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Gaze, November 1980

Item Type	Text
Authors	Russell, Regina;Rochman, Emily;Johnson, Bill;Correll, Scott;Harrick, Judi;Sullivan, Ric
Publisher	Memphis, Tenn. : Memphis Gay Media;Memphis, Tenn. : Memphis Gay Coalition
Download date	2025-05-23 08:30:18
Link to Item	http://hdl.handle.net/10267/29643

Meeting Documents Anti-Gay Police Bias

By Regina Russell

An open meeting of the Gay community held October 27 concerning the recent upswing of police harassment of Gays in Memphis revealed that the situation is "much worse" than local Gay leaders had thought. The meeting, attended by representatives of the Memphis Gay Coalition, legal advisors and the director of the Tennessee American Civil Liberties Union, indicated, through the testimonies of about 10 victims of recent police harassment, that a very definite anti-Gay bias exists within a segment of the Memphis Police Department.

A 36-year-old businessman was arrested recently while walking through Overton Park and charged with "indecent behavior." The man was merely walking. A plain-clothes officer walked up to the man, pulled a gun from his jeans and said "You're under arrest." The officer then said that he intended to "clear all the faggots out of here." The man who was arrested was walking through the park on his way to work (about 3:30 p.m.) and was forbidden a call to his employer to explain his absence from his job. He was to report for work at 4 p.m. The man lost his job.

The man, we will call him "Richard," said, "the verbal abuse was just incredible." Richard was so afraid following the incident to even go out into the street that he refused to go talk with his attorney the following evening. An attorney had advised him that should he decide to plead "not guilty" that he would be subject to further harassment from police on the street.

"I was called every name in the book and a few I believe they made up," says a

woman who was arrested outside the Pendulum a few weeks ago. "Joni" was charged with public drunkenness and insufficient identification. She does not drink.

"According to Tennessee law," says GAZE's attorney, "no test is required for

other said to me, 'If you want to get out and stretch your legs, you can.'" The officer got out of the car and "Bob" got out also to "stretch his legs." The officer then nightsticked "Bob," handcuffed him, and charged him with resisting arrest. By the time the case went to

the arrest. "Sam" was thrown to the ground by the officer, handcuffed from behind and then pulled from the ground by the handcuffs.

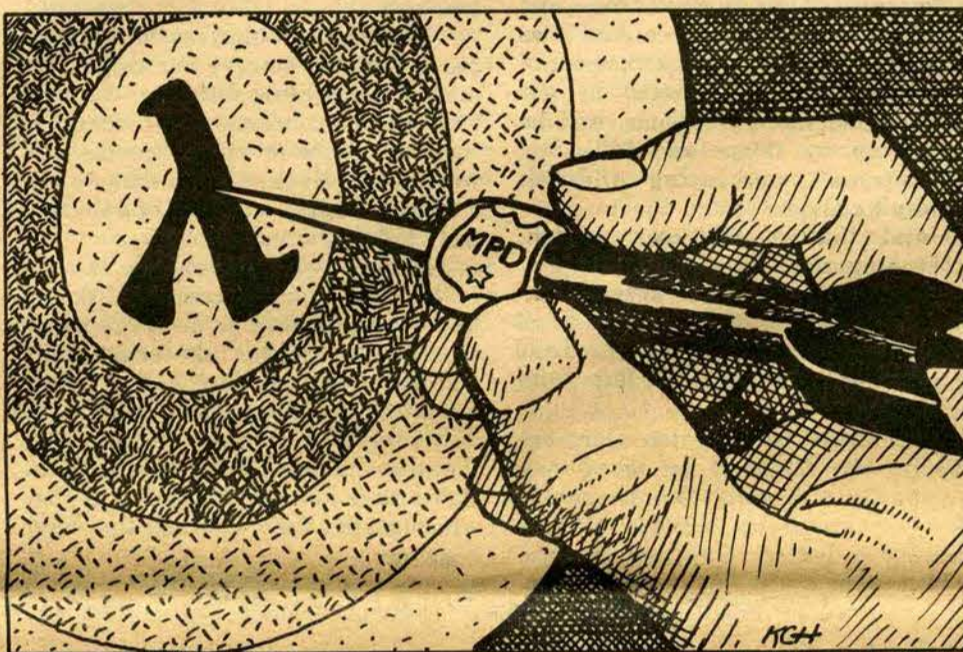
When asked by one of the companions where "Sam" was being taken, the officer responded, "None of your business."

When "Sam" arrived at the station and requested to make his one phone call, the arresting officer told the clerk, "No, he's a smart ass. Don't let him make a phone call." "Sam" was then put in a crowded cell. The officer told the cellmates that he had a "faggot" for them.

"Sam" fought the charges. He won. But the incident cost him over \$500, money he will not be able to replace. His lawyer advised him not to file a complaint with internal affairs unless he was prepared to deal with continued harassment from the police. He did not file a complaint. Nevertheless, "Sam" reports that a police car sits regularly in front of his apartment.

Numerous other incidents in recent weeks have promoted concern within the Memphis Gay community, particularly in light of the recent national trend in police brutality and violence against Gays. Several incidents have been reported outside Ten North Cleveland. One man reported leaving the bar one evening only to be greeted by police saying that no one was allowed on the street. "Fine," he said, until the verbal abuse began flowing. The police were breaking up a fight between two men on the sidewalk. "But 'faggot' and 'queer,'" the man said, "were

continued on page 7



intoxication, unless the arrest involves driving, of any person arrested for public drunkenness. They (the police) can arrest anyone, charge them with public drunkenness whether they have been drinking or not, and get away with it."

"Bob" was arrested in Audubon Park and was not given a reason for his arrest. On the way to the station, the police "stopped at a 7/11 to get coffee. One cop went inside for the coffee. The

court, "Bob" says some 32 officers had signed a complaint against him.

"Sam" was arrested recently upon leaving the Psych-Out. He walked outside to find the police waiting. An officer (Williams) arrested "Sam" and charged him with public drunkenness, resisting arrest and assault on an officer.

Two women companions who followed "Sam" from the bar witnessed

Christian Right Wins Nation--Loses In Memphis

By Emily Rochman

Moral Majority and Christian Voice-backed candidates nationwide swept to victory in the November 4 election, virtually "cleaning out" the liberal elements in Congress. Whether the victories of right-wingers can be attributed to the efforts of the "Christian Right" or a generally conservative mood in the country remains open to debate.

The Reagan victory has been called "insignificant" by liberals when compared to the vast number of liberal Congresspersons who were defeated in the election. Sens. George McGovern (D-S.D.), Birch Bayh (D-IN), John Culver (D-IA) and Frank Church (D-Idaho) and Rep. John Brademas (D-IN), all Moral Majority "hit list" candidates suffered defeat.

E.E. McAteer, founder of the so-called "Religious Roundtable," said in Memphis after the election that he will meet soon with Jerry Falwell, founder of Moral Majority, activist evangelist James Robison and others "to develop our plans for future action."

Several state governor's races also fell victim to right-wing candidates. Notable among those were the defeat in

Arkansas of Gov. Clinton and in Washington of Gov. Dixy Lee Ray.

In Shelby County, however, Moral Majority-backed candidates did poorly. Shelby County, which went to Carter in the Presidential race, showed very little support for local Christian Right contenders.

Democratic Sen. Ed Gillock, who is currently on trial on federal charges of bribery and extortion, nevertheless overcame opposition from the heavily Moral Majority-backed Joe Crawford to return to the state senate from District 28.

State Senator James H. White also defeated Moral Majority's Sam Gentry in the District 30 race, carrying some 72% of the vote.

State Rep. Pam Gaia (District 89) defeated Moral Majority-backed Andy Strickland by 74% of the vote.

Sens. Gillock and White and Rep. Gaia were endorsed last month by GAZE.

In other races, David A. Shirley (D-District 84) defeated Moral Majority-backed Wendell Hartzog by 61% of the vote. Incumbent Rep. John Spence (D-

District 90) defeated Republican challenger Karen Williams.

Local support for the Christian Right has been noticeably absent during recent weeks. A James Robison crusade held in Memphis in October fell short of paying for itself. The Religious Roundtable's "National Affairs Briefing" held recently at Cook

Convention Center was attended by fewer than 1,500 persons despite projections by organizers of more than 10,000 participants. A GAZE reporter who attended the "Briefing" reports that most of the speeches by fundamentalist leaders were given to attacking President Carter and urging support of Reagan.

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The Right To Flaunt And The Need To Fight By Bill Johnson

When I wear a button that says "Gay," I am inviting attacks by thugs. When I speak too loudly in a public restaurant (of the heterosexual variety-yes, I occasionally frequent such places) about Gay issues or about that cute man who just took my order, I am inviting attacks by thugs.

When the recent Southeastern Conference of Lesbians and Gay Men was held here in a public hotel, the participants were inviting trouble from the "Christians." When we place *GAZE* on the "open shelves of the public libraries" every month, we are inviting trouble from the "Christians."

When I walk through Overton Park, I am inviting arrest by a vice squad cop (usually a troll). When I ask the cop why I am being arrested, I am inviting trouble. When I challenge the arrest and file a complaint against the cop, I am inviting future harassment from the cop's cop-buddies.

I can't deny it. The possibilities--the probabilities--of trouble are obviously very real. Curious, it is, how I am blamed for the ignorance of thugs, the bias of "Christians," and the bigotry of many cops.

I could say that I am being blamed for their ignorance and bias even though I do not contribute in any way to that ignorance and bias. I do contribute to it, however, every time I don't confront it.

Progress is geometric.

A friend said to me recently, "I can walk into a restaurant with my lover and not get harassed. If you walk in with

your Gay t-shirt on, they're going to do you in."

"So you pass," I said.

"What?" he asked.

"You know, *pass*. Didn't you ever see *Imitation of Life*?"

"Three times," he answered. "So what?"

He then told me that he can be Gay and still be just like everybody else, except for what he does in bed. But what he does in bed is the same thing a million heterosexuals do in bed every night.

We all know the lines too well. Our deep-rooted self-hatred just somehow won't let us get over that old line about not "flaunting" in public. Most straights out there don't approve of homos, therefore we should be nice to them and not throw it up in their faces. And if we do we'll lose our jobs, get kicked out of our apartments, be rejected by our families and straight friends, and be beaten up by thugs and killed by "Christians" advocating a death penalty for Gays.

And that is the most selfish, unthinking, cowardly attitude that any of us could express. Not because we can't or won't come out ourselves is it cowardly, but because we run scared and condemn our friends when they come out.

The lines are all too common. "Those who flaunt it get what they deserve. Gays shouldn't flaunt in public. He was beaten up because he was wearing a button. Gay activists are flaunting their sexuality."

I've known too many incidents of Gay friends of friends who were "discovered" quite by accident only to have their "friends" desert them out of fear at a time when they were needed most. What about these people? Are we so selfish that we won't fight for the rights of Gay people, using the old excuse that we are doing just fine "behind the scenes?"

And we don't have to come out to do it. We don't have to march in the streets (even with a paper bag over the head) or stand in front of a TV camera to fight for our rights as human beings. We can be effective "behind the scenes," *if* we are truly working behind the scenes. It's a sure bet that those who usually say they are, *aren't*.

But we say to ourselves that we must prove that we deserve our rights. We must pay for being different. We must make certain concessions in order not to "offend" bigots or "stir up trouble." Do we hate ourselves so much that we will continue to carry a burden of guilt that truly belongs to the bigots?

It is not I who must change. It is not I who must make concessions. I do not have to prove that I "deserve" rights that non-Gay citizens take for granted. I will not pay for my Gayness.

It is the thugs, the bigots, the "Christians" who must change. It is they who must make concessions for the rights they are denying me. It is they who must pay for the wrongs they have done me.

My right to public affection is one

denied me by Gay friends as readily as by straight bigots. We have simply accepted that we are not to have the same rights as heterosexuals. After all, they have told us that we can't have them. They know best.

Until we let the heterosexuals know that our Gayness is truly none of their business, they will never keep their noses out of it.

It is my human right to live my life in full and open view of everyone if I see fit to do so. It is not my duty to shield their eyes from something they don't care to look at or to shield their ears from something they don't care to hear.

Now that the Christian Right has succeeded in cleaning out Congress, electing the Moral Majority and KKK-backed Reagan, and creating a political and legislative climate that is likely to rival the Dark Ages, the temptation to run and hide is almost overwhelming. But it has never been more important than now to come out fighting.

We must let them know that we are not going to take what they are attempting to dish out. The probability of anti-Gay legislation more severe than we ever dreamed of has never been greater. The likelihood of increased police brutality against Gays and queer-bashing by thugs has never been greater.

And not one of us is far enough in the closet to escape the effects of it.

GRNL Analyzes 96th Congress

The Gay Rights National Lobby has published an analysis of the 96th Congress providing ratings of the American Civil Liberties Union, the National Women's Political Caucus and Christian Voice, giving each congressman a rating from 0 (lowest) to 100 (highest) by each of the three organizations. The ACLU ratings are based on voting records in terms of human rights issues, the NWPC ratings in terms of Women's issues, and the Christian Voice in terms of anti-human rights "morality" issues.

Tennessee Representatives were rated by the ACLU, NWPC and Christian Voice, respectively, as follows: Quillen-25, 8, 85; Duncan-25, 16, 92; Bouquard-13, 24, 54; Gore-50, 60, 14; Boner-25, 48, 43; Beard-13, 0, 100;

Jones-13, 40, 43; and Ford-88, 100, 8. All Tennessee Representatives except Harold Ford (D-Memphis), who voted against, voted in favor of the recent anti-Gay McDonald Amendment.

Tennessee Senators were rated (in the same order) as follows: Baker-33, 40, 70; and Sasser-17, 60, 27.

Mississippi Representatives were rated as follows: Whitten-25, 48, 57; Bowen-13, 40, 67; Montgomery-0, 8, 92; Hinson-0, 8, 92; and Lott-0, 0, 100. All Mississippi Representatives voted in favor of the McDonald Amendment except Hinson, who recently admitted involvement in homosexual activity (which he claimed was due to a temporary period of "personal stress"), was listed as "not voting" on the McDonald Amendment. Hinson was re-

lected November 4.

Mississippi Senators were rated as follows: Stennis-17, 24, 58; and Cochran-0, 23, 64.

Arkansas Representatives were rated as follows: Alexander-25, 60, 8; Bethune-38, 8, 92; Hammerschmidt-25, 8, 100; and Anthony-38, 68, 31. All four of Arkansas' Representatives voted in favor of the McDonald Amendment.

Arkansas Senators were rated as follows: Bumpers-33, 84, 8; and Pryor-17, 89, 14.

In Missouri, Representative Clay, who is a sponsor of pending Gay-supportive legislation H.R. 2074, was rated 100 by both the ACLU and the NWPC and only 8 by Christian Voice. Clay and Bolling voted against the McDonald Amendment while all other

Missouri Representatives voted in favor. Bolling received a rating of 0 by Christian Voice, while Taylor and Ichord, who were rated 0 by both the ACLU and NWPC, received ratings of 100 by Christian Voice.

In Kentucky, Representatives Hubbard, Snyder, Carter and Hopkins received high Christian Voice ratings. No Kentucky Representative was rated above 50 by the ACLU and only Rep. Perkins did better (60) with the NWPC.

Missouri Senators were rated as follows: Eagleton-33, 52, 8; and Danforth-17, 32, 43. Kentucky Senators were rated as follows: Ford-17, 32, 54; and Huddleston-17, 40, 23.

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Policy Statement No. 257

In April of 1975, the American Civil Liberties issued a policy statement regarding its position on Gay rights issues. The statement is one of great historical significance in the struggle of Gay persons to achieve equal rights under the law. That statement is reprinted below.

Homosexuals are entitled to the same rights, liberties, lack of harassment and protections as are other citizens.

The right of individual privacy, free from government regulation, extends to sexual conduct, heterosexual or homosexual, of consenting adults. Thus, the ACLU opposes criminal restraint on any homosexual behavior, between or among consenting adults in private, or in public unless the same restraint applies to heterosexual behavior. Criminalization of these acts is a violation of the right of individual privacy. Such conduct is a matter for individual judgement, but is not a concern of the penal statutes of the state. The ACLU opposes involuntary institutionalization and/or treatment of such behavior, and opposes the enforcement of sex-offender registrations statutes against individuals convicted of private consensual sex acts.

The use and dissemination of arrest records, which the ACLU generally opposes, is an offensive denial of due

process and a continuous invasion of individual privacy, when the arrest is for crimes involving private sexual behavior. Similarly, dissemination of records of conviction under unconstitutional criminal statutes is objectionable. The release of such private information often leads to loss of employment and employment opportunities.

Criminal statutes proscribing adult homosexual behavior create an environment of oppression arising from the fear of prosecution and provide the means of blackmail. Criminal statutes of this kind are most reprehensible when linked to enforcement by entrapment by special police squads or the use of peepholes and other devices for secret surveillance of public rest rooms. Such laws only serve to perpetuate discrimination against homosexuals. When criminal laws are not enforced either uniformly or substantially, or when the law invites arbitrary enforcement and facilitates blackmail, the law generally is weakened by evasion and disrespect. Thus, the Union maintains that discrimination on the basis of homosexuality violates an individual's right of privacy and denies the person equal protection of the law.

The ACLU opposes criminal restraints on public solicitation for private sexual behavior between or among adults of the same sex. Such

restraints provide the stimulus for government harassment of homosexuals even in the absence of any criminal charges. In addition, a variety of official pressures are brought in to bear in parks, bars, night clubs and other public meeting places solely on the grounds that they are frequented by homosexuals. Such practice violates freedom of assembly and association.

Just as governmental discrimination by race, alienage, religion or sex is a denial of equal protection, so too is governmental discrimination on the basis of sexual or affectional preference. Homosexuality *per se* implies no disability that would justify such discrimination. The ACLU opposes the exclusion, deportation and refusal to naturalize homosexual aliens. Similarly the ACLU opposes discrimination in public and private housing and accommodations, governmental benefits, occupational licensing, and government and private employment-including teaching of children and jobs requiring security clearance-simply because the person is a homosexual. The government practice of inquiring into the sexual practices and preferences of its employees or prospective employees and disseminating such information to other government and non-government agencies is an unconstitutional invasion of privacy.

The ACLU opposes limitations on the custody and visitation rights of parents when such limitations are based solely on the parent's sexual preferences.

The ACLU opposes limitations on the custody and visitation rights of parents when such limitations are based solely on the parent's sexual preferences.

The ACLU opposes governmental or private attempts to prevent homosexuals from speaking out about homosexuality and from forming and sustaining political and social groups on or off school campuses.

The ACLU supports passage of legislation to eliminate government and private discrimination against homosexuals.



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.

GAZE is non-profit and assumes no liability for claims made by advertisers. Appearance in this publication does not indicate sexual orientation. We reserve the right to edit or reject all materials submitted for publication. Subscriptions are \$6 per year.

Editor: William W. Johnson

Local and national news articles appearing in GAZE are generally written, compiled, or rewritten from press releases by the following staff writers:

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Although we occasionally print articles submitted by other individuals, whose names or pennames appear in conjunction with their articles, no individuals other than those listed above are responsible for the content of GAZE, excepting, of course, letters to the editor.

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Distribution: Cecil McLeod, Jim Ramsey, Ric Sullivan

Local Advertising: Bill Johnson, Charlie McMullen

Regional Advertising:
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Member IGNA (International Gay News Agency).
Distributed in Memphis, Little Rock and Nashville.
Microfilmed by the Southern Gay Archives, Boca Raton, FL.

Virginia Beach Votes "No" To Gay Paper In Libraries

By Bill Johnson

NORFOLK, VA--The dispute between the Virginia Beach public libraries and the Tidewater area Gay paper, *Our Own*, resulted in the issue coming to public referendum in the November 4 election. Fundamentalist leader Rev. Rodney Bell of Tabernacle Baptist Church of Virginia Beach and a group calling themselves "Citizens for the Family" brought the referendum to the ballot on the question, "Shall a publication whose primary purpose is to depict or advocate, through picture or work, homosexual acts, be displayed, distributed, or received into the libraries of Virginia Beach, Virginia?"

Approximately 48,000 voters said "no" to the question (favoring the fundamentalists), while only 13,000 said "yes" to the question. According to Jim Early, a former editor of *Our Own* and member of the group which publishes the paper (Unitarian Universalist Gay Community--UUGC), about 15,000 voters abstained.

Early, however, indicated that the vote does not mean that *Our Own* will be removed from the libraries altogether. The referendum, Early said, "was only a recommendation to the city council, which may or may not decide to enact it."

Our Own lost distribution rights in the Virginia Beach libraries earlier this year after complaints from local fundamentalists led to a recommendation by the library board that a single display copy, rather than a stack, be placed in each of Virginia Beach's 5 branch libraries. This action resulted in the filing of a lawsuit against the city of Virginia Beach by the UUGC in conjunction with the ACLU of Virginia,

charging that the ban violated the First and Fourteenth Amendments of the Constitution.

The Virginia Beach City Council has postponed any action on the referendum until after a court hearing in Federal District Court of Norfolk in which the UUGC and the ACLU will seek an injunction against the ban of *Our Own* from the libraries.

"It's not as bad as it looks," Early told GAZE. "The Library Board may decide that *Our Own* does not fit the description of the referendum question."

Library Board Chairperson Jack Robertson is "extremely concerned" about the politicizing of the library system on this issue. Robertson said

that a "yes" vote on the referendum question was a vote for pornography while a "no" vote was a vote for censorship. Robertson said that *Our Own* is not a pornographic publication.

Prior to the election, the Library Board placed ads in the local newspapers advising voters to abstain on the question.

Meanwhile, local fundamentalists have called for the dismissal of Robertson as Library Board Chairperson and have threatened the use of their voting power to remove city council members who do not support their position on the issue.

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Therefore if any one be in Christ he is a new creature; old things are passed away. Behold all things are become new.

II Corinthians 5:17

Appreciation

On page 7 of your September issue you mention *Arkansas Gay Writes*. Would you be kind enough to supply us with an address?

We greatly appreciate receiving *GAZE* and are pleased by its interesting articles (like "A 19th Century Lesbian Tragedy" by Scott Correll) and wide coverage.

Thanks again for your help.

Edward Weber
Labadie Collection
University of Michigan Library
Ann Arbor, MI

Professional

This is to thank you for sending us the free copy of your publication: *GAZE*, and to wish you success for a really professional Gay paper.

We would like to receive a copy of your rate sheet for display advertising as we are doing a national media campaign. We would also like to set up an exchange subscription with your paper as we have with most Gay publications.

We are enclosing a recent issue of *GALA Review*, our monthly publication.

Thomas Rolfsen
Gay Atheists League of America
San Francisco, CA 94114

Frightening

"Are We Sleeping, Brother John?" in last month's *GAZE* was the most frightening article I've ever read. Now that the elections have virtually put Jerry Falwell on Capitol Hill, I realize that you were right.

Karen Clarkson
Paducah, KY

Bars Don't Need To Advertise

After reading a letter in your paper, "Where Are The Bar Ads," I realized that there are indeed very few in *GAZE*.

Having worked for two years selling ads for a Gay paper in Texas, I can speak from experience that the bars do not need to advertise. There are simply too few Gay bars in even the largest cities to remain unknown to the bar-going crowd.

The bar-going crowd, though, knows that the bars don't need to advertise, and whether or not bar ads actually increase a bar's business is pure speculation. Many of these bar-goers enjoy reading a local Gay paper, and sooner or later, they begin to wonder how in the world that paper manages to pay for itself when there are too few ads in it.

Then they begin to notice the bars that do advertise. They begin to realize, knowing that the bars don't need to advertise, that perhaps there is more there than meets the eye.

I know that when I spend those good old greenbacks in my favorite bar on Saturday night, I like to know that my favorite bar puts a little bit of that money back into something that benefits the entire community.

If the bars, who after all depend on the community for their existence, don't support that community, why support them?

Danny Fitzhugh
Pasadena, TX

Keep Up The Boycott

The boycott of Holiday Inns, Inc. is a wise move on the part of the organizers


of the Southeastern Lesbian and Gay Conference. I am employed by Holiday Inns and find the anti-Gay sentiment within to be sickening.

I was aware of some of the corporate bull that was going down just before the conference. The words "those queers" popped up more than one time by some pretty high officials.

I know for a fact that the Rivermont turned away some of the conference people who hadn't made prior reservations even though there were plenty of vacancies that weekend.

I say, keep up the boycott.

Name Withheld
Memphis



The Walt Whitman Bookshop
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NTGF Files Lawsuit To Protect Oklahoma Teachers

OKLAHOMA CITY--The National Gay Task Force filed a lawsuit on October 14 in Oklahoma City Federal District Court challenging the constitutionality of a 1978 Oklahoma law prohibiting the employment of homosexuals or any person who advocates Gay rights by Oklahoma school systems. Known as the "Helms Bill," the law is similar to a statewide initiative in California (the Briggs Initiative or Proposition 6) that was soundly defeated by California voters the same year.

"The Helms Bill is a patently discriminatory piece of legislation that singles out Lesbians and Gay men and any school employee associating with us for harassment and abuse," says NGTF Co-Director Lucia Valeska. "It is an attack on every school employee's fundamental livelihood, specially those who are Gay, and we cannot allow this law to remain unchallenged."

"The law punishes the constitutionally protected right to free speech, assembly and association," according to Stephen Parrish of Gay Rights Advocates. "It creates a severe chilling effect that inhibits teachers and other employees from participating in organizations or political campaigns in

which Gay rights is an issue. This is clearly a violation of Constitutional rights and must be struck down by the courts."

William B. Rogers of Oklahoma City, who is serving as local cooperating attorney for the action, noted that the lawsuit could have national implications. "We believe that whichever side loses," Rogers said, "the decision will be appealed. My clients are prepared to see this fight through to the U.S. Supreme Court if necessary. That any U.S. citizen is denied the right to teach or practice any profession or hold any job because of sexual orientation is intolerable. I do not believe the Supreme Court would sustain such an invasion of privacy or curtailment of free speech and assembly."

The lawsuit is a class action brought by NGTF on behalf of all affected school teachers in the state. Co-plaintiff is Stan Easter of Oklahoma City, a credentialed and licensed teacher in Oklahoma. Plaintiffs are represented by attorneys for Gay Rights Advocates, a public interest law firm based in San Francisco and the ACLU of Oklahoma. The action is supported by the National Gay Rights Project of the American Civil Liberties Union.

Court Upholds Navy Discharges; Navy, A.F. Oust Gays

SAN FRANCISCO (IGNA)--The U.S. Navy has the right to discharge personnel for homosexual conduct, the U.S. Court of Appeals has ruled here.

The decision was a temporary victory for the military services, which in recent months have been embroiled in controversies over Gays.

The ruling said that discharges of 2 men and a woman did not violate their constitutional rights and noted that the Navy may take such actions to "protect the fabric of military life."

The Court held that the Navy has a need for discipline and order, particularly with respect to potential problems arising from close confinement aboard ship and on bases.

"A substantial number of naval personnel have feelings regarding homosexuality...which could create tensions and hostilities," the ruling noted. In other words, the prejudices of members of an organization can be used to justify excluding other members.

If the Navy tolerates homosexuality, the Court said, "as expressed in a less broad prohibition, (it) might be understood as tacit approval."

At the same time, the judges noted that the Navy's "blanket rule requiring discharge of all who have engaged in homosexual conduct is perhaps broader than necessary."

Plaintiffs in the 5-year-long case were Dennis Beller, James Lee Miller and Mary R. Saal, who claimed their discharges were unconstitutional.

Attorney John Vaisey, who represented Miller, said, "I think the decision perpetuates the hypocrisy of the military." He added that he believes as much as 20 percent of the armed forces is either Gay or have participated in Gay activity.

At the same time, 7 sailors are being discharged and 5 more are being investigated for homosexual activity at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California, a Navy spokesperson said.

The 12 include 11 men and one woman. The spokesperson declined to name those involved.

The investigations have been going on since mid-July, when the Navy, which has 300 sailors at the Army-run school, first became aware of the situation.

The homosexuality discharges are part of a pattern at this facility, with 41 others discharged in 1978.

The 7 "guilty" persons were discharged by a 3-member Navy board. According to Navy policy, homosexuality "in a military environment seriously impairs combat readiness, efficiency, security and morale."

The military made the same statements about Blacks sharing quarters with whites, or women being officers, but later changed its regulations on these issues.

In Montana, 8 enlisted men at Malmstrom Air Force Base have been discharged because the Air Force believes "that homosexuals cannot meet Air Force standards of conduct or the moral standards of the service."

Out in Montana, a Gay rights organization, has protested what it calls "a scandalous betrayal of thousands of Gay veterans and currently enlisted persons, who have served and who are serving in the Armed Forces to defend this country and the American belief in liberty and justice for all citizens."

Out in Montana claims that the Air Force is making itself look foolish by dismissing qualified and competent personnel at the same time it cannot meet its quota of literate and intelligent enlistees.

The group has called upon President Carter to uphold his personal commitment to human rights and his party's pledge to support the civil rights of Lesbians and Gay men by issuing an Executive Order that would end discrimination based on sexual orientation in federal employment and in the military.

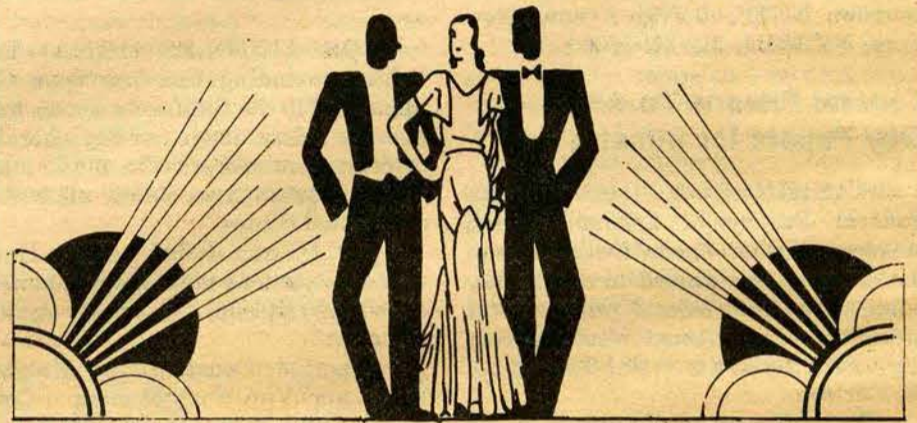
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NATIONAL

Justice Department Omits "Sexual Orientation" From Police Brutality Regulation

WASHINGTON--The Department of Justice has been asked by the National Gay Task Force to explain the absence of "sexual orientation" in a regulation issued by the department to ban police agencies from inflicting physical abuse or summary punishment because of race, color, religion, national origin or sex.

NGTF is asking every Gay person who is a victim of police brutality to report the incident to the local office of the FBI and to NGTF. NGTF will monitor reported cases of police brutality through the Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department to see that the complaint receives the attention it deserves throughout the investigative process. (Call or write Tom Burrows, NGTF, 80 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10011, 212-741-5800.)

Federal Prisons To Allow Gay Papers for Inmates

WASHINGTON (IGNA)--The Federal Bureau of Prisons, which oversees all federal penal institutions in the country, has agreed to admit Gay publications into federal prisons after an out-of-court settlement resulting from the case of the National Gay Task Force vs. Carlson.

The settlement was approved by the Federal District Court of Washington and will be monitored by the parties for 6 months.

Under the terms of the settlement, homosexual publications, *per se*, will not be excluded from prisons. Publications of a news or informational nature, literary publications or publications of Gay religious groups should be admitted. Under certain circumstances, a local warden may exclude sexually explicit material.

"This is an important victory both for Gay prisoners and for the larger Gay community," said Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund President Margot Karle. "It acknowledges that homosexual literature, *per se*, is not dangerous or immoral. This is a significant development, and we are pleased that those who want and need news and information about their community and their lives will now receive it."

Poor Judgment

LOS ANGELES (IGNA)--Two judges, including the first open Gay appointed to the California bench, have asked a federal judge to resign because of courtroom remarks he made about "these faggots from Cuba" allowed in the United States.

U.S. District Judge Andrew Hauk, who does not deny making the comment, called the criticism "presumptuous and arrogant."

Superior Court Judge Stephen Lachs and Van Nuys Municipal Court Judge Rand Schrader told Hauk in a letter that they were "deeply offended and dismayed" by the remark. They suggested he resign or retract the

statement.

Hauk was quoted in the Los Angeles *Daily Journal* as saying, during the sentencing of a Mexican for crossing the border illegally: "I don't know what's happening. We let all these Iranian ignoramuses in, but not this young man who wants to support his child. And he isn't even a fag, like all these faggots from Cuba we're letting in."

Judge Lachs said that Hauk's comment called into question his impartiality in cases involving homosexuals.

Man Claims Bias In Sex Charge

RALEIGH, NC (IGNA)--A man accused of attempting to have sex with a child says that he has been found guilty because of prejudice that has nothing to do with his case.

Willie D. Pilkington says that he has sustained enormous legal costs trying to defend himself against an accusation which is based on a case of mistaken identity.

In October, 1978 Pilkington was arrested in Raleigh, North Carolina and charged with "attempting to take immoral, improper and indecent liberties with a minor." At the time of the trial in July, 1979, the State presented only one witness, a 12-year-old boy. The State alleged that the boy was approached by a middle-aged man with red hair who was driving a red Toyota, and the boy was asked to engage in a sexual act for money.

Pilkington was the only witness for the defense and denied being involved in any such incident. He said that he was in the area described, but so were other people. He noted that he was not middle-aged but only 25 at the time of the incident. He added that he has dirty blond hair, not red hair, and had a prominent mustache, something which the 12-year-old boy did not mention. He was also driving a red Mercury Capri.

The prosecutor asked Pilkington if he was a homosexual and inquired also about prior convictions that supposedly resulted in a criminal record. The defendant was sentenced to four years.

However, the convicted man says that he did *not* have a criminal record. The record presented in court in order to discredit Pilkington has been proven to be that of another person with a similar name.

On August 19, 1980, the Fourth District Court of Appeals of North Carolina denied Pilkington's request for a new trial without hearing prepared oral arguments.

On October 7, 1980 the North Carolina Supreme Court decided to hear oral arguments in Pilkington's case. But Pilkington's lawyers have the task of persuading the Court that Pilkington was not sentenced because his credibility was severely damaged by the fact that he seemed to have a criminal record, when in fact he did not.

The prosecutor's office claims that its mistake in using the criminal record of another man was a mistake of "good faith" and said that such a mistake would have no effect on the final outcome of the trial.

North Carolina law permits such "mistakes of good faith" despite the fact that someone's life might be ruined by such a technical error.

The Supreme Court of North Carolina will hear the appeal in December.

First Congressional Hearings Held On H.R. 2074

SAN FRANCISCO (IGNA)--The Subcommittee on Employment

Opportunities of the House of Representatives recently held a hearing here to investigate discrimination against homosexuals. The hearing focused on H.R. 2074, which would prohibit discrimination against Gays in employment, housing, public accommodations, and federally-assisted programs.

Rep. Augustus Hawkins (D-CA) said that this bill would not "give homosexuals any special privileges" nor does it require quotas or affirmative action for homosexuals. It merely guarantees basic civil rights--rights taken for granted by most of us."

Rep. Ted Weiss (D-NY) added: "There are an estimated 20 million homosexual men and women in this country, found in every occupation and institution. But unlike other minorities there are no nationwide standards prohibiting discrimination against the homosexual."

"Gay Liberation" Statue Approved By New York Community Board

HOUSTON--A Harris County grand jury has indicted a police officer, Kevin M. McCoy, charging him with negligent homicide in the June 28 slaying of Houston Gay Political Caucus secretary Fred Paez.

The jury stated that McCoy acted negligently when he placed a "loaded, cocked pistol against the head of Paez." The gun "discharged," killing Paez.

"I think that this lets the city know that we are not going to tolerate another situation where a Houston police officer abuses a citizen because that citizen is Gay," said Lee Harrington, president of the Houston Gay Political Caucus.

Police officials, meanwhile, claim that the indictment is "politically motivated." Police union officials have announced that they will be collecting money to help with the defense of McCoy, who was off-duty at the time of the shooting.

McCoy testified that Paez had made sexual advances toward him and then resisted arrest. McCoy said the gun went off "accidentally."

Attacks On Gays Ignored By Police

SAN FRANCISCO (IGNA)--Testimony at the Board of Supervisors here recently revealed that there are increasing acts of violence against Gays. Supervisor Harry Britt said, "Gay men and Lesbians walk the streets in fear every time they see a group of youths on a street corner or a car driving by at a slow rate of speed."

The increase in "unprovoked attacks, vicious in scope, with the intent to kill or maim" was confirmed by Dr. Stuart Fleming, emergency room director at Ralph K. Davies Medical Center in the Castro.

The number of reported assaults on homosexuals has quadrupled in 1980 compared with 1979, said Dick Stingel, chairperson of the Community United Against Violence, which gives self-defense and Mace courses to Gay people and keeps a record of assaults. Attacks have been on the rise since CBS's airing of "Gay Power, Gay Politics," which dealt with San Francisco's Gay community.

The police came in for special blame because of their unwillingness to help end the attacks.

One witness said that after he and a friend were assaulted by 15 youths, they telephoned the police from a nearby bar and waited 2½ hours, but the police never showed up.

Moral Majority? or Fanatic Fringe?

Whatever THEY call it, or whatever YOU call it, Gay Atheists League of America believes these well-organized Christian fundamentalist outfits are the most dangerous threat to the lives of lesbians and gay men since the Dark Ages.

If YOU believe as we do, write for a free copy of GALA Review, a monthly publication. GALA, Box 14142, San Francisco CA 94114

LOCAL

Dignity Officials Meet With Bishop

Vincent Astor, acting chairperson and two other members of Dignity Memphis met with Carroll T. Dozier, Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Memphis on November 4 to discuss the purpose of the group and its relationship to the Church.

The Catholic Church's position states that homosexual orientation itself is not sinful or damnable but the homosexual act is, just as sex between heterosexuals outside of marriage is considered sinful. This position has been reaffirmed in recent months, even by Pope John Paul II on his visit to the U.S. The Church has, however, repeatedly expressed concern for its Gay and Lesbian members.

Dignity is an international movement of Gay and Lesbian Catholic men and women and friends working within the Church for the development of its sexual theology and for the acceptance of Gays and Lesbians as full and equal members. Dignity also states a responsibility to individual Gays in reinforcing self-acceptance and becoming more active members of the Church and society.

Dignity Memphis has emphasized the support aspects of Dignity International's statement and provides fellowship, information and a congenial atmosphere for development of conscience and a better relationship with the Church. Dignity Memphis welcomes members of all denominations, Gay and non-Gay.

Bishop Dozier, having read the statement of purpose of the local group, emphasized the ideals of individual worth, acceptance and dignity. Apparently pleased with the aspirations of the group, he gave the members who spoke with him his personal blessing and asked that Dignity Memphis maintain contact with his office.

Gay Pride Week '81 To Feature Robin Tyler; Theme Contest Announced

Robin Tyler will be a featured performer at Gay Pride Week '81, says the Gay Pride Week Committee of the Memphis Gay Coalition. Gay Pride Week has been set for June 20-28.

Events already scheduled include comic Robin Tyler on Saturday, June 20, a riverboat cruise on Saturday, June 27, a parade, picnic and film showings during the week.

The public is urged to become involved in planning activities. The GPW '81 Committee announces a contest for a theme for Gay Pride Week '81. Suggested themes will be judged on conciseness, originality, and how well they reflect the mood and ideals of the local community.

Entries should be mailed to GPW '81, c/o Box 3038, Memphis 38103, and must be postmarked by January 1, 1981. Entrant's name, address and phone number must be included.

Winner will receive 2 tickets to the Robin Tyler performance and 2 riverboat tickets. Anyone interested in planning Gay Pride Week '81 should contact Scott Correll at 452-0802.

Coming Up!

Sat., Nov. 22: "Coffeehouse" featuring Nashville musician Diane Davidson at the Newman Foundation, 3625 Mynders, 8 p.m. A \$2 donation benefits the Wife Abuse Center.

Sun., Nov. 23: Variety Show sponsored by Aphrodite Memphis, 4 p.m.-7 p.m. at the Psych-Out. Proceeds will buy Christmas baskets for persons in need.

Sun., Nov. 23: "Publication Revue" benefit show for GAZE, 8 p.m. at the Pendulum, sponsored by Memphis Parents and Friends of Gays and the Public Relations Committee of the Memphis Gay Coalition. Disco dance immediately following. \$2 donation, cash bar. All proceeds benefit GAZE.

Mon., Dec. 1: Memphis Gay Coalition meeting, Main Library, Peabody at McLean, Meeting Room B, 7:30 p.m. Open to all interested women and men.

Sat., Dec. 6: Gay Arts and Crafts Show and Sale, sponsored by Public Relations Committee of Memphis Gay Coalition, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Pendulum.

New Additions!

Apollo Memphis has begun sponsoring a weekly shuffleboard tournament at Sharon's, Sundays at 6 p.m. Entry fee is \$1 and prize is a case of domestic beer.

Ten North Cleveland has opened their "upstairs" bar, called the Phase V.

The Metropolitan Community Church of Memphis now meets at the Pendulum, 92 N. Avalon on Sundays at 11 a.m.

Parents and Friends of Gays has officially organized in Memphis. For information, call Helen Denney at 274-0653, or John Denney at 274-3466.

"Christian" Newsletter Says "Mid-South Homosexuals Growing Bolder"

A monthly fundamentalist newsletter, *Mid-South Christian Contact*, began publishing in September with an attack on area Gays. "Homosexuals openly hold major convention in local motel. An editorial in a Memphis newspaper says this shows 'maturity' on the part of Memphis citizens (with the exception of a few protesting 'fundamentalists')." the newsletter says.

Contact, which purports to "provide concise, accurate and timely information on the issues that concern the Christian people of our religion..." reported that the Southeastern Conference of Lesbians and Gay Men held August 1 at the Holiday Inn Rivermont "is only one example of the growing size and boldness of the Mid-South homosexual community." The newsletter points to increasing numbers of Gay bars and businesses as other indicators.

The newsletter found especially distasteful the publication of "a local monthly newspaper that advocates the homosexual lifestyle," and reports that GAZE is "sold at various locations around the area and through subscriptions and is also to be found on the open shelves of the public library."

"A number of local businessmen are also becoming concerned because of the problems that businesses have had in getting executives to transfer to cities where homosexuals are a major problem," *Contact* says.

(Ed. Note: First, GAZE is not sold anywhere. It is distributed free of charge. Second, the James Robison Crusade held in Memphis in October is only one example of the growing size and boldness of the Mid-South fundamentalist community. One

indication of this is the publication of a local monthly newsletter that advocates the fundamentalist lifestyle. A number of local businesspeople are also becoming concerned because of the problems that businesses have had in getting executives to transfer to cities where fundamentalists are a major problem. Do I make my point?)

Regional Planning Meeting Set For 6th SEC In Baton Rouge

The Sixth Southeastern Conference of Lesbians and Gay Men will be held April 10-12, 1981 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana on the campus of Louisiana State University.

A regional planning meeting, which is slated for December 6 in the International Room of the LSU Union, invites participation in planning of the conference from the entire Southeast.

For more information about the conference, which is being sponsored by the LSU Students for Gay Awareness, write Conference '81, c/o LSU SfGA, P.O. Box 16031, University Station, Baton Rouge, LA 70893. Donations are needed and will be greatly appreciated.

Homosexuals Deserve To Be Killed, Says Arkansas Man

An article in a recent issue of the *Commercial Appeal* reports that a Harrison, Arkansas man, Kurt Saxon, is

responsible for a company which prints books about how to kill people. M&M publishers (murder & mayhem) published in 1972 a book called "The Poor Man's James Bond," in which author Saxon prescribes a formula for killing Gays.

"Say you're sitting in a booth in a Gay bar," Saxon says. "When you've finished your beer, you drop a few chunks of aluminum cut from a pipe into the bottle and cap it tightly...Then you swish out so you won't be noticed. Soon the gas will burst and the bottle and gasoline will be everywhere...there will be burning faggots galore. Burning faggots, get it?"

"They deserve to be killed," Saxon says of Gays, although he denies advocating killing people.

Episcopal Churches of Memphis Not "Authorized By God To Dictate"

A full page ad run in the October 28 edition of the *Memphis Press-Scimitar*, placed by the Episcopal Churches of Memphis and Shelby County, says that the Episcopal Church is "a model for religion in a democratic society with a great tolerance for dissent."

"We don't feel authorized," says the ad, "by God to dictate to government how it should conduct military and economic policy, but to remind government, business and individuals

continued on page 8

POLICE BIAS...

continued from page 1

the only words I really heard. I went back inside."

Both customers and employees of Sharon's reported that one evening a few weeks ago the police entered the bar for the apparent purpose of harassment. The police went behind the bar and harassed the bartender, subjecting him to anti-Gay verbal abuse, even though no reason was given for entering the bar. One customer reported that he was forbidden to leave the bar while the police were there (a period of about 20 minutes).

An attorney present at the October 27 meeting outlined the symptoms of cases involving police harassment. "When police charges include 'resisting arrest,'" she said, "it usually means that they have done something wrong. And usually there are no witnesses."

The attorney pointed out, also, that the officers involved in harassment cases generally make numerous mistakes in the arrest procedure. They do not, for example, advise the person arrested of her or his rights. (None of the individuals testifying at the October 27 meeting were advised of their rights.) "It is important," she said, "that Gay people learn to follow the correct procedures for these cases. Gays are willing targets for police harassment because the police do not believe that Gays are organized well enough to fight back."

The meeting resulted in a plan of positive action by the ACLU of Tennessee in conjunction with the Memphis Gay Coalition by training members of the Gay community to act as "Gay rights advocates" to be called upon by victims of anti-Gay police harassment. These "advocates" will be

trained by the ACLU to know exactly what to do to help victims of harassment in both immediate and long-term needs after they are arrested. The ACLU and the Memphis Gay Coalition also plans to jointly finance the printing of small cards for general distribution in the community advising victims exactly what to do when arrested for no apparent reason. The cards will contain phone numbers of persons trained as "Gay rights advocates."

Information and sworn testimonies of recent victims of anti-Gay police harassment are being compiled for evidence in a possible class action suit against the Memphis Police Department.

"The difficulty," said a representative of the Memphis Gay Coalition, "lies in getting individuals to fight for themselves and for all of us. It is all too easy after a person's court date is over and gone to forget his or her anger and remain uninvolved. We must be willing to fight for ourselves."

It was also noted in the meeting that most members of the Gay community refuse to believe that police harassment really exists. "Unless a person has actually experienced harassment or seen it first hand, the person finds it too hard to believe that our civil 'servants' could really do such unbelievable things...But believe me, I've seen it," said a Gay Coalition member, "and they can and do commit acts that would make your skin crawl—because they hate 'faggots.'"

GAZE will begin with the December issue a series of individual stories about victims of anti-Gay police harassment in Memphis. GAZE relies entirely upon the testimony of individuals involved and attempts to provide the most accurate information possible, but we cannot be responsible for inaccuracies in stories told us by persons involved.

BOOKS

The Mendola Report

Finally, we have achieved a concrete study that dispels the myth that Gay relationships cannot be lasting ones. *The Mendola Report* (published by Crown Publishers, One Park Avenue, New York, NY 10016, \$12.95 hardcover), is the first study ever published which examines Gay lifestyles instead of exploring homosexuality from a purely physical perspective.

Mary Mendola began her research for the book convinced that there were thousands--perhaps millions--of Lesbian and Gay male couples in America living in what might be conventionally called "marriage" relationships. Most were living hidden lives, however, and her problem was how to reach them. Her ambition was to do a nationwide survey, one that would reach "the couple next door" in Vermont and Arkansas, not just the more visible Gay communities in San Francisco and New York.

She succeeded beyond her wildest expectations and as a result *The Mendola Report* is the most thorough and complete survey of the lifestyles of Gay couples undertaken to date.

"I began by asking personal friends if they had friends living in states other

than New York," Mendola writes. "If a friend gave me the names and addresses of two people--one in Florida and another in Texas--I wrote to them explaining what I was trying to do...One person in one state led me to another person in another state. Let no one underestimate the willingness of Gay Americans to become involved in an idea in which they believe. They were out and they were ready to help--and ready to be heard."

Armed with addresses, Mendola sent 1500 "Speak Out" questionnaires. The Gay men and women interviewed ranged in age from their early teens to their late sixties. She was told by a marketing research professional that a 10% return would be outstanding. When the results were in, her survey had achieved an astounding 27% response.

Then began dozens of personal interviews with Gay couples dealing with every aspect of their day to day lives; community acceptance and rejection, sexual relationships, staying together for better or worse, financial partnerships (houses, wills, insurance), Gay parenthood, family relationships, old age, retirement and Gay widowhood.

Throughout *The Mendola Report*

THE MENDOLA REPORT

A New Look at Gay Couples
by Mary Mendola

Based on this nationwide study and personal interviews, homosexual and lesbian couples are similar in every respect to heterosexual couples. Talking with the author, gay couples frankly discuss...

- everyday living together
- community acceptance
- sexual relationships
- commitments and integrity
- financial partnerships
- insurance and wills
- gay parenting
- families and in-laws
- gay divorce
- retirement and old age
- gay widowhood

including gay teenagers planning their future and many other related subjects.



couples repeatedly mention the fact that society does not provide the support mechanisms to Gay couples that it provides to straight couples. The old claim that "Gay relationships can't last" is shown to be false by the couples interviewed, but most couples point out that society has developed structures to help straight couples stay together during times of difficulty while no such support structures exist for Gay couples. Moreover Gay couples often have to overcome more personal obstacles such as each partner's self-acceptance of her or his homosexuality, possible parental disapproval, and the jealousy which may develop over a partner's sexual contacts outside the relationship.

Mendola's couples often stress the fact that they feel that monogamy is an important factor in their particular relationships, but they also admit that an occasional outside sexual escapade is not beyond the realm of possibility for either themselves or their partners. Several couples admit that outside sexual contacts are a fact of life in their relationships. While this could be seen as a difference between Gay and straight marriages, Mendola sees this

difference more as one of honesty between partners rather than as an activity peculiar to Gay relationships as opposed to straight relationships. Mendola quotes a study on marriage which showed that almost half of the men surveyed "had not always been faithful" to their partners. She points out that sexual exclusivity is openly discussed between male homosexual couples, while in most cases the heterosexual male will not discuss the possibility of outside sexual activity with his wife.

The Mendola Report shows similarities and differences between Gay and straight couples in other areas. A particularly interesting chapter dealing with Gay widowhood, shows that feelings of grief are the same, but that usually a Gay widow is better able to care for himself or herself after death of a partner than is the case among straight couples.

Not until Mendola's book has such data ever been available on Gay couples. And not until her groundbreaking research have Gays been so totally explored as whole persons rather than as sexual beings.

LOCAL —
continued from page 7

of their answerability to God for their own decisions, not those forced on them by others."

The ad was titled, "In an atmosphere of absolute rights and wrongs, here's a little room to breathe."

Goldsmith's Investigating Misuse of Postage Meter

Goldsmith's Department Store responded recently to a request by *GAZE*

Editor Bill Johnson that the store investigate the use of its postage meter to stamp an anti-Gay "hate letter" that Johnson received in September by saying that "the use of our postage meter for personal correspondence is a violation of store policy."

Johnson had traced the unsigned letter to Goldsmith's downtown store by the postage meter number appearing on the stamp.

Goldsmith's security director, Jack Wallace, stated in a letter to Johnson that "...we will look into this situation, and corrective measures to prevent such a recurrence (*sic*) will be taken."

Dignity Memphis

A bishop leaving a conversation with a member of Dignity asked, "What do you call two men or two women who love one another?" After just long enough to think of every vile name one could imagine the bishop replied, "Christians."

Dignity Memphis is an organization of Gay and concerned Catholics who wish to see Christ's Love expressed to and among all men and women regardless of sexual orientation. We are a support group which accepts members of all denominations, Gay or non-Gay in a spirit of fellowship. We wish to promote an atmosphere where friendships can develop and mature, and where the Gay person's sense of acceptance and individual worth may be strengthened.

Next Meeting: Mon., Nov. 24, 7:30 pm
Call 278-5677, 274-3466 or 726-5297 for information.
Mass Sundays, 11 am, St. Peter Village, 1805 Poplar at McLean

EXTRA! EXTRA! EXTRA!

Parents & Friends of Gays
and

The Public Relations Committee of The MGC

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SUN., NOV. 23
8 p.m.

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Disco Dance Immediately Following

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ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT *GAZE*

Choreographed by Rich Roberts
Set Designs by Ric Morgan
Master of Ceremonies, John Denney

MUSIC

A Day With Alive!

By Donna

A day with ALIVE! is filled with sunshine, sensitivity, surprise and hard work. Members of the jazz quintet begin their day slowly writing letters to friends and loved ones back home and pressing costumes wrinkled from packing. Momentum builds as the day progresses. Whenever possible they swim, exercise, or sauna in order to keep in shape after their miles of riding inactively in a van from gig to gig.

The group grabs a bite to eat before arriving for a lengthy stage set up and sound check lasting from one to three hours. All the members work warmly and patiently together unpacking the musical instruments — Barbara Borden her drums, Susanne Vincenza carefully carrying her 150-year-old bass, Carolyn Brandy unpacking suitcases of interesting percussion instruments, and Janet Small checking the piano while rhiannon sings as she helps put the final touches on the stage set. With all the mikes in place and sound check complete the quintet hurries to a home nearby for a quick light dinner and a discussion of the sets to be played in the evening performance. They rush back to the auditorium to dress as the time for the concert nears.

Unusual and beautiful sounds from "A Greeting Song" open the concert, providing the audience with a rare opportunity to see 5 well-trained and talented women playing together with a sensitive interaction and professionalism that is rarely seen today.

Each member of this group has spent over 20 years perfecting her instruments. The perfection is obvious in their instrumental "Caro-Lena," and with rhiannon singing "Step By Step," "Call It Jazz" and "Too Bad" to name only a few. Before it seems it should, the concert draws to an end leaving the audience with a very warm and special feeling.

In order to survive, ALIVE! has traveled over 30,000 miles during the past 9 months to bring their special music to the feminist, Gay and straight communities and to promote their first record (*ALIVE!*). After all this only 10,000 albums have been sold and the group does not receive royalties until 15,000 are sold. Many of us assume that performers are well paid, but the members of ALIVE!, despite their training and marvelous creative abilities, receive less than minimum wage after the bills are paid.



It is sad to think that when we have such few opportunities to hear such an outstanding womens' jazz group who need our community support that fewer than 150 of us were willing to give up 2 hours of our Halloween partying to support them and the women who organized the concert. If you want a second chance to hear this gifted jazz group, they will be performing March 27 in the Kansas City Jazz Festival.

ALIVE! best describe their feelings in an excerpt from their album cover: "What shall we say—When you ask where the music comes from? It comes from us all—It comes from us all—We bring ourselves to it and through it—And if we are honest, it comes from the heart—And we thank all of those who went before us—We believe in the revolutionary and spiritual power of music."

An Evening With Diane Davidson

By Judi Harrick

(Diane will perform in Memphis November 22 at the Newman foundation, 3625 Mynders, 8 p.m. Local talent will open the show. A \$2 donation is requested, and proceeds go to the Wife Abuse Support Program.)

A few weeks ago I was fortunate enough to join friends at the monthly Womankind Support Coffeehouse in Nashville. I had been told I really had to catch this one because Diane Davidson would be performing. Well, I am glad, pleased and elated that I did because she is dynamic, warm, and powerful. "Diane Davidson is a country-folk-blues-rock genius who could only have come out of the Nashville scene so clogged with 'good' talent that you have to be a genius just to keep your head above water." (Robert Adel, *Cashbox*).

"Diane Davidson, in addition to possessing a great voice, has the knack for picking material...musically together, a star in the making." (*Record World*).

Diane was born in Memphis, grew up in Camden and at 16 went to Nashville with a recording contract with Janus Records. Her first album, *Baby*, was released in 1971 and captured immediate industry-wide attention. "Baby, A girl with a big husky voice and a no-nonsense delivery." (*Record World*).

Her second album, *Backwoods Woman*, firmly established a style aptly described as "that utopian blend of country and blues."

"Devastating second release from a young Nashville singer who should roar to the top without a detour." (*Penthouse*).

Mountain Mama, her third album, arrived in conjunction with Diane's 1972 fall tour of the U.S. as an opening act for the Moody Blues. This was Diane's first totally self-produced album. "Mountain Mama, the straight (I bet you are wondering...) down-to-earth production conveys the message with no intrusion." (*Walrus*).

Diane has also recorded a single for RCA Records ("It Don't Worry Me/Dream Maker") as well as continuing to provide vocal and instrumental accompaniment for such artists as Linda Ronstadt, Leon Russell, Tracy Nelson and Roy Drusky.

Throughout her career Diane has performed selected live concerts, appearing with performers as David Bromberg, Jimmy Buffet, John Hartford, B.B. King, Barry Manilow and John Prine.

"A young ballsy blues singer named Diane Davidson actually gave me the chills." (*Rolling Stone*) "Joined in a

couple of numbers by Tracy Nelson, it's Miss Davidson out front with her sometimes booming, sometimes wailing voice who dominates." (*Variety*) "One of the biggest voiced ladies in the business." (*Billboard*).

For the past two years, Diane has toured with a group of selected musicians and together they maintain the tight, uncluttered style that has characterized her music in the past. "She's calm, together, and relentless in driving her band towards the precise sound she has in mind." (*Rock-N-Roll News*).

"She can do a Joni Mitchell song


like 'Carey' and not only get away with it but make everyone in the audience think that Joni wrote it for Diane to sing to begin with." (*Victor*).

"She packed them into a blues-oriented nightclub, the Savoy in San Francisco...where fans gave her a full 5-minute ovation—before she sang a note." (*Country Music*)

Diane is a multi-faceted entertainer. As one reviewer explained it, "the magnitude and power of Davidson's voice has a hypnotic intensity about it that is likely to still every other vibration in range and leave everyone breathless." And she does!

HAVE YOU HEARD...

women's



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(In the September issue of GAZE, we printed "Vicki and Lou," a case study of alternative Gay parenting by artificial insemination. The article generated such a large response that we decided to print another similar study involving two women whose circumstances are largely different.)

"I have always wanted a child," Sue answers flatly without hesitation when asked why she has become pregnant through artificial insemination. To many people, it's a radical concept. To Sue, it's her opportunity to participate with her lover in an aspect of life she finds both fascinating and fulfilling. "I think that people are inclined to think that children should be a package deal—that you have to have a husband. That's what I tell people—straight people—when they say 'Why are you doing this?' Well, because I don't want the package deal. I just want the baby without the husband..."

Sue was previously involved in a childless heterosexual marriage. "After I got my divorce, I just forgot about (having a child)...Three years ago, after coming out, I got to thinking about this again...I was getting to the point where I had to do it or forget about it..."

One year later, she had met Kim. Sue told her that she may want to have a child someday. Although Kim has "never been around a child...never lived in a house with a child," she is willing to be a "second mother" and share the experience of rearing their child. "I know more than anything Sue wants a baby...I want the baby. There's no doubt in my mind," Kim asserts.

To become artificially impregnated Sue contacted a doctor recommended by a pediatrician friend. This particular doctor's office indicated that she didn't "handle that sort of thing" and referred Sue to another doctor who obtains sperm from anonymous donors. After examining her, he described the procedure involved in determining ovulation cycles through body temperature measurements. "I looked at him and said 'So you're going to do it?' He said, 'Honey, it's my job to get you pregnant and that's exactly what I'm going to do.'" Sue spent several months laboriously charting her temperature and reporting to his office. Then she was told to enter the hospital for "tests." Instead, however, she suffered the trauma and expense of a "routine D and C" for which she was totally unprepared. "It was a horrifying experience...I would do anything to have this baby at home."

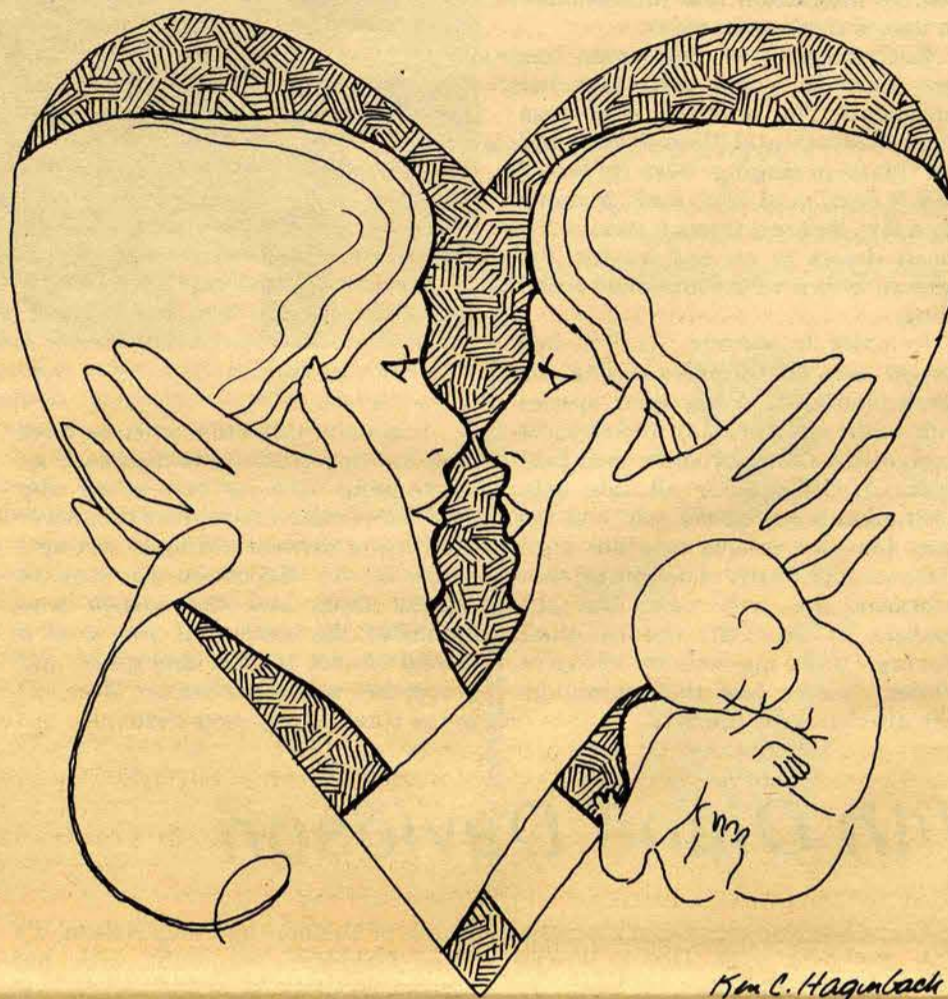
Following more tedious charting and careful monitoring of how she slept, ate, and worked, Sue was finally inseminated. Within a month, she knew she was pregnant and that their lives would soon undergo definite changes.

Both Kim and Sue are willing to modify some of their current habits for the child. Sitting in the home they designed themselves ("We allowed for babies," the pragmatic Sue explains),

Artificial Insemination:

More On Alternative Gay Parenting

By Ric Sullivan



they discuss the potential societal hostility awaiting their child.

"I believe Gay life should be open but not to children," Sue begins. "I don't want our child to ever go through any pain because I have chosen to do this...We'll be careful about what we say and do until the child is old enough to understand...I don't want my kid going to school with kids making fun of her or him, coming home everyday in tears because someone called it 'queer'...My child won't be going to school with 90% homosexuals. It's going to be raised with straight children and straight teachers most likely...I am more concerned with having a child than being Gay and having a child."

Kim agrees. "This child's gonna make its own decisions...I think 6 years from now, society isn't going to change that much...but by the time it's 17, it can

make up its own mind...I'm not going to make this child think this (being Gay) is the way it should be and that it's a perfect life...I know there are definitely going to be changes (in our lifestyle). I don't know what changes or how I'm going to react to those changes."

When asked how their families have reacted to the news, Sue says, "Everybody's relatively positive...I told my mother and she didn't freak out 'til I told her I had tried...and she said, 'My God, you're really gonna do this.' I said 'yes, I am...I've always wanted it, I'm getting older, and I've got to do it now if I'm gonna do it at all.' So she was fine and went off on another subject...About 2 hours later the phone rang and it was my stepfather. Remember, my mother was not upset to me...she may have been upset to Kim's mother because the two of them got together and Kim's mother

came and said that Sue's mother was really upset. But my mother gave me no negative input. The phone rang, as I said. Retired Marine—real hardnosed—he has never called me in the 12 years he and my mother have been married...He finally said 'I just called to tell you congratulations. And I hope it comes on my birthday and your momma's just going to have to change her attitude. Don't you worry about her—she'll be okay. I'm 100% behind you...'

"So we figured that after I hung up with Mother, she went nuts...I saw my mother a week later. Everytime I talked to her it was 'Well, are you, yet? Have you heard anything?...I think that—what was amazing—my mother wasn't worried about me doing it...My mother was worried 'cause she thought that Kim would leave me if I did it...Kim requires a lot of attention. She's afraid that when the baby comes, Kim won't get her attention and will leave. She wasn't as upset about me doing it as she was that Kim would leave and here I'd be stuck on my own with the child...Her (Kim's) momma's been real positive about this."

"My older sister called to see if it had taken," Kim says. "And she said, 'Now, when Sue gets pregnant can we have a baby shower? Do you do that?' And I said, 'You can have a baby shower because a person's having a baby. It doesn't mean you have to have a husband.'"

The conversation turns to reactions of coworkers. Sue begins by saying that her male coworkers are "all very straight. They all know I'm Gay and they want to know exactly what's going on...I have gotten nothing but positive input. Our (straight) neighbors are very positive also." While Kim's partner, with whom Sue is very close, knows that Sue is pregnant through artificial insemination, "he has never asked (any questions)...nothing has been mentioned."

Kim says, "We've had a few Gay friends who have asked 'You would raise a boy?' when we said it doesn't matter if we have a girl or a boy...The people who have said this want to do away with the male species, I believe."

Sue concurs. "I'm not a radical Lesbian. I am a Lesbian because I am in love with Kim. It would put me in a completely different category than (Lesbians) who hate men...We express ourselves more subtly..." The conversation turns to the concept of role models in society, and Sue continues. "It's important for us to have good Gay men in our lives" for the child. "I have 3 wonderful brothers, so there'll be a lot of men in his or her life. Plus all our Gay men friends..."

Regardless of the potential problems, the excitement over their future child is evident in what Kim and Sue have to say. Optimism is abundant as well. "I feel this one's going to have so much love it's going to be okay," Sue declares.

Would You Be A Donor?

To determine the general willingness of Gay men in the community to act as donors for Lesbian friends, we randomly surveyed several. Here are their responses.

David Wilson. "I would refuse because if I ever wanted to have children, I would be more particular about who the mother was. If she were a very close friend, I might, but it's unlikely."

Barry Sullivan. "My first reaction would be 'why would she want me?' I would do it, there's no doubt. Provided that I could see the child and accept it as mine and support it that far. I'd support the child to the fullest extent."

Dickey Stafford. "I'd be very flattered. And if she's a real good friend, giving some consideration to her lifestyle and how I wouldn't want to bring up a child and if it was a pretty close comparison lifestyle in the way we thought about kids, I'd say 'yes.' I'd be interested in what she would do if the child wanted to know its father."

Ronnie Gassaway. "I wouldn't do it. I would say 'no.' I feel that would be my child. Would I be in debt to (the mother)? I'd be worried about my relationship with the child and the mother. I don't want a kid."

Scott Correll. "I'd be very flattered. If she were a close friend and I knew her

very well, I would probably agree to it. I feel that most of us Gay men have a fatherly instinct and would like the opportunity to father a child in some way."

Dave Wiley. "I would have to consider the person asking me—would she be capable of being a good mother? I would feel responsibility (toward the child). I would have to give this a great deal of consideration. I think if the person were close enough to me and really wanted the child I would probably go through with it. I probably would do it if the situation were right. If that child were asking 'who is my father?'...this would make the child illegitimate, it

seems, if you're not married."

Jim Ramsey. "I'd love to...It would be nice to think that I'd have off-spring as long as the Lesbian were someone I respect. Temperamentally, I'm not cut out (for raising children)."

Charlie McMullen. "My first impression is I would want to do it. My second reaction is I wouldn't do it. If she wanted a baby I would want her to have a baby. But...I don't know if I'd want her to have my baby. As a homosexual single male, I don't know if I want to know that there's a child out there that belongs to me."

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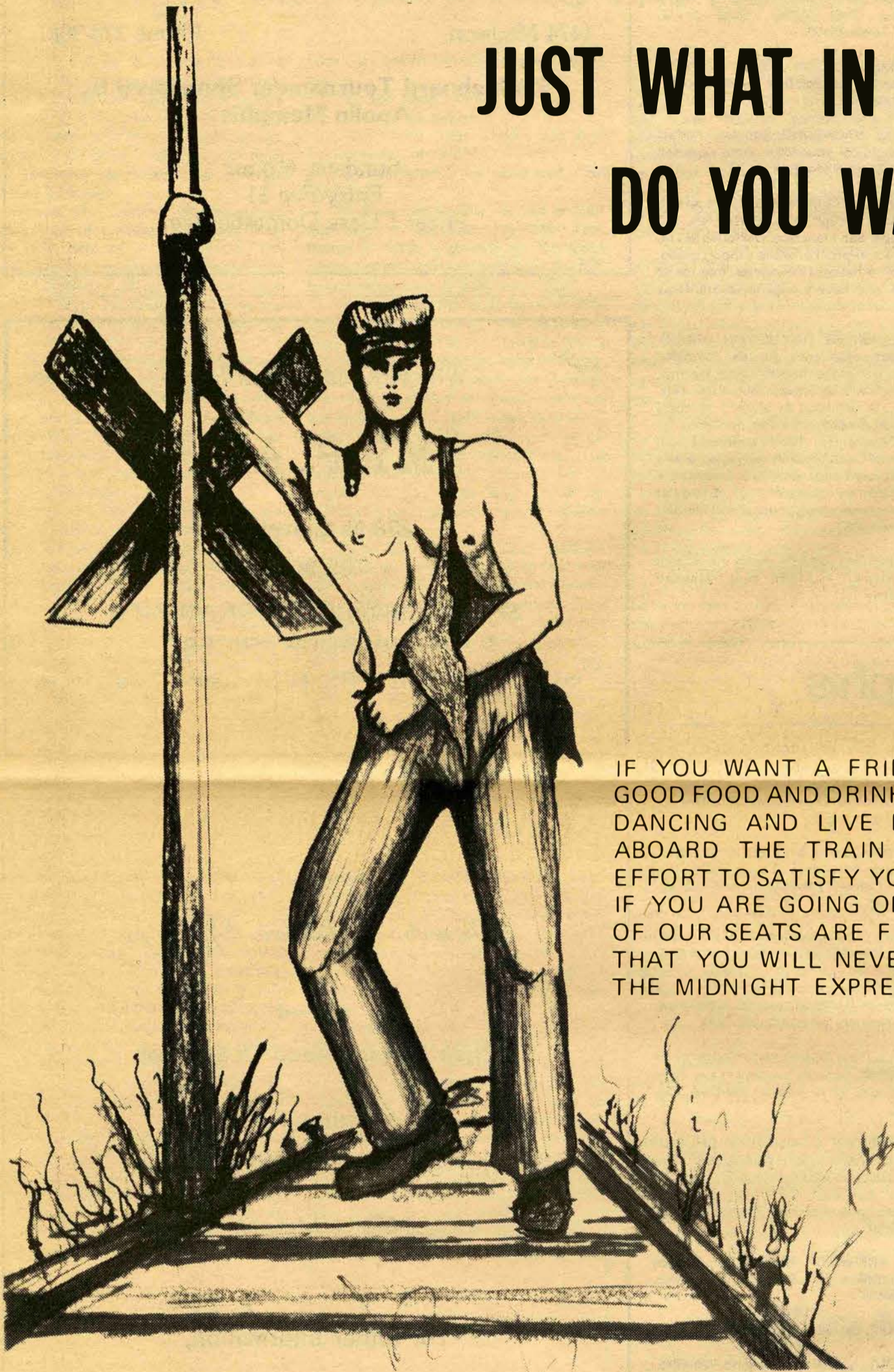
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