do it to one of us, they can do it to all of us."



The new fascist movement operates under the guise of God, thereby denying the "Godliness" of anyone who challenges them. Conveniently, their bible can justify the societal exclusion of Blacks, Jews, Gays and any group which does not see their bible as they see it, a classification denying the rights

of anyone who is not a member of their movement.

And they know they can get away with just about anything. A New Right "preacher," such as Britt, can lie through his teeth. But let a Gay person call him a liar and guess who comes off looking like the saint. A

"man of God" doesn't lie, does he? Lord knows, the queer must be telling the falsehood. After all, we have twisted minds. Just ask any fundamentalist; they'll tell you.

Identifying what the movement is based on is complicated indeed. Obviously, those individuals involved suffer from an inability to deal with life and its complexities. Generally, their religious beliefs are based on fear. Britt's wife expressed to me that their belief is based on winning the Wager. We believe there is a heaven and hell, she said, but if there isn't, we're safe anyway. Not exactly a mustard seed, is it?

What is it in our society that breeds the power seekers of the Christian Right? Is it total fear? Is it egomania? It certainly has elements of both. A person who states that his or her belief in and interpretation of the bible is the word of God as a definite fact of life rather than a faith is riding the crest of the greatest ego trip that humankind is capable of. The facts about homosexuality—and indeed anything that falls outside the category of their narrow beliefs—are a threat to their security. The security of their doctrine of absoluteness depends on all elements of society falling into their guidelines. They are scared to death of us. We are a threat to their security, a living example of the falseness of it. They are terrified people.

The danger of this fanaticism is obvious. It incites extreme hatred and violence, and the fanatics manage to get away with it by denying that they incite hatred. "We hate the sin, not the sinner," is a statement which can arouse violence in people who see the Gay individual as "a sinner." They deliberately encourage anti-Gay sentiment in the name of God. They would—and ultimately will—kill many of us for loving each other. By hating homosexuality, these people—deny it till doomsday—hate homosexuals. They hate us because we threaten their egos by our mere existence.

And they are terrified that we are going to turn their children "queer." If they really believe that sexual orientation is something that can be taught, then these people certainly have no confidence in their ability as parents.

Hitler attempted to wipe out elements in society under the guise of creating a "perfect race." The Christian Right is doing the same thing in America today under the guise of religion. They are attempting to create the pure and perfect society based on their bible. Fascists always operate by attempting to "purify."

The Christian Right movement (operating under such names as Christian Voice, Moral Majority, Fellowship of Mid-South Fundamentalists and others) is a cancer growing in America. It will, unless stopped, stifle the very basic freedoms upon which this nation was founded.

## Poor Jon

Rep. Jon Hinson (R-Mississippi) recent arrest in Washington on charges of "oral sodomy" certainly does not indicate that he is homosexual. The fact that he was a survivor of the Cinema Follies (a Gay theater) fire in 1977 certainly does not indicate that he is homosexual. The fact that he was arrested some time ago (1976) at the Iwo Jima memorial (a D.C. cruising spot that would put Overton Park to shame) on charges of committing an obscene act certainly does not indicate that he is a homosexual.

In Hinson's own words, "I am not, I have never been, and I never will be homosexual." Care to buy the Brooklyn Bridge?

Now, I must say that if I were seen in a theater that "caters to" heterosexuals or if I were arrested on a morals charge in a "lover's lane" ("gathering place frequented by" heterosexuals), it could not be proven that I was guilty of heterosexuality. But, please, if I were caught in the act in the missionary position, I would certainly be incriminated.

I do not mean to crucify Hinson. Poor

Jon, after all, is a victim of a repressive society, a society that too frequently pushes Gay men into heterosexual marriages with intermittent reprieves into the men's room.

It is difficult, however, to place the blame where it belongs. It is easy to feel anger toward those victims of societal repression whose denial of their Gayness is so necessary to them that they become obsessed with "protecting" themselves by denouncing homosexuality and fighting Gay rights.

And contrary to recent conjecture, neither "personal stress" nor alcohol has been shown to induce homosexuality. Both personal stress and alcohol may diminish sexual capacity, but neither has ever changed the sex toward which the desire was directed. Have a few beers and see for yourself.

We may find ourselves saying, "It serves him right," and we may be pleased that one less legislator will be around to oppose Gay rights legislation, but justice hasn't been done. Justice won't be done until Gay people are allowed to live freely and openly in our

society. Justice won't be done until Gay men are freed from the men's room. Justice won't be done until men like Hinson are permitted the freedom of self-love and self-acceptance rather than being forced into unhappy and desperate lives of self-hatred and self-oppression.

Hinson is a tragic example of a man who wasn't permitted to live his life and express himself by the virtues of his natural inclination. When a Gay man attempts to live a heterosexual life, he commits a crime against nature—his nature.

Have I assumed too much in proclaiming my belief that Hinson is Gay? I must point out that the evidence is in my favor; Hinson has never been caught publicly engaged in a sexual act with a woman. He may think that he can dismiss the evidence on the basis of "personal stress" and assure the public that elected him that he will pray for his "sin," but, according to Capitol police, the last time he was seen on his knees, he wasn't praying.

By Bill Johnson

## Time We Checked Ourselves On Issue Of Racism

Gays often advocate various ways to respond to overt oppression and discrimination such as the recent boycott of Holiday Inns because of discrimination of Gays prior to and during Conference '80. It seems we are very eager to expose oppression and discrimination of Gays by straights. This is as it should be. However, it is time we expose prejudices and discrimination that exist in the Gay community against other Gays.

Before going further, I think it necessary to point out that I am not writing this letter to create any rift in the Gay community; the rift is very clearly already there. I'm writing, however, to hopefully make the Gay people in this community aware of that rift in hopes that it will somehow be addressed and mended by the Gays of this community.

Being specific, I wish to address an act of discrimination I personally experienced here in Memphis as a Black Gay. On the night of December 13, 1980, I went to 10 N. Cleveland and was refused entrance. The reason given was that I did not have sufficient identification. I had three bona-fide identifications on my person but was told the law requires four. While I was there, several white Gays entered and without showing any identification at all paid their cover charges and entered. When I inquired why no identification was requested from the people that had just entered, I was told that they were all members. I responded that that was not true because members only pay a \$1 cover charge and all others pay a \$2 cover; they had all signed the register as guests and had paid a \$2 cover charge each. No response was given to my charges, so I left.

I have frequently visited this club since its opening and never before had I ever been asked for even one I.D. The following Monday I contacted the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board in Memphis about Tennessee Law governing private clubs. I was told by the director of that office that only one positive I.D. is required by law.

I had previously heard other Black Gays say they had been refused entrance to this

club because they were Black. I personally didn't know if what they were saying was true because I had never been refused entrance. It made me wonder how often do we let acts of discrimination within the Gay community go unnoticed simply because it hasn't happened to us. I must be the first to admit that I, myself, am guilty of this.

We as a community have expressed our disapproval of discrimination and oppression in any form whether it is sexism, ageism, racism and/or because of sexual orientation. It is time that we indeed checked ourselves to see if we really are committed to this ideal. If we are, then we must address the issue of racism being practiced by a local bar. If we cannot address this issue because we feel maybe it is too sensitive, then how will we decide which prejudices and acts of discrimination are compulsory that we address and which are optional?

J.R. Finney, II  
Memphis

## Come A Long Way Since '45

Today in the mail came a copy of your paper from a dear Lesbian friend of a lifetime, and to say that I was amazed is putting it mildly.

I was born and raised in Memphis and only left in 1945 because of the continual harassment of Gays by the police and since I was raised (which was a rarity for the time) not to have any racial prejudices, felt that I could no longer function properly as a loving, caring member of the human race in the totally "Red Neck" atmosphere.

My pleasure in noting how drastically things have changed over the years does my heart good. Time was when one could simply be walking down Main Street or cutting through Court Square on the way to somewhere else when the police would stop you and haul you in and hold you for several days without any charge being filed and grill you continually as to what your sexual preferences were and try to obtain names and addresses of your friends. Fortunately I had an understanding mother and sister who

would raise "Holy Hell" and they would release yours truly. As the cigarette ad goes "you've come a long way baby."

Here on the West Coast in the Bay Area, there is on the whole, not very much police harassment, mostly by the older types and I am sorry to say by the Latinos. This is not prejudicial, since I am part Spanish myself, just a statement of fact. Buena Vista Park, Delores Park and the Castro Street area can be dangerous, particularly when the bars close, the young Latino "macho" (Ha!) types have on a number of occasions, traveling in packs, been extremely detrimental to the health and physical well-being of the Gays who visit and live in the area.

I feel, in the final analysis, that solidarity in our community, exerting the clout of our quite enormous buying power, plus the potential power we can wield politically, should assure us of first class citizenship.

Name and city withheld by request

## Allegation Of Discrimination Is A Myth

A belated Happy New Year. Accolades of love and thanks, thanks for your being and your conscious and concrete simplicity.

The allegation of discrimination is a myth.

I know of personal instances of discrimination both against me and members of groups that I have been with to enter the Psych-Out. This discrimination only occurred during certain hours of the day or night. If you entered the bar during happy hours (ha ha) you were o.k. But if you were coming later, say 9:30 p.m., the IDs were asked of you. If you didn't have any ID or only one, you could be denied entrance.

I and others have questioned this practice against any Blacks that we know of wanting admittance and gotten a favorable response. Once we, myself and others, established our presence and voiced unfavorable opinion on this practice, much of it has been cut out.

I have been told, on occasion, by some employees working the door, "I know you"

and still other Blacks were refused entrance to the bar. Others have told me of this practice at other bars including 10 N. Cleveland.

Must we segregate ourselves even further? The problems of white Gays are not apart from Black Gays.

I don't suppose you have ever been stigmatized or stereotyped, "\_\_\_\_\_"

Immunity to some and not to others is even worse than outright prejudice. I do hope the future shows more improvement against blatant discriminatory practices of any type, especially that of Gays against Gays.

A big thumbs-up to brother Mike Morgan, and an even bigger boo-o-o-o to "\_\_\_\_\_". I'm going to pray for him/her.

I like your warped sense of humor, Bill Johnson, kinda bent in the right places. More positive action in every respect of life is needed. Don't mess with Bill Johnson 'cause he gets down on the case of insensitivity.

Sheila Ross  
Memphis

WHEN LOOKING FOR A CHARITY,  
LOOK TO GAZE.  
WE'RE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE!

**GAZE**

GAZE is published on the third Friday of each month except January. The January issue appears on the fourth Friday. Deadlines for advertising, submitted features and notification of events fall two weeks prior to publication dates. Phone (901) 274-0431, office hours are irregular.

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Scott Correll Jennifer Taft

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## GRNL Announces "Plan For Action"

WASHINGTON--The Gay Rights National Lobby recently announced the first step in its "Plan for Action" for the 79th Congress--a National Petition Drive against anti-Gay bills and amendments. The Petition Drive is designed to collect over 250,000 signatures, demonstrate favorable constituent pressure and substantially expand the Lobby's Constituent Network for Gay civil rights.

To carry out the Petition Drive, the first step in a coordinated and concerted "Plan for Action," Gay Rights National Lobby will utilize its existing Constituent Network. "Field Associates," GRNL's local organizers in their Congressional districts, will organize

groups of workers to distribute and circulate the petitions.

"For some time now, GRNL has been warning of serious dangers on the horizons. We hope that the elections have sufficiently jolted the community to induce the effective grass-roots operations necessary," said Steve Endean, Executive Director of the GRNL.

Endean went on to point out several clear dangers coming up in the 97th Congress including: (1) Enactment of the so-called "Family Protection Act," a virtual shopping list for the New Right including several anti-Gay provisions; (2) Enactment of legislation designed to deny Gay and Lesbian

organizations and those that view homosexuality positively any federal funds (a surprising number of Gay groups receive CETA funds or various mental health and/or chemical dependency funds); (3) The denial or revocation of tax-exempt status to Gay groups, including organizations such as the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches; and (4) finally, Endean indicated that "Christian Voice" has been publicly considering a clever strategy designed to force repeal of all the local Gay rights ordinances in the country.

"Clearly, the coming Congressional Session will be a very difficult one for those committed to justice for Gays. Only by mobilizing grass-roots support, by methods such as the Petition Campaign, do we have a chance of defeating these efforts to turn back the clock," said Endean. He went on to indicate that he expects to have some time to organize before anti-Gay initiatives hit. "The economy will be the immediate focus of attention. But the New Right, which is extremely concerned with social issues, can almost certainly be expected to press anti-Gay bills and amendments in the second half of the 97th Congress."

Kerry Woodward, West Coast Regional Field Director of GRNL, urged that Lesbians and Gay men take full advantage of this time in mobilizing our supporters. "We must act as if our very lives depend on what we do in the next few months."

Field Associates, local Gay and Lesbian organizations and others will begin circulating a variety of petitions almost immediately. Those willing to serve as on-going GRNL organizers in their areas should write saying "I'm interested in serving as a Field Associate. Please send additional information." Others willing to assist in GRNL's Petition Drive may write for petitions: GRNL, Post Office Box 1892, Washington, D.C. 20013.

# J-WAG'S

Open Monday-Saturday Until 6 a.m.

Food Served Anytime!

Beer Special (every Tuesday)  
9 p.m. - 3 a.m.

All can beer (except Michelob) 65¢  
All 60 oz. pitchers draught \$2.25

Order any sandwich and get order of french fries or onion rings at 1/2 price!

## NCBG Announces 2nd Third World Lesbian/Gay Conference

WASHINGTON (*Habari-Habari*, publication of NCBG)—The National Coalition of Black Gays, Inc., has announced that it will host a second Third World Lesbian/Gay Conference in conjunction with its 3rd General Convention on Thanksgiving weekend, November 27-29, 1981. NCBG Chapters in Chicago, New York and Washington are bidding to host the Conference, and the location will be announced by April 1.

NCBG is seeking persons and organizations interested in facilitating workshops or playshops and suggestions for keynote speakers. Donations and fundraisers are also needed. Write NCBG, P.O. Box 57236, Washington, DC 20037.

NCBG will make available at the Third World Conference in November a Third World Lesbian/Gay directory of political groups, social groups, support groups, businesses and "hang outs." Intended to be a directory of people of color, for people of color, by people of color, NCBG seeks information about Black, Latin, Asian or American Indian organizations and social spots to include in the directory.

## C.A.G.E. Seeks Gay Art For Exhibition

CINCINNATI—An exhibition of Gay art, Out Art, is scheduled for showing at C.A.G.E. (Cincinnati Artist's Group Effort) in Cincinnati for June 1981 to present a forum for art which deals directly with Gay and Lesbian images and relationships.

Artists anywhere are invited to submit slides of their work for review. All slides must be received by April 1. Any media is acceptable, but work must deal directly with Gay and Lesbian images and/or relationships.

C.A.G.E. is a 3-year old arts organization in Cincinnati which was formed by artists for artists. The group was formed to present an alternative to the area's gallery system, concerning itself with issues and aesthetics not handled elsewhere in the area. C.A.G.E. derives no percentage on sales resulting from the exhibition. Galleries are located at 706 Walnut Street in Cincinnati.

Inquiries should be directed to C.A.G.E./Out Art, Box 1362, Cincinnati, Ohio 45201. Artists submitting slides for review are limited to 10 slides. For return of materials a self-addressed, stamped envelope must be included.

## Gay Student Evicted

EAST LANSING, MI (IGNA)—A Michigan State University student has been forced to move from an interdenominational-religious residence because he was open about being Gay.

The Board of Directors has refused to put in writing that it asked the man to leave because of his sexual orientation, but instead said that the man was asked to leave "because of his defiant and antagonistic attitude" and "the disruptive effect his presence has on the other residents" of the dwelling.

The MSU Human Relations Department is investigating the case. Because the residence is considered a university religious residence, it comes under the jurisdiction of the Office of Student Affairs and thus must comply with university non-discriminatory policies, which cover Gays.

## Cookies Turn On Moral Majority

ANNAPOLIS, MD (IGNA)—Maryland Moral Majority, which recently tried and failed to persuade authorities to arrest a bakery owner for selling "obscene cookies," is

now under investigation for violating the law for trying to force children to buy the cookies.

Bakery manager Kathe Halter said the cookies are kept covered and not sold to customers who are obviously underage. It is a misdemeanor in Maryland to sell to persons under 18 items that represent human beings with stimulated sex organs.

Moral Majority "baited" the shop by instructing persons under 18 to enter and attempt to purchase the cookies.

## Gay Analyst Keeps Job

WASHINGTON (IGNA)—In a decision believed to be the first of its kind in the US, a middle-level employee at the supersecret National Security Agency who was discovered to be Gay has been allowed to keep his job and security clearances.

In the past, US intelligence agencies, including the NSA, CIA and FBI, as well as military intelligence units, have fired or forced the resignation of homosexual employees on the grounds that they are vulnerable to being compromised and therefore security risks.

The employee was represented by Frank Kameny, a member of the DC Commission on Human Rights, who said the employee contacted him and said he wanted to fight being ousted by the agency. Kameny said that "past practice has been that the individual was called in and ordered to resign, and, unfortunately, almost everybody has."

Sources talking to the *Washington Post* indicated that 3 other cases are currently pending at the security agency involving Gays who have applied for jobs.

## Portland Group Fights Anti-Gay Violence

PORTLAND, OR (IGNA)—The Safe Streets Alliance was formed here in the summer of 1980 to educate the public and the Gay community about the seriousness of increasing violence, to help prevent attacks and to offer assistance to victims. Attacks on Gays, including one that resulted in death, have increased significantly in Portland recently. Safe Streets says that there is an average of one serious attack on Gay people per week in Portland.

Safe Streets has set up self-defense classes and is working with the police and the District Attorney's office as well as Gay bar owners, all of whom thus far have been cooperative.

## Lesbian Wins Deputy Job

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY, CA (IGNA)—After a long and emotional fight to be hired as a sheriff's deputy, Denise Kreps apparently has won. The man who opposed her hiring, Sheriff Richard Rainey, signed an agreement that allows her to begin deputy training.

"The county counsel advised that the sheriff could not appeal on the merits of the case, and therefore the sheriff is obliged to follow the decision by the Superior Court and proceed with the hiring process," Assistant Sheriff Duayne Dillon explained.

Had things continued in the usual manner during the hiring process, Kreps' lawyer said, Kreps would have been hired as a deputy by last January, but in a lie detector test given all applicants Kreps said that she is a Lesbian—a fact she had not told her family or otherwise made public. Sheriff Rainey responded by dropping her from the hiring list. The county Civil Service Commissions ruled last March that Rainey's action was illegal.

## Defense Directive Targets Legal Forces of Gay Movement

WASHINGTON (NGTF)—The Department of Defense issued on January 16 a revision of its exclusionary policy towards Lesbians and Gay men. The new policy makes discharge for homosexuals mandatory, thereby targeting the small number of precedential successes established in the cases of Matlovich, Berg, and Ben-Shalom.

National Gay Task Force Co-Director

Lucia Valeska commented, "The new directive signals a reactionary move on the part of the Department of Defense to counteract recent progress made through the courts in challenging discrimination against Gay men and Lesbians in the military. Fortunately, the new policy has some positive aspects: (1) all exclusions and discharges solely on the basis of sexual orientation will now be classified as HONORABLE, and (2) 'homosexual identity' will no longer be determined by so-called homosexual mannerisms or through guilt by association."

"On the other hand," Valeska continued, "the directive draws a new battle line in its overall hardline stance. The military has bent over backwards (to the point of downright silliness in places) in order to tighten restrictions. NGTF intends to expose and fight the new directive on the basis of its irrational nature, unenforceable provisions and fundamental attack on the constitutional rights of all US citizens."

The new directive says that a person may be discharged or excluded from the military if she or he has ever engaged in or solicited a homosexual act, has stated a homosexual identity, or attempted to marry someone of the same sex (unless said action was for the specific purpose of avoiding military service).

## Moral Motels?

NEW YORK (IGNA)—A lawyer for the Moral Majority is drawing up a law that will call for motels located on interstate highways to rent rooms only to those couples who are legally married, according to an article by Jimmy Breslin in the *New York News*.

The law is expected to pass both houses of Congress and be signed by President Reagan. It should spark a number of lawsuits about the legality of renting only to married couples and not to others who may wish to share a room for whatever reason, including a financial one.

The Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg, VA, whose pastor is Jerry Falwell, is behind the proposed legislation. A member of the church said recently: "Highway motels just give out rooms to anyone who comes in off the road, people walking in like two stray dogs in heat...If two men walk in and sign the register, that's all right too. If two women come in and want to use the bed together, that's fine. Homosexuality! Doesn't anybody care about it? God hates homosexuality."

Members of the Moral Majority feel that the motel room law will strengthen the deteriorating American family. The church spokesman added: "For too long now, people have been fornicating right in the face of the Lord and doing it so much that they don't even see what's wrong with it anymore."

The plan is for the Department of Health and Human Services to issue marriage cards that will be shown to motel clerks, much as voter registration cards are shown at polling places.

The lawyer said that "if somebody gives into his manly appetite and shows up at a motel with a woman who has no family card of her own or who has one with a different last name on it than the man's, then the clerk will handle them the same way an election worker does an improper voter."

"And we're going to be cutting down on this indiscriminate fornication of unmarried people. They won't have registration cards to show the motel clerk on account of their not being married. And if they go home, their fathers and mothers will begin supervising them, the way it's supposed to be. That's what fidelity does for you—spreads out all over the place," he went on.

Some observers claim that such a law could produce economic chaos in the motel and hotel industry.

"Nobody has the right to fornicate in the face of the Lord!" one of Falwell's parishioners said. "The Supreme Court can follow an election landslide just as well as anybody else. Ronald Reagan won that election because the American people are tired of families getting destroyed because of tomcatting."

He added: "And I remind you of one thing about homosexuals: It was Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve!"

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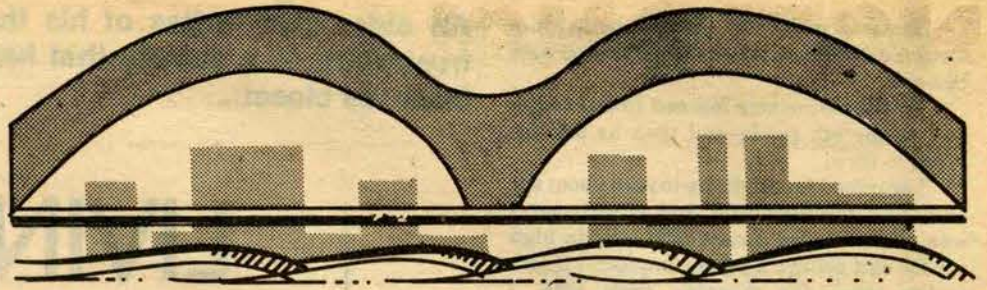
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## Legal Rights Forum Set For March 15

The first local forum to explore the legal rights of Gay women and men will be held Sunday, March 15, from 1 p.m.-4:30 p.m. at the Fellowship Hall of St. John's United Methodist Church, 1205 Peabody Avenue.

"Gays and the Law," cosponsored by the West Tennessee chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union and the Memphis Gay Coalition, will provide participants the opportunity to discuss the effects of our legal system on Gays from its investigative, enforcement, judicial and academic aspects.

The forum will open with a panel discussion. This will be followed by workshops focusing on job discrimination, housing discrimination, child custody, and legal considerations for couples. Other groups participating in the forum include Memphis Area Legal Services and the Housing Opportunities Corporation.

Recognition of the need to acquaint local Gays with relevant legal issues arose from a meeting sponsored by the Memphis Gay Coalition in November, 1980, to discuss police harassment. Participants at that meeting concluded that local Gays needed to be made aware of their rights and informed as to action to take when harassed, arrested, or discriminated against.

"Gays and the Law" is open to the public and free of charge. For further information, contact Julie Steiner (ACLU) at 521-9875 or Ric Sullivan (MGC) at 274-0431 (evenings).

## Might Turn 'Em Gay, Says Police Chief

NASHVILLE--Nashville Police Chief Joe Casey in early February said that he supports execution of rapists rather than castration. "My only concern--and I'm not a doctor, so I don't know--is that if we castrate

them, we might turn them into homosexuals," Casey said.

"I'm not getting into whether a person should or shouldn't be Gay," Casey added, "I'm saying that castration could possibly cause people to become Gay."

Casey's statements were made in response to Memphis Police Director Buddy Chapman's recent statement that he favors castration as a punishment for rapists.

## Barratry Law Finally Declared Unconstitutional

(The Vigil, ACLU of Tennessee, Memphis)--A federal court in Nashville has declared the Tennessee Barratry statute to be unconstitutional. The challenge was brought by the ACLU of TN, Oak Ridge Chapter and Save Our Cumberland Mountains (SOCM) in conjunction with Legal Services.

The statute had forbidden organizations from "stirring up" litigation and persons or organizations from supporting suits brought by others. It was designed in the '50's to keep groups such as the NAACP and the ACLU out of court.

The Court was clear in its decision and stated that the unconstitutionality of the law was "transparent." The State of Tennessee will not appeal the decision.

## MCRH Sponsors Women's Health Series On WHBQ

The Memphis Center For Reproductive Health began February 1 on WHBQ (56 AM radio) a series of one-minute vignettes of women's health topics. Air times for "A Woman's Well-Being" are Monday-Friday at 5:55 a.m., 9:55 a.m., 1:55 p.m. and 10:55 p.m., and Sunday at 1:55 p.m. and 6:55 p.m. Some programs are repeated on the same day, and a new topic is covered each week.

"The staff of the Memphis Center for Reproductive Health," according to staff member Audrey J. May, "strongly believes that women should be informed of the risks and benefits of any medical procedure. However, we feel the harmful effects of the law as written outweigh the benefits. In fact, our experience as a women's clinic leads us to believe that the law serves as an *undue harassment* for women who are already in what may be an extremely stressful situation. *On behalf of the reproductive rights of women in the Memphis area, therefore, we are extremely pleased that the Chancellor has lifted the waiting period requirement at our clinic.*"

Because the Memphis Center for Reproductive Health serves a 4-state area, the injunction will affect hundreds of women in the Memphis area in the coming weeks. Currently, 4 clinics have been exempted from the 48-hour waiting period--2 in Nashville, one in Knoxville, and the Memphis clinic.

The Memphis Center for Reproductive Health is a non-profit, state-licensed health clinic which provides a full range of gynecological services, information and referral.

## Waiting Period Lifted For Memphis Health Clinic

MEMPHIS--Chancellor Irvin Kilcrease Jr. of Chancery Court in Nashville issued an injunction January 19 lifting the mandatory 48-hour waiting period for abortion patients at the Memphis Center for Reproductive Health. The injunction applies only to the named clinic, although other local abortion providers are seeking a similar injunction.

The injunction came just three days before the 8th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision favoring a woman's right to choose a safe, legal abortion. Since the 1973 decision, abortion has been legal throughout the United States.

The 48-hour waiting period lifted by the injunction is part of the State "Informed Consent" law passed by the Tennessee General Assembly in 1978. This law requires that all women seeking an abortion in Tennessee must be informed of possible risks and benefits associated with the abortion procedure. Tennessee abortion patients must also wait at least 48 hours between the initial physician visit and the actual abortion procedure, under current law.

## Women's Music Coffeehouse To Benefit Concert

A Women's Music Coffeehouse will be held Saturday, February 28, 8 p.m. at the Newman Foundation, 3625 Mynders to raise money for the planned Holly Near concert this spring. A \$2 admission is asked to help fund the concert.

Holly Near is scheduled to appear April 4 at Harris Auditorium at Memphis State University's music department, 8 p.m.

## Aphrodite Plans "Spring Fling"

The Mystic Krewe of Aphrodite will hold "A Spring Fling" at the American Legion Hall, 251 Court Street on Saturday, April 18th, 7 p.m. until midnight. The event will be BYOB and will feature a yet-to-be-announced

dance band. Advance tickets are \$5 per person, \$8 per couple (\$7 and \$10 at door). Tickets may be purchased from any member or by calling 324-9696 or 274-7118.

## Dignity To Present "Big Band" Benefit

Dignity Memphis will present "Return To The Silver Slipper," a benefit dance and show for Dignity, on Sunday, February 22, 8 p.m. until midnight at the Pendulum Dance Hall, 92 N. Avalon.

The program will feature a live floor show, light buffet, cash bar and 1940's music. There will be prizes for the most original costume reflecting the period. Admission is \$4 per person.

# SKATE!

## A Gay Roller Skating Party

Sponsored By  
The Public Relations Committee On MGC

Thursday March 26,

7:30-9:30 p.m.

(Doors Open)

\$3 Per Ticket  
(plus \$1 skate rental)

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5137 Old Summer Road

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At J-Wag's

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Enclosed is \$3 per ticket for Skating Party or \$3 per ticket for Beer/Pizza Party \_\_\_\_\_ (indicate which). Or, enclosed is \$6 per person for tickets to both \_\_\_\_\_. Please indicate the number of tickets desired for each event.

Sex was never discussed at home. In a Catholic school sex was a sin unless you were married.

Masturbation was learned from another guy in the 8th grade--and then he told me never to do it.

I searched for anything to read about sex and there was very little. And even though I was always called a sissy--and later in high school and college a pansy, a queer--I didn't realize what the meaning dealt with. I thought they meant I didn't like sports and refused to participate in them.

I realized that girls were pretty and nice, but guys made me feel good. The magazines spoke of latent homosexuality. After more years passed, I realized that was what I was--a latent homosexual. Well, I don't know if that is true or not because I had been turned on by guys since I was capable of being turned on. All those wasted years that could have been so great, so fulfilling, had I not been so damn dumb.

You say I should not be ashamed of being Gay, have no guilt feelings, should be proud, should know that God loves me. Well let's set that part straight (no, let's set it in the right perspective.)

I'm not ashamed, have no guilt feelings, am proud to know that God loves me. My problem is threefold: my hurt ego that it took me so long, so very long--longer than some people have lived to realize what Gay means, to realize that I'm Gay; the problem of security (for lack of a better word)--security at work, security with straight people, and security from having a jail sentence; and the agony of loneliness, the fear that it will never end, that I'll never really know the true meaning of loving a person. Friendship is fine and better than nothing (and some people have no friends), but friendship must be a hollow husk compared to love and its joys, its enrichment, its humanity.

Being single and over 40 makes me suspect--so in a sense I'm not in a closet, I'm just in total isolation--isolation from the Gay community and isolation from the straight community.

A bachelor with his own apartment, refusing female visitors unless they come in pairs or more--has as few men visitors as possible--make a thing out of it--a TV man, electrical repairman--I don't want the neighbors to think "he has men visitors." Yes, it's lonely, but it has a plus side. I can

**Being single and over 40 makes me suspect--so in a sense I'm not in a closet, I'm just in total isolation--isolation from the Gay community and isolation from the straight community.**

leave the dishes in the sink, the bed unmade. My circle of friends is very limited, and my circle of Gay friends is even more limited.

The dishes, the bed? Well, I'm joking some. I do think things must be neat, always put up, never left out. You see, I'm in a closet in many ways.

A hypocrite? Oh sure, but then who isn't? At least to some degree in relation to something. We all live in a space and time thing--a spot in history--we do not live in a dream world (unless you call it a nightmare!).

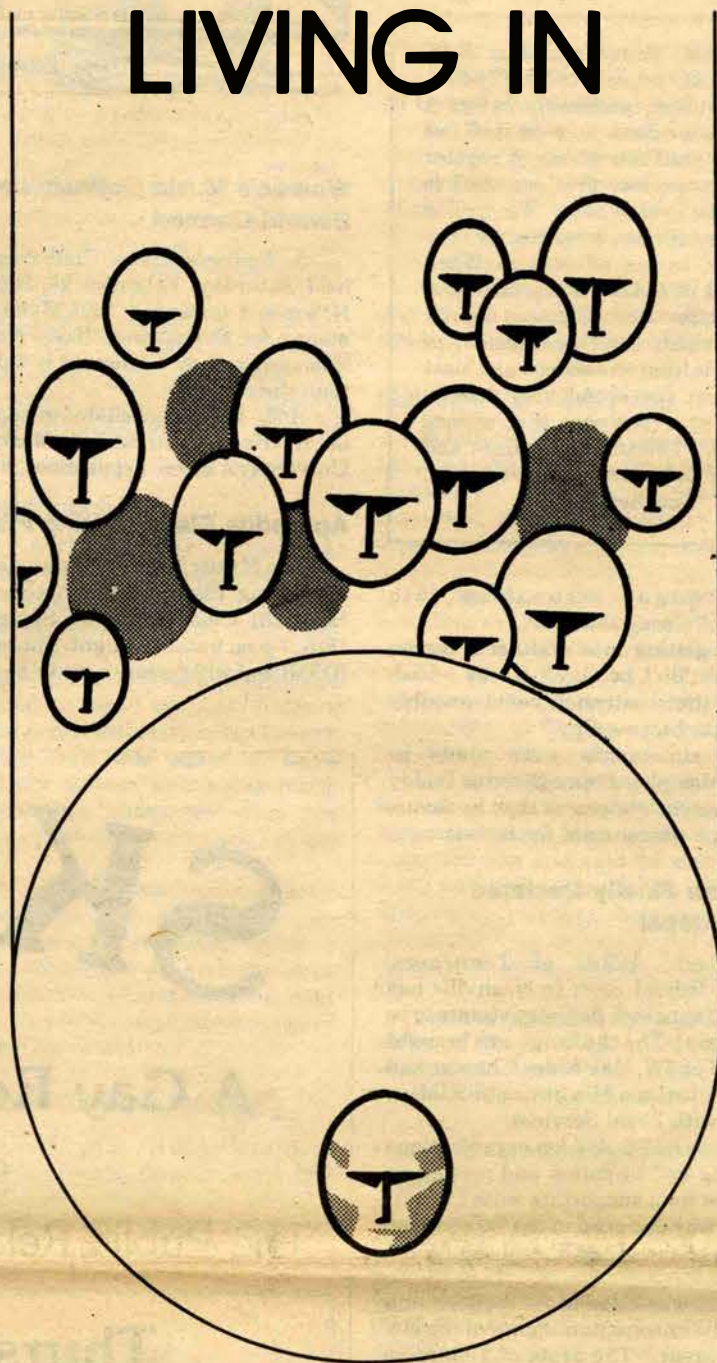
So why try to change this time and space to a dream world where Gays and straights are happy together, the here and now, into a tomorrow that may be wonderful. Tomorrow is another time-space spot in history and the two (today and tomorrow) can not be mixed or superimposed on each other. I live in a world that is here and now.

Hypocrisy! Ha! You make it sound like I'm the evil one--well look at yourself and your "out of the closet" friends--you are the ones kidding yourselves. Who are in the bars and in groups? Youth--handsome faces--bodies beautiful. And I ask you, where are those my age?

Come out? Come out to march, to sign a petition? I have a feeling that what you really want me to do is to be the sacrifice, the burnt offering for your "tomorrow" to appear today. Yes, let the crowds of straights jeer, the Gays cheer as we older ones go to jail, the gas chamber or the ovens.

No, I won't come out to what I've seen on TV--surely you saw that CBS show on Gays in politics. The Donahue Show. I will not be a part of a spectacle. I want things neat, proper, respectable. I don't want to discuss my life with people, especially my sex life.

**An older man writes of his thoughts, feelings and his life of frustration in a society that has only recently seen an exodus from the closet...**



## ISOLATION

By C.H.

I could be with my age group of Gays? You are kidding yourself because three have died, two left town and now there is only me.

Whenever I am asked to a straight party, I usually refuse. My integrity will not permit me to take a date and I will not go alone. I would be suspect--not married YET?

**Come out? Come out to march, to sign a petition? I have a feeling that what you really want me to do is to be the sacrifice, the burnt offering for your "tomorrow" to appear today.**

You think I'm in the closet. Well, I am paranoid about being found out. Once I spent an evening of ecstasy with a *Honcho* magazine ... and the rest of the night tearing it in teeny pieces so I could flush it down the toilet. Can you imagine the garbage man seeing it? Or worse, letting it fall into the yard and the neighbors finding it?

Paranoid? Hell, I'm frustrated and tired. When in school I wanted to act, to dance, to paint--sissy, fairy, queer--so I got a job in an art-related field because I didn't think a sissy, a queer, could act, dance or paint. I've kept the job, and have been bored to the point of illness. I still wish I could dance, act or paint. You see, I put a damper on my desires and have been damned for it.

No, I won't come out--so you and the other young Davids go ahead and kill your Goliath. Just let me die in solitude. But let me say if you get caught and sent to prison, it is better for one to go than for all to go.

Why should I support a group of rebels? I'll wait till the smoke dies down and see if you or the straights won. If you, then maybe I'll join you ... if the straights won, I'm home free. Yes, I have a gravy train syndrome. I'm selfish. I want security. Yes, I want sex--but safety and sanity too!

Come out--come out to what? A dirty, sleazy bar? My God, these people all wear uniforms, costumes. No matter, they don't

**Once I spent an evening of ecstasy with a *Honcho* magazine...and the rest of the night tearing it in teeny pieces so I could flush it down the toilet.**

even wear ties. You want me to dress in that fashion--no! You come and be a clone over here in my backyard. Wear a suit, a tie, and shoes--you with the work boots, you are the hypocrite, or do you really wear those clothes to work? To the office?

You be Gay your way; let me be my way, but I ask you--you say "come out," but will anyone that is out let me IN their circle?

I ask you: who would talk to a "young" Gay that is literally old enough to be his father?

I'm not me, I am "me" with quotes. But who am I? What the hell am I? No, you who want to come out do not know me. I'm not Gay, I'm just queer!

The way I live, the way I exist, I'll be dead 6 weeks before anyone knows for sure. Oh, by most standards I have lived a full, rich life, but I'm starved for friendship, companionship, love--so starved that at times I take the social amenities as indicative of love or at least friendship. After years of playing it safe, hiding the real me and forcing myself into a make-believe "me," I don't even know me.

No, I don't need counseling. I know the problem, the answer and what to do, but I haven't got the guts. It is simple--"be yourself." But how? I'm not sure what is me and what is "me."

I could move out of town, start over, be myself instead of "me." If I do and fail, what have I lost? Only the chance for happiness, the chance to be me.

Separated--that's my marital status, a single man, never married, but separated! I've tried separating my sex life (that's a laugh--my sex wishes, desires, wants--that's correct) from the rest of my life. I've tried separating self from self, separating me from "me." My energies and concentration have been used more to camouflage my sexuality than for aggressive performance at work. I've channeled my creativeness in trying to conceal myself rather than for climbing the ladder of promotion.

Do your very best in everything you do. Give it all you've got, achieve. Why didn't I try to achieve at work and why didn't I live openly?

I have an enviable work record, longevity and fair salary, fair but not good. I am aware that promotions went to less qualified persons. Yes, hand in glove go a good sex life and a good job--a great sex life and a great job. A frustrated sex life usually has a frustrated life and a fractured career. Come out--be a role model. I'm a poor model for even yesterday or last year or the turn of the century.

A role model--that's what I've needed all my life. But, as a role model for today, I'm not it, unless you need a model for an idiot. I cannot hold the Gay movement. All I could contribute is a "not this" image.

The habits of "me" are too strong to be given up. But then the big question is this: what exactly is the real me, what do I really like, what lifestyle do I really want, what kind of clothes do I really like--can the habits of "me" be intergrated with the real me?

Maybe I've fallen in love with love when at times I dream of being Macho, popular and well-liked, one of the boys, living one day at a time, contributing my fair share to the Gay movement.

As the twig is bent so grows the tree. Now as an old tree, maybe I can't come out; maybe I can't change even though I know I can't live without cheering. The attempt to change--to come out--will be traumatic--a shock--can I survive?

Survive? Survive by being fully truthful to myself and then to others. This reminds me of Hamlet, "To be or not to be." My life has not been. Is it too late to be when the curtain of life is coming down? Can I be a BAG (Born Again Gay)?

**A role model--that's what I've needed all my life. But as a role model for today, I'm not it, unless you need a model for an idiot.**

Yes, now I'm in agony. I'm all alone, but I do have a few straight people ("friends" with quotes) who will give me a ride to work, or in case of illness go to the grocery store for me. Now if I announce my debut--my coming out--my Gayness--and thus remove all their doubts, will these "friends" vanish?

My Gay acquaintances are almost nil. Meeting, making friends in the Gay community--wherever that is--seems far fetched if not impossible.

Will the Gays mistrust, suspect and reject me or at the least say "you're Gay, so what!" Yes, Gays are human and don't like a person JUST because the person is Gay (straights don't like you just because you are straight). Suspect--always, everywhere I'm suspect. Yes, better I stay as I am, "secure" with a few people who are "friends," but I know I can't live as I'm trying to now--a constant state of desire without fulfillment. A constant state of desire without the chance, or the hope of fulfillment.

# Police Harassment

Compiled by Ric Sullivan

The following is a conversation between "J" and "P" transcribed from a tape recording. It includes editorial comments made by "J" as he interviews "P," the victim, about an incident in Overton Park in mid-January.

J: How exactly did it happen? What time of the day was it?

P: About 12:30 (p.m.)

J: Right after lunch?

P: Yes, near the parking lot over there.

J: Over by North Parkway?

P: I was right in that corner there and he passed me and smiled. He had his (car) window down and smiled. He parked on the side of the road, and he had his window down. He said, "Hi, how are you doing today?" I said, "Fine"—you know, all that. And then he said, "What do you like to do?"

J: And what did you do?

P: I told him "Everything." You know, like that, and he said, "Where do you live?" I said, "Over there, on Poplar." He said, "Well, why don't we just talk for a while?" I said, "Okay." He said, "I'd feel better if I get out of the car." So he got out of the car and went across the street. We started talking. And about that time another plainclothesman came by, and he (the one talking) asked me if I knew him (the one who walked by). I said, "No, I've never seen him. He's harmless," because I didn't know what to say to the man. I said, "I don't know him." What do you say to a stranger?

J: That's a tactic the police use. They know that you don't know a stranger and you're not likely to know what to say to him. So they take advantage of that.

P: And then we were talking ... and about that time (the plainclothesman) came back up. He didn't go very far (about 20 ft.) (He) turned around, came back around and we (the first cop) were talking. He pulled out his badge and said, "You're under arrest for soliciting males." He took me off the street

and put me in the back of the car and took me to the station.

J: Well, how would he know?

P: I don't know unless they had some kind of signal or tape recorder themselves.

J: How would he know to come back and arrest you unless it was already prearranged or unless they had some kind of signal system ... but the point is, you gave no indication to the man walking by, did you, of what was going on?

P: No.

J: Then that is entrapment. But proving it would be a different matter.

P: I had asked the man (the first cop) if he were a cop and he said no.

J: You asked him when you were talking to him?

P: Yeah, and he said no. It would be his word against mine because they could have erased that off the tape.

J: I doubt that they had a tape. A tape would incriminate them too ... They can't afford to have a tape going.

P: On the way to the police station, they said, "Slick, you really got yourself into trouble now, didn't you?" And then on the report ... they put on the docket that I invited him over, wanted him to have anal intercourse with me and I wanted his partner for oral sex. I didn't even bring up any of that. But that's what they've got on the report.

J: They could not afford then to have a tape recorder on them could they? If they're going to falsify the report, how could they afford to have a tape recorder on them? One of these days we're going to have to trap them by using a bugging device ... so exactly what is said can be recorded. It's not admissible in court, but it's a very strong testimony.

P: So they took me in ... Then I was so sick they had to take me to John Gaston Hospital ... so they handcuffed me again—handcuffed me to the bed ... I was throwing up and I was so sick it hurt. And they took me back to the trauma room and still handcuffed me to the bed ... (a John Gaston policeman) was

standing right there ... I think it was West who arrested me.

J: He was just the arresting officer? What kind of car was he driving?

P: A maroon small car. I think it was a Vega or something ... Texas plates. When we got to the station there was a whole line of cars from different states and they use those for decoys.

J: What's going to have to be done is ... that somebody will have guts enough to go out and act as a decoy to them so that we can prove entrapment ... but because the public opinion is not on our side, it's on the side of the law; in other words, most of the general public would say "He would have to have been doing something wrong or they wouldn't have arrested him." That's not true. We know it's not true. They don't know it's not true.

P: It makes them feel good 'cause they got another Gay person ... 'cause they were laughing and cutting up in the car on the way to the police station. They were saying, "Well, we've got to hurry up and get back to the park 'cause we want to get that one in the Lincoln Continental that's driving around." I'd know them (the cops) if I saw them again. They weren't young; they were older. But see, when he asked me about the man that passed, he said, "Do you know him?" I said, "No, he's harmless," because I didn't know what to say about him. I guess he was trying to ask me if I thought he was cute or something and that way they would have put that on their report.

J: At this point they don't have to have anything more than what they cook up about you.

P: And that's what they did.

J: Chances are they're going to figure you're not going to fight this. But you are going to take it to court? You're not just going to forfeit them a bond and let it go at that?

P: We're going to court ...

J: What was your bond?

P: \$50.

J: Just \$50? You see, that's what they work on. They work on embarrassing you so

that you will forfeit that \$50 bond and they'll have no further work to do in the case. That's clear money to them. I mean how long did it take them to pick you up and take you downtown?

P: About 5 minutes at the most.

J: What did they do in court (during preliminary hearing)?

P: They asked me if I knew the charges that had been brought against me, and I said not exactly. They said, "Well, you were soliciting males for one thing." That's the main thing ... soliciting males.

J: Were you charged with resisting arrest?

P: No.

J: They usually will charge a person in your position with resisting arrest because that's additional money and it can't be disproven ... You told me earlier that you were harassed by some of the inmates there.

P: Yeah, but I didn't bother them. I didn't say anything to them ... I couldn't even sleep the other night ... he (arresting officer) didn't even ask for an I.D. from me.

J: He didn't have to. He was already intending to entrap you ... Had he seen you before or had you seen him before driving around?

P: I saw the car but I didn't see him exactly, nor pay any attention to him.

J: In other words, you had not made any advances at all toward him? So he had already seen you ...?

P: When I went around a corner, he stopped his car and when I got around the corner he had his window down and looked at me and smiled and said, "Hi, how're you doing today?"

J: Did you ever say anything that could be construed as a proposition to him?

P: I did not proposition him, no.

J: How are you feeling about it now?

P: I've been thinking about it ever since it happened and I can't sleep. That's why the doctor gave me these nerve pills ... It scared the hell out of me.

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# MUSIC Gay and Straight Together

By Jenifer Taft

Few albums give us more than two or three bands of which good hit singles are made; most albums in my collection find themselves on my turntable for the enjoyment of one, maybe two, good cuts and the rest of the record turns only to be tolerated.

*Gay and Straight Together* hasn't left my turntable since I managed to get my greedy hands on it.

If reviews that have nothing but wonderful things to say about a work are a turnoff to you, consider yourself turned off. I have never raved about an album the way I am raving about this one; it is, simply put, the best record I have ever listened to ... and listened to ... and listened to ...

We learned an important lesson at GAZE from this record. We had been hesitant to solicit a review copy because the title suggested to us that perhaps the theme was one of those patronizing, some-of-my-best-friends-are routines. Far from it.

From beginning to end—both sides—the message is clear and consistent, said sometimes with laughter and sometimes with tears, that, in the words of Pete Seeger, "Gay and straight together, we shall not be moved!" The record's producer, Ginni Clemmens (Open Door Records) states that the album "was brought into existence to promote understanding, acceptance, and support between different lifestyles; to show that this already exists on a grass roots level; and to show that we are going through this process with our hearts, heads, and sense of humor intact."

This album absolutely screams excellence in every aspect—vocals, musicians, production, themes, sound quality—but even more overwhelming are the words to the songs (only one of the 14 cuts is strictly instrumental). Jeffrey Jones tells us in "Song For His 'N' Hers," of the fading of a fear of Gay people. "When you've nothin' to hide, you got nothin' to lose; You can be anything or do anything you choose" (from the chorus).

In "How Nice," Kristin Lems sings of the meeting, courtship and marriage of a heterosexual couple, ending each segment with a "what if" couplet. As the couple is married and blessed and congratulated by relatives, Ms. Lems brings a real tear to the eyes of the emotional. "But if both of them were women or if both of them were men, Who would congratulate them then?"

"Surprise," by Paula Walowitz, is a very pleasant surprise. "Surprise, I'm a Lesbian! And goodness here I am again; Dodging all the questions while staying on my toes. Explaining why there is no man in my life. I'm a loner I suppose."

It gets better! "I'm looking forward to the day, When I can say, Surprise, I'm Gay! And the people at work will smile and say, 'That's nice ... where are we going to lunch today?'"

The obvious temptation here is to print the words to all the songs ... which brings me to another good point about this album; it comes with an insert containing the printed words to each song.

The variety of musical styles and performers, which frequently seems to destroy the continuity of a record, actually contributes to the solidarity of *Gay and Straight Together*. A song by Charlie Murphy, "If You Got Gayness," creates a gutsy, down-to-business, home-grown folksong mood which is complimented by, rather than divided by, such cuts as Nancy Scimmel's country-westernish "Piney Creek Woman." There is a little bit of everything in this "people album," and it all somehow falls together with ease and confidence. Lori Noelle's "Penguin Walk Rag," the album's only instrumental, is further evidence of the variety of musical styles present.

I fear that by not mentioning every song on the album I may be showing my bias. I confess to having favorites, but my favorites today aren't the same favorites I had yesterday. This confounded record will do that to you!

Even the jacket is good. Reverend Kenneth T. Martin's words printed on it are prize reading.

"Being present at the recording sessions for these albums (Volume I is reviewed here) was like participating in a tiny microcosm of the way the world should be. The joyous and celebrative spirits of Ginni Clemmens and the other women and men, blacks and whites, old and young, Gays and straights whose energies created this album have taught us an invaluable truth, that two things can be different without one being better than the

other. That is a lasting contribution to the cause of understanding, love, and community among all people. We know now, and we will never forget, that the basic civil rights and liberties of humankind, like the right to love whomever one chooses, are to be sought before and cherished above all other things."

*Gay And Straight Together* was recorded live at His 'N' Hers in Chicago. Write to Open Door Records c/o His 'N' Hers, 944 West Addison, Chicago, IL 60613 for information and to order a copy.

## No Conviction For Private, Consensual Sex Acts

By Marty Katz

Most police harassment involves charges of such crimes as "public drunkenness" or "soliciting," primarily because city ordinances do not concern themselves with the subject of homosexuality. The Tennessee Code Annotated, however, provides a law specifically outlawing certain sexual acts, although conviction under this law is impossible when the acts are performed between consenting adults privately.

"Crimes Against Nature," #39-707, states the following: "Crimes against Nature, either with mankind or with beast, are punishable by imprisonment in the penitentiary not less than five (5) years nor more than fifteen (15) years."

The question of the constitutionality of this law was removed in *Stephens vs. State* (1972) and *Locke vs. State* (1973). The rulings held that the law was not unconstitutionally vague because "crimes against nature meant the common-law offense of sodomy." In *Locke vs. State*, the Tennessee Court of Appeals upheld the inclusion of cunnilingus as a "crime against nature" and that its inclusion does not make the law unconstitutionally vague.

The phrase "crimes against nature either with mankind or beast" is a euphemism for particular acts that constitute sodomy. In the narrower sense, sodomy is anal intercourse between two human beings or by a human being in any manner with an animal. In the broader sense, sodomy is the carnal copulation by human beings with each other, supposedly "against nature," or with a beast, in which case it includes all acts of "unnatural" sex. The courts have accepted the broader meaning, maintaining that the acts can be oral sex as well as anal intercourse.

"Crimes against nature" includes cunnilingus when the participants are not married and the female does not consent. (Which woman has to consent?)

The ruling from *Sherril vs. State* (1959), says "fellatio, in common language, is sexual perversion committed with the male sexual organ and the mouth."

It should be noted, however, that if such acts that constitute "crimes against nature" are performed between consenting adults, each party is considered an accomplice of the other and neither can be convicted on the uncorroborated testimony of the other.

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