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Letters Letters Letters Letters Letters Letters Letters Letters

July 28, 1977

Gentlemen:

Attached hereto please find copies of correspondence between my office and that of Senator Helms (R-N.C.).

I felt that you and your readers should be clearly advised of his position, and reminded now of their interest or lack thereof in his re-election.

If Senator Helms is "supporting" his Florida "friends" in conflict with the interests of many of his North Carolina constituents, I suggest that he should run any future campaign for election in and from the State of Florida.

I hope that these letters will be of value to you, and I hope that you and your readers will write to him, NOW!

Yours,

W.M. Johnston

July 20, 1977

Dear Senator Helms:

I do appreciate your recent correspondence in reply to my letter of November, 1976 and I do understand the delay and/or loss that does occur in the mails today. I am glad that our mutual friend, Mrs. _____ renewed our contact.

I find myself concerned, however, about a stand I understood you took on several occasions in behalf of Ms. Anita Bryant's Dade County (Florida) "crusade" against the rights of gay Americans. I understand that you made reference to this move in your March, 1977 speech at the Congressional Club banquet in Dunn, North Carolina and that on other occasions you made one or more statements in support of Ms. Bryant's intended "cause."

I had hoped that I could continue to actively support your political efforts, but this depends upon your confirmation or denial of the above and my understanding of your reasoning.

I believe in the right of any person to express his (or her) opinion, but as in the case of Ms. Bryant, I do not believe that any such opinion should be inflicted upon others, particularly not when paraded under the cloak of "God's disciple" in any form, particularly not that of Ms. Bryant!

I shall anxiously await your reply.

Yours very sincerely,

W.M. Johnston

"I did indeed support Anita Bryant."

Jesse Helms

Mr. William McKay Johnston
Drawer 1135
Lillington, North Carolina 27546

July 26, 1977

Dear Mr. Johnston:

I did, indeed, support Anita Bryant. She and her husband are my friends. I infer that this precludes your further support of me--which, of course, I regret.

Thank you for your letter.

Sincerely,

Jesse Helms

JESSE HELMS:n

".....our bills are in hundreds and thousands."

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

LDF needs your help. You've come through for us before, and we need your support again. LDF has spent almost a year of intensive fundraising up and down the east coast, going to almost every major women's and gay gathering, asking people for support. You have come through for us.

But things change in the summer; there just aren't so many events happening at which we can fundraise. Loyal supporters have stuck by us and contributed two and three times. But even with this help, we're just stretched too thin.

Bills from lawyers and expert witnesses are still coming in. We may think in terms of quarters and dollars, our bills are in hundreds and thousands.

The custody case with which we have been struggling the longest has taken turns for the better. When it started, it looked as though there was little chance of winning, but now, after many months, it is beginning to look as though it will be over and that we may win. There are no promises that it will continue to look this good, but we feel that it will. If it hadn't been for the amazing support that we have received from the women's and gay communities, we would have had to have given up almost as soon as it started. Thanks to you, and those like you, we have made it this far with considerable success.

That is why it is so crucial that we do not lose the support that has kept us going for this long. For the bills to stop being paid would mean disaster. It would be over when we have almost made it and we will have lost!

Please, if it is at all within your means to do so, send us another contribution, perhaps ones that exceeds your last, so that we don't go under now, when it begins to look like all the time, energy, and your support will begin to pay off.

We appreciate your past support, and strongly hope that you will be able to add to it.

Our address and phone number is:

Lesbian Defense Fund
P.O. Box 4
Essex Jct., VT. 05452
(802) 862-9046

"Raise that consciousness, people. We are only in a stage, and we must struggle onward and upward..."

To the Editor:

This letter is intended to be blatantly discriminatory without a modicum of embarrassment and no apologies to anyone incensed hereby. It is directed to the authentic "different drummers", the most legitimately alienated members of the so-called "gay community", not the standardized, cliched, submitting pariahs content with their immature, stereotyped role-playing, tacitly accepting an artificial life-style in exchange for a pitiful bit of tolerant patronizing from an incredibly ignorant society. It is

Letters continued on page 6



September 1977

Cover Photograph

courtesy the National Satellite Service

The cover photo is of Hurricane Anita, taken from the GOES-2 Satellite, which took the photo while in geostationary orbit above the equator at 75° west longitude at an altitude of about 35,000 kilometers (22,300 miles).

This photo of Anita - developed from a tropical storm to a full-fledged hurricane - shows Hurricane Anita with the circulation center underneath the large concentric cumulus cloud mass. The "eye" is not yet visible in the photo.

Through June and early July a system of highs and lows had begun to look like it would develop into a major Hurricane, but primary storm conditions did not progress beyond scattered thunder showers.

As a tropical storm, squalls and winds of up to 95mph and higher were threatening small fishing vessels in the Gulf, and pleasure-crafts along the coast.

By the end of August, Tropical Storm Anita evolved into Hurricane Anita. With winds at greater than 150mph, she made her way west (GRANTING MERCY TO Floridians!) into rural coastal areas of Mexico - leaving death, destruction, debris . . . where many scarcely warned and informed rural Mexicans once lived.

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Editor/Publisher: Robert J. Freese, Jr. Art Director: Barbara H. Jones
Circulation Manager: Gregg Keever Regular Contributors:
Emilie Freese, Steve Warren, Hank Noles, Dr. C. Ronalds, MD, Ann Shannon, David Wright, Warren Wyss, Harriet Desmoines, Lynn Crisco, and unnamed others.

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addressed to those with enough intelligence, enough character, dignity, decency, sense of identity and individuality, to stand up and join the highest ranks of humanity with all its ideals, goals, strivings, potentials, intact, whole, and persevering. Try to grasp and cherish that latent self-respect that embraces the whole of mankind, not within the confines, dwarfed and narrow, of a hedonistic minority. Elitist, pompous, arrogant, and very unrealistic, indeed. Yes, yes, yes. Does this make us likewise prejudiced, even unaccepting, reflecting larger society? Nope. Just uninterested and plain bored and ready to be ME, for a change. Did your mind and soul shout with recognition upon reading John Stranack's essay in *Blueboy* (Vol. X), "Are We All Trash?" You and your brothers caught up in mindless role-playing are in the real closets, those that imprison the mind, heart, and soul, and KEEP YOU IN YOUR PLACE. Society cannot deal with you if you are natural, respectable, "normal" in all acceptable ways except for your sexual preference. It is frightened beyond words to think that a "queer" could BE just like everyone else in their life-styles with the same wants and needs and restrictions placed on their personal behavior and, yes, morals, (that dirty word), as everybody else has.

We are not alone, though perhaps as much destructively oppressed by our own peers as by the general "straight" society, if there is such a thing. But, remember, and burn it on your consciousness, that we are the forefront of gay awareness, the avant-garde, the wave of the future in healthy acceptance of variant sexuality. Note the word "deviant" has demeaning connotations. The South, as usual, in all social changes of historic significance lags behind, perhaps due to the overwhelming influence of religious fundamentalism that thrives on ignorance, not unlike Europe in the Dark Ages. We are the true dreamers, the idealists, those who have suffered enough, struggled enough, to have gained some insight, a vision, if you will, of a finer truth, a better, healthier culture. Certainly at present, it seems tenuous, a trifle quixotic, perhaps. So? Why must every living thing grow?

We have been condescendingly handed an all too eagerly accepted third-rate lifestyle, sleazy, sordid, low-life, devoid of depth and quality. The straights have shrewdly, in their hate spawned by fear and ignorance, conspired to make us hate ourselves and behave in an irresponsible, often asinine manner that accentuates our separateness. We are expected to be as amoral as animals. "Gays" don't have a corner on shallowness, but they are master practitioners; it thrives on their need to belong in a group to have an identity. "Straights" have punitively allowed us the dry rot of hopelessness, futurelessness, a beingness foreign to real closeness, caring, which emanates out of a full, fruitful humanness. We have been, and most still are, residing in caves, blinded from lack of insight, the fear of looking, rather than vision itself, when there are the most beautiful, inspiring mountain vistas attainable, if you will only see them and work toward them. You are crippled, maimed, by conformity, but you can walk upright. You too have a natural birthright to the best, the finest, that being alive and human can offer, fulfilled and filled full.

If you have maturity of mind, heart, and soul, or think you at least have discovered the turn in the path, or reached a dead end, finally, after much waste and pain, have not lost that "still, small voice" that persistently keeps telling you that

you're lying to yourself, then shuck it off with one final, cleansing heave of your psyche, get to know yourself again and like him, like him a lot. He's been neglected a long time, but he'll shine as you learn to polish him. To display him with pride and a self-respect you forgot you had. Lift yourself up and out of the tawdry limitations of a dreary, empty past of cyclical treadmills to bitter, self-serving oblivion. If you think you've been the trip, or trips, seen an absolute gut full of silliness, experienced the dearth of soul, and have turned back to the wonderments dormant within your own native country, your highest instincts that draw you to people, not bodies. If you detest baths, bars, parks, rest areas, etc., and the endless tricking, even the liaisons whose central, absolutely essential ingredient is sex (try it without it and see what it means) and that pass themselves off quaintly, amusingly, as "relationships," which when they are coldly and realistically examined are not much more than mutually masturbatory conveniences with the added comfort of bolstering our little pathetic insecurities; if you can truly realize what despicable alternatives these means of coping are to in-depth human relations, an uncharted territory to most gays. If you have felt it to the point of almost nausea. You are ready to go on to something much more difficult, but if you win even a small measure of success, you will be so much more the victor and inestimably richer.

Accept our social institutions for what they are, but not complacently, not without an eye to their improvement or advancement; see them as necessary agents of the ghetto, designed to keep you segregated. It takes no more guts to go to these places and live a life only in such context than it does for the black to live in Harlem or Watts or the chicano to live in his barrio or the unliberated female to stay in the home as a domestic child-raiser. Raise that consciousness, people. We are only in a stage, and we must struggle onward and upward, not allow our progress to be hampered by casting our pearls into the quagmire at our feet, but look to the broad expanse of possibilities that spreads so awesomely above us. Our institutions are a gathering place for hungry souls to meet, to laugh hollowly, to try to drown the lonely, barren isolation we so often feel. So far it's about all we have, but do we really ever share our entire selves; no, we take gruel for our emaciated souls, when banquet fare is available. Where is real communication? This is the screaming need placated with appeasement of the flesh instead, only to feel the gulf yawning eternally after every little sad and silly episode.

Have you sensed the strong sub-currents of tension and pressure created out of sublimated desperation, and witnessed with agony the gnawing, frightened needs behind those carefully, meticulously constructed facades? Have you yet learned and understood that love (most abused word we use) is not ludicrously distorted (perverted?) narcissism, simply a reflecting mirror of our own selfish needs and insecurities, period? Is Love what you can get or what you can give? Is it I-Thou, or mostly me, but I'll cater to you a little if it serves my long-range goals and needs for myself? What is devotion, loyalty, commitment, sacrifice? Are these those things expected of the other person in a relationship, while I remain safe and independent, soaking it all up like a sponge and squeezing it out on my undernourished little ego?

Will you not accept that it is not swift nor all sweetness and light, and certainly not simple? That you can fall into

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Dialog for Human Rights

DIALOG FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, an Ad Hoc Coalition to Fight Anita Bryant, has been launched by a collaboration of women's and gay organizations in Washington to conduct a two month "defense preparedness program" in response to Anita Bryant's victory against gay rights legislation in Miami, Florida.

Washington's gay community leaders believe that a Miami-style referendum to repeal the city's gay rights law is a likelihood here. Even if this campaign should not eventuate, they say, the strong groundswell of anti-gay sentiment in Congress and in the city which has resulted from the Miami defeat must be fought by special efforts.

The coalition will undertake to sponsor public education projects as well as political planning.

"The Anita Bryant victory is a threat to all people in the District of Columbia", says Cade Ware, the project's paid coordinator. "The Save Our Children organization is only a

part of a general growth of New Right repressiveness and group hatred in our country. After the gays, who's next?"

DIALOG FOR HUMAN RIGHTS is now at work in an office donated by Lambda Rising, a gay community bookstore. The office is located at 1724 20th St., N.W., Washington, D.C., and may be reached by calling 232-3915.

Ideas for the coalition are solicited from all interested persons. The primary personpower is volunteer. Final decisions are made by a liaison committee of representatives of the sponsoring organizations who are funding the coalition.

The group's projects include a major fundraiser, media outreach, community education, political planning, preparing campaign materials, and lining up influential heterosexual support.

The coalition will be completing its work with a major fundraiser to be held in the earlier part of October, 1977.

Sponsoring organizations:

*Gay Activists Alliance
National Organization for Women
Gertrude Stein Democratic Club*



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WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY

On Friday August 26, the day declared by President Carter as Women's Equality Day, over 3,000 women (and some men) marched down Pennsylvania Avenue to openly urge passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.

The march marked the 57th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote. Participating in the pro-ERA march were women representing more than 80 women's groups, and church and labor organizations.

The march, which began in the same area as the 1913 march where women fighting for the right to vote were hassled and ridiculed, made its way up Pennsylvania Avenue ending at Lafayette Park where a large rally was held.

Some familiar faces up front in the Women's Equality March were presidential aide Midge Costanza, Reps. Margaret Heckler, R-Mass., Elizabeth Holtzman, D-N.Y., and former Rep. Bella Abzug of New York.

A peaceful and orderly march, the women's march served to show the nation the need for the ERA, just as a need for women to have the right to vote was demonstrated 57 years ago - both in front of the White House.

NEWSLINE

An informal group of gays in the sciences met in Chapel Hill July 24 to explore the possibility of forming a continuing organization. The meeting attracted eleven people from such diverse fields as archeology, chemistry, entomology and neurobiology.

The idea had occurred to some during the Second Annual Southeastern Gay Conference when, out of over 600 participants at the conference, only

ten attended the caucus devoted to gays in the physical and biological sciences. Part of the discussion at that caucus focused on the question of whether there were actually fewer gays in the sciences or just fewer visible gays. Though no conclusion was reached it

Gay Scientists Organize

was generally agreed that gays in the sciences were difficult to find and that gay scientists frequently felt isolated from both their professional colleagues and the gay community.

The organization, tentatively called Triangle Area Gay Scientists, is open to students

and professionals in any of the physical, biological, mathematical or engineering sciences and is not geographically limited. The next meeting is scheduled for September 24. For further information call Larry 967-9626, Mike 942-3909, or Dan 929-4997.

The Pink Trash expresses a special thanks to Larry, Mike, and Dan for the above story.

Atlanta Gays Protest

by Steve Warren

A hastily called protest by the Gay Rights Alliance brought 125 marchers to Peachtree Street in front of the Atlanta Memorial Arts Center on August 19. Inside, the Miss National Teenager pageant was preparing to give its "America's Greatest American" award to the least deserving candidate imaginable - Anita Bryant! (Bryant was not present to accept the award.)

At the same time, a UNICEF celebrity auction across the street at Colony Square was being picketed by conservatives

who claimed that funds collected were going to buy arms for America's enemies instead of food for starving children.

Michael Lomax, the city's Commissioner of Parks and Recreation, came over to see what was happening, but told the *Pink Trash* he wasn't going inside to represent the city at the pageant, just *taking a break from the auction.*

We're being picketed over there, too, he added, and by a much less reputable group of people!

Warlock Closes!

The Warlock, one of Charlotte's most ambitious bar projects went to an early grave two weeks ago after only several months of operation. It is reported to be deeply in debt and entangled with legal suits. The bar's operators, Ray and Al Zeller - according to an informed source - regarded the operation of the disco dinner theater as a "dry run" on the way to bigger and better things.



photo by steve warren



Lesbians Plan For International Women's Year

Houston, here we come! The National Gay Task Force is working to ensure a strong lesbian presence at the International Women's Year national conference in Houston on November 18-20, and to facilitate passage of resolution on sexual preference and other issues of concern passed at many of the state-level IWY meetings this summer.

NGTF is now doing a survey to identify the lesbian delegates elected to the national conference at the state meetings. A survey of all delegates' stands on the crucial issues is also being made. An initial survey of delegates indicated that lesbians have created a groundswell of support at the state meetings. Many states have passed lesbian resolutions and others have included the issue in minority reports or as recommendations. A number of lesbian delegates have been identified in the states surveyed so far. We plan to have this survey completed by the middle of August.

A primary goal in Houston will be passage of two resolutions, which would be included among official recommendations forwarded to the President and Congress from the IWY meetings. These resolutions are:

- 1) Passage of legislation barring discrimination on the basis of sexual or affectional preference; and
- 2) Repeal of laws prohibiting consensual sex acts between consenting adults in private.

Other key issues being promoted are passage of the Equal Rights Amendment, a woman's right to choose

(abortion), and state or federally-subsidized child care.

NGTF will serve as an information and strategy center for lesbian feminists at the Houston conference and will 1) coordinate passage of resolutions and the establishment of lesbianism as a core issue on the IWY agenda, 2) operate a Communications Room and a Hospitality Suite at the conference, 3) facilitate housing arrangements for lesbians attending the conference, 4) organize lesbian caucus meetings, and 5) conduct an educational program which includes lobbying delegates for support on our issues, operating a lesbian information exhibit directed towards delegates and non-delegates, and promoting coverage for the lesbian issue in the media. Other possible activities include arranging for lesbian entertainment at the "Seneca Falls" education area, and a concert during the weekend.

Funds Needed

To help finance these endeavors, NGTF is asking groups and/or individuals to organize benefits with proceeds going to NGTF, earmarked "IWY Fund". Contributions are *urgently* requested.

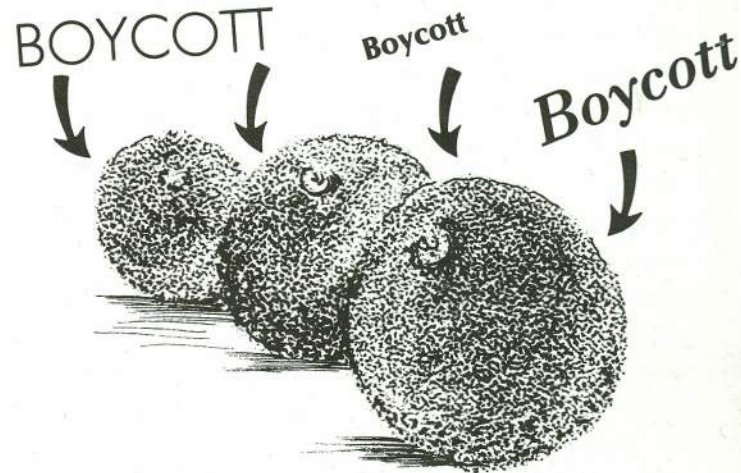
People who need information or who have feedback to contribute to our survey are urged to contact Jean O'Leary or Susan Myers at NGTF: 80 Fifth Ave., N.Y., N.Y. 10011. (212) 741-1010.

Lesbian Feminists in Los Angeles are also calling on sisters across the country to join us in a Freedom Ride. This strategy is designed to build high lesbian visibility

nationally. Buses from the East and West Coasts and the Midwest will caravan toward Houston, stopping along the way to hold action planned by local lesbians. For more details on how to co-ordinate your Freedom Ride with California

lesbian feminists, write:
Freedom Ride-IWY
2617 Euclid Ave., #D
Santa Monica, Ca. 90405

The Lesbian Tide
8855 Cattaragus Ave.
Los Angeles, Ca. 90034



Dade County Boycott

The Dade County Coalition for Human Rights has, heretofore taken a passive stand regarding Anita Bryant Greene and the Save Our Children group. We have done so because we feel - in spite of their causing an election for repeal of an ordinance which would have given equal rights in the areas of employment and housing to all people regardless of their affectional or sexual preference - that all Americans are entitled to their opinion! On July 20, 1977, the Dade County Coalition sent a telegram to the Florida Citrus Commission asking them not to fire Mrs. Greene. We asked that they retain her in their television commercials - echoing the sentiments of most of the gay community that felt

that she, as an individual, was certainly entitled to her livelihood. *However, we did ask the Citrus Commission to issue a statement favoring equal rights in hiring anyone - regardless of affectional or sexual preference.* They have not responded to date.

It is in this light that the Board of Trustees of the Dade County Coalition has resolved to initiate a national boycott against the Florida Citrus Commission. *WE are urging the public not to buy Florida oranges or Florida orange juice - and we ask this in the name of common decency until the Citrus Commission stops their insensitive and discriminatory attitudes against all gay groups.*

Committee for

99

The "Committee for 99" is a group of business persons who have set as their goal raising a total of \$99,000 in annual giving to NGTF. To date, several thousand dollars have been raised. Those contributing \$99 or more to the fund are honorary members of the "Committee for 99" and include:

- Aggies Gold Coast Lounge, Chicago, IL.
- A.I.R., Inc., Coconut Grove, FL.
- Bela Mar Motel, Ft. Lauderdale, FL.
- Chester Inn, Atlantic City, N.J.
- The Closet, Chicago, IL.
- Club Midwest, Kansas City, MO.
- Cowboys and Cowgirls, N.Y., N.Y.
- Bernard Dikman, CPA, N.Y., N.Y.
- Harry's Back East, N.Y., N.Y.
- Man's Country Chicago, Chicago, IL.
- Man's Image, N.Y., N.Y.
- Metro Greenhouse Co., Charlotte, N.C.
- The Midnight Sun, Inc., San Francisco, CA.
- The Monster Restaurant and Discotheque, Key West, FL.
- The New Barracks, Club Manhattan Health Spa., Inc., N.Y., N.Y.
- The Nickelodeon Restaurant and Lounge, Norfolk, VA.
- Odds and Ends Club, Orlando, FL.
- Ontario Press, Chicago, IL.
- The Phoenix, Jacksonville, FL.
- PS Bar and Restaurant, San Francisco, CA.
- San Antonio Country, San Antonio, TX.

Honorary chairpeople of the "Committee for 99" are C.F. Brydon, Seattle, WA.; Charles Renslow, Chicago, IL., and H. Gerald Schiff, N.Y., N.Y.

Senate Bill Next

Sen. Alan Cranston (D-Calif.) is willing to introduce into the Senate a bill to bar discrimination against gays in the area of employment (The Koch bill in the House

covers housing and public accommodations as well), but co-sponsors are needed. Write your own senators and urge them to support this bill as co-sponsors and on the floor.

Send Letters To FCC

The National Gay Task Force recently filed a petition with the Federal Communications Commission asking the FCC to require broadcasters to interview gay leaders as part of their "Community Ascertainment" process. Specifically, the petition asks that the Commission add "organizations of and for the gay community" to its checklist of 19 groups and institutions which broadcast licensees are expected to consult in ascertaining the needs of the community they are licensed to serve.

LETTERS TO THE FCC IN SUPPORT OF THE PETITION ARE URGENTLY NEEDED. THE DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF COMMENTS IS SEPTEMBER 12.

Please ask groups and individuals in your area to address their comments to:

**Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications
Commission
1919 M. St., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In your letter, refer to the File Number of the Petition: RM-2937. The full title of the petition is:

Petition for Rulemaking to Amend the Primer on Ascertainment of Community Problems by Broadcast Renewal Applicants to Add to the Community Leader Survey Checklist the Following Category: Organizations of and for the Gay Community.

Lesbian Mothers

Many Lesbian mothers have been, and still are fighting losing battles in the courtrooms of heterosexual men. In all custody cases the determining issue is that the best interests of the child is met - that the child go into the home that provides the "better" environment. As this determination is left up to the discretion of the judge (usually a heterosexual) bigotry and discrimination against non-heterosexuals prevail. *My mothering ability was never questioned*, said Jeanne Julian, whose son had just been taken from her, *but I was attacked as an unfit*

parent merely because I am a Lesbian.

The EAST COAST LESBIAN DEFENSE FUND is raising money for several Lesbian mothers who are fighting custody battles. They desperately need your financial support. Send any amount you can to:

**DYKES & TYKES (Lesbian Mothers Defense)
799 Union Street
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11215**

If you do not want "Dykes & Tykes" to appear on your check, or for more information about E.C.L.M.D.F. call: (212) 789-5206.

NEWSLINE FROM NGTF

Women's Caucus

The female members of the Board of Directors and staff of the National Gay Task Force announce the formation of *The Women's Caucus of NGTF* as a formally constituted body of lesbians and lesbian-feminists. The purpose of *The Women's Caucus* is to actively foster lesbian visibility within the gay movement and especially within the National Gay Task Force; to facilitate a lesbian presence in all women's issues, projects and organizations throughout the country. In doing so we will work to ensure that all the policies and activities of the National Gay Task Force and groups with which we work reflect our commitment to feminist principles and to the integration of the battles

against both sexism and heterosexism.

The Women's Caucus of NGTF began four years ago with informal sessions prior to each Board meeting where Board and staff women discussed agenda items, issues, and strategies within NGTF. With the recent expansion of the National Gay Task Force Board of Directors to include the membership of lesbian and gay leaders from across the entire country, *The Women's Caucus* has developed a broader focus and a more explicit structure.

The specific projects and activities of *The Women's Caucus* are and will continue to be varied according to the social change interests, skills or profession of its members.

Present involvements include membership in and committee work with The National Women's Agenda Coalition; Representation and work in the National Organization for Women (NOW); and a coordination effort for full lesbian participation in International Women's Year (IWY) State meetings as well as the national convention. Preparation and distribution of a "Lesbian Questionnaire", to be sent to the broadest possible number of lesbians and lesbian/gay groups, will be *The Women's Caucus* first major group project. The data gathered should help direct *The Caucus'* efforts to serve some of the essential needs of lesbians throughout the country, and to form another meaningful communications network.

While formal membership in *The Women's Caucus* presently consists of both past and present Board women, present staff and committee members of NGTF, we are eager to be in contact with a wide range of women who share our interests.

CONTACT PERSONS:

Frances Doughty
Chairperson, *The Women's Caucus of NGTF*
(212) 789-5956

Jean O'Leary
Co-Executive Director
NGTF
(212) 741-1010

Ginny Vida
Media Director,
NGTF
(212) 741-1010

Tax Exempt Status Granted

The National Gay Task Force announced today that through a combined effort of NGTF and the Fund for Human Dignity, Inc., tax-exempt status has been granted under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code to the Fund for Human Dignity (The Howard Brown Memorial Fund). This important ruling is a major reversal of IRS policy which routinely refused to grant such tax-deductible status unless the applying organization stated that homosexuality is, "a sickness, disturbance, or diseased pathology". This policy has kept gay organizations from receiving the important tax-deductible contributions which are necessary to fund the major educational projects on the role of gay persons in society.

Mr. Robert Livingston, the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Fund, stated, "This ruling culminates a long effort on behalf of the gay community, for not only will

this ruling allow the Fund for Human Dignity to begin its work but it also at last opens the way for other qualified gay organizations to receive tax-exempt status in the coming months."

This ruling has culminated a 2-year effort by the Fund and its counsel, the distinguished tax-attorney, Mr. Stanley Weithorn of Baer, Marks, and Upham of New York; Dr. Bruce Voeller of the National Gay Task Force; and Mr. Aryeh Neier of the American Civil Liberties Union. This ruling reaches one of the objectives brought to the recent White House meeting with Margaret (Midge) Costanza in March 1977 by the National Gay Task Force and representatives of the gay community from coast to coast. This ruling is a result of action by the Fund and its counsel, not the result of any intervention by Ms. Costanza or the White House staff with the Internal Revenue Service.

The Fund for Human

Dignity was incorporated in New York State in June of 1974 by the late Howard Brown. Dr. Brown, a founder of the National Gay Task Force and a former New York City Health Commissioner, died in January 1975 and the fund was renamed in his memory.

The Fund will seek contributions from individuals and foundations for a broad educational effort to reverse the long standing prejudice which has placed gay persons as the "most discriminated-against minority in America today" in a recent Harris Poll.

Gay organizations who acquired tax-exempt status under the former provision and wish to have the language in their letter of exemption changed to reflect this new policy are advised to apply to their district director of the Internal Revenue Service through counsel for a revised letter of exemption.

Contact: Robert Livingston (212) 288-2618
Robert Herrick (212) 741-1014

Blue Jeans Day

Several campus gay groups have successfully used the device of proclaiming, in advance, that on a certain day, gay people on the campus will wear blue jeans. With adequate publicity the result, of course, is that very, very few blue jeans are visible that day. The point is an educational one: non-gays are forced to stop and consider for once, "What if everyone thought I was gay?" Those who fail to do so, and automatically slip into their normal campus costume, may get a thought-provoking taste of the discrimination that gays are all too used to. In addition, gays in the closet can use the occasion to "test the water" for coming out; if challenged, they can claim to be forgetful "straights."

NGTF is proposing a national Gay Blue Jeans Day this fall, on October 14. Start planning for it now!

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SEPTEMBER TV HIGHLIGHTS

WUNG CHANNEL 58

- 9:00PM Thursday/Sept. 8
INSIDE THE CUCKOO'S NEST: A look into the controversial treatment of mental illness, as it is and how it was portrayed in the Academy Award-winning film "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest."

- 5:00PM Saturday/Sept. 10
8:00PM Wednesday/Sept. 14
DOCUMENTARY SHOW-CASE: "Going Past Go: An Essay on Sexism": The documentary examines how sexism affects men and women in all social, political, and economic areas and

how home and school reinforce sexist attitudes within the society.

- 10:00PM Monday/Sept. 12
IN PURSUIT OF LIBERTY: "The Curse of Adam": Dr. Charles Frankel hosts the look at the freedom to work - dangers that threaten it and ways it conflicts with other freedoms.

WTVI CHANNEL 42

- 10:00PM Sunday/Sept. 11
IN PURSUIT OF LIBERTY: "The Private Life."

Focuses on the rights of Americans to their privacy.

- 8:30PM Saturday/Sept. 17
SOMETHING PERSONAL: "Rape." Includes two films: "No Lies" & "If It Happens to You."

- 10:00PM Sunday/Sept. 18
IN PURSUIT OF LIBERTY: "The Curse of Adam." Examines work in our society.

- 6:30PM Wednesday/Sept. 21
AS WE SEE IT: Issues identified include stereotyping, differing cultural practices, generation gap, and prejudices.

- 10:00PM Sunday/Sept. 25
IN PURSUIT OF LIBERTY: "The Trouble That Truth Makes." Freedom of thought.

- 10:00PM Monday/Sept. 26
IN PURSUIT OF LIBERTY: "The First Freedom." Freedom of the press.

WBTW CHANNEL 3

- 8:00PM Friday/Sept. 16
THE NEW ADVENTURES OF WONDER WOMAN: In the premier show, Lynda Carter returns as Wonder Woman, with co-star Lyle Waggoner.



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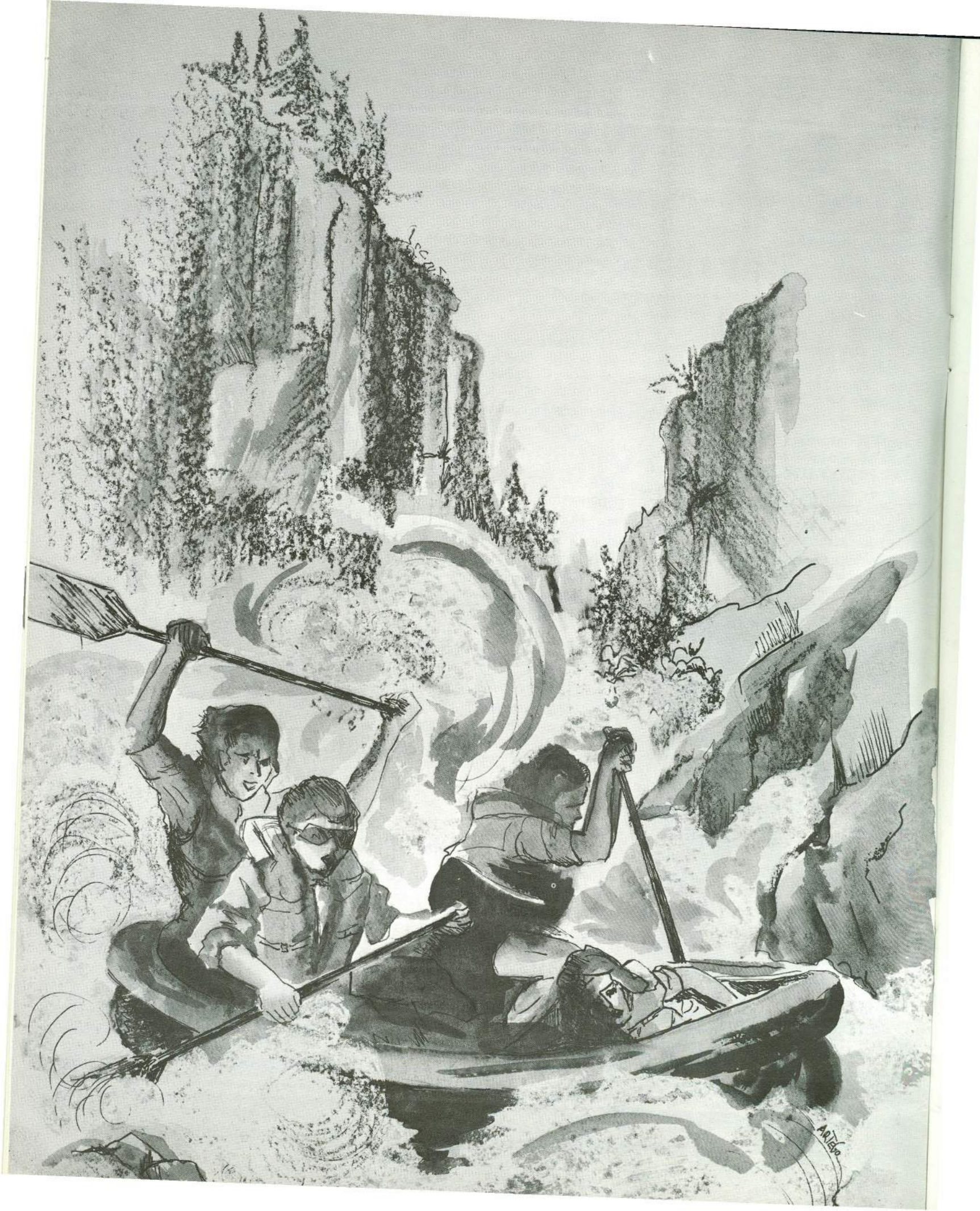
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Pink Rattlesnakes...

"Sixteen Gay men, strangers to each other for the most part, were about to begin twelve days of constant association under primitive, outdoor conditions, far from bars, baths,..."

No, Virgil, that doesn't mean a place where EVERYONE is Gay - even the animal life! But it is a place where the unusual is usual, and usual is virtually non-existent. It's a place where you can stand and look down on the top of a violent thunderstorm, whose falling rain may evaporate in the 120 degree desert heat before ever reaching the canyon floor a mile below you, and a place where most species of animal and plant life have evolved into forms far removed from their relatives in our more common, workaday world. Thus it is that in the depths of Arizona's Grand Canyon the rattlesnake population sports a coloration quite distinct from the western diamondback, a coloration with a background hue of dusty pink blending in effectively with its habitat. Should your local A.S.I.D. member suggest earth tones for that new room decor, you know that yellows and browns are in the offing. But the earth tones in the Grand Canyon rattlesnake's den are altogether different. For here is a land of rock and sand in which reds, purples, blues, and pinks predominate. That two-billion year old rock adds another uncommon shade to the landscape - a pervasive somber black. Those in our group who, in their latest Ah Men haute couture, tried to compete did so in vain. They soon capitulated and wore the same clothes every day.

We met at the Flagstaff airport on a Sunday morning in late June. Most of us were from the Los Angeles area and had heard about the projected raft trip down the Colorado River by word-of-mouth. A few, like myself, had seen the ad in Trader Dick. Finally after months of waiting we were ready to go. Though several had visited the Canyon before, only two had previously been on the river itself. Sixteen Gay men, strangers to each other for the most part, were about to begin twelve days of constant association under primitive outdoor conditions, far from bars, baths, Activist Movements, and closets. I'm sure I wasn't the only one who felt his eagerness a little tempered with apprehension. But soon the three Cessnas, chartered for the hour's flight north, arrived and we scrambled for our duffel.

I heard one of the pilots remark, *What? No girls in this group?* There were sixteen simultaneously stifled impulses to retort as we climbed in and taxied out for takeoff. Apparently someone's pent-up wit could stand the strain no longer and released itself with, *Didn't ANYONE bring the Windex?* And so we were off. The conifer forests below gave way to barren lava flows and old cinder cones, which in turn merged into the flat, arid expanse of the Coconino Plateau. Then suddenly the Canyon's south rim flashed beneath the wing, and we

stared down into the sheer immensity of the earth's forces of erosion gone mad. Letting the Cessnas slip down, our pilots banked and turned, winding their way past the towering buttes of Wotan's Throne and Vishnu Temple as the tiny, pale green ribbon far below marked the course our rafts would follow in the days ahead. Another half hour and we bounced to a stop in a cloud of dust on the gully-crossed dirt landing strip. A truck from O.A.R.S., Inc., one of the fifteen or so outfitters who regularly run the Colorado, was waiting to take us down to Lees Ferry five miles away. There we first saw our convoy of five rubber rafts painted silver-gray and O.A.R.S. boatmen Dave, Sam, Bruce, Steve, and Terry.



"Should we tell the boatmen.....?"

As we busied ourselves learning how to pack and stow our gear, the question we had debated earlier was again covertly raised: Should we tell the boatmen it's a Gay group, and if so, when and how? There still being no consensus of opinion, it was dropped. Life jackets were passed out and it was time to climb aboard and shove off. Though warm, the day was not uncomfortable and the current carried us along with only occasional rowing needed. As the Canyon walls

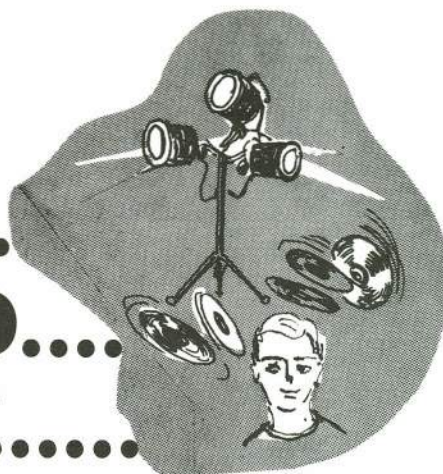
closed round our little flotilla, the hectic world we'd left behind soon faded from thoughts as well as sight. We were not alone however. Throughout the day other groups passed us by on their larger, outboard powered rafts carrying as many as twenty-five passengers each. The noise of their motors was usually drowned in the strains of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat," and other lordly ditties from them. Never mind. Our leisurely pace would provide opportunities to enjoy more of the wonders ahead than those dudes would even imagine.

After only eight miles we received instructions on running rapids. Soon the peaceful quiet was interrupted by the roar of violent water ahead and the rafts one by one were swept into the waves of Badger Creek Rapid. With one hand grasping a line in front and the other clutching a D-ring behind we plowed into, through, and over the heaving water. We emerged exhilarated, bouyant - and drenched. Dave shipped the oars, handed us the large, plastic bucket at his feet and announced, *Now you'll see what this is for.* Turning to with gusto we had the raft bailed quickly; our active participation had begun. Ten more miles and three more rapids beyond we pulled in to the bank for the first night's camp. Spreading out among the rocks we found sandy spots for ground cloths and bedrolls while the boatmen whipped up dinner. Lettuce, tomatoes, cucumbers, and peppers went into the salad bucket, fresh fish fillets appeared miraculously on a grill, squash and beans simmered on the gas stove, and a volley of popping beer cans began. I remain today as mystified as I was that night how in hell those five men managed to serve up the endless variety of excellent meals that they did and under those

Pink Rattlesnakes continued to page 17

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conditions! After dinner the Gay question was modified to, *Have the boatmen figured out yet?* Little did we know.

At the first sign of light most of us were stirring. Though the frigid river precluded any real bathing we had soon performed such toilettes as deemed necessary while the aromas from coffee pot and omelette pan roused the few late sleepers. By 8:00 we were again packed, stowed and on our way. Beginning to remember names and faces by this time, we spent the day getting to know each other better. Twice we stopped for short hikes to view traces of Indians who lived in the area as much as one thousand years ago and rock fossils hundreds of times older than that. The boatmen are not only river guides and excellent cooks. They also are well versed in Canyon history and geology, frequently pointing out and explaining things we would otherwise pass by unknowingly. Again I rode on Dave's boat. At one point our conversation drifted into the previously avoided topic of Gay life styles. Soon the four passengers were deep in discussions of progress in Gay Rights legislation, recently attended conferences, Dade County aftereffects, etc. Meanwhile Dave attended to his rowing very diligently, yet missed none of the remarks. Finally curiosity won out and he asked, *What is a Gay Conference?* With that the ice was broken and there followed the first of many good raps on the subject between the boatmen and ourselves. Later that afternoon we stopped at Red Wall Cavern, a huge chamber carved back into the rock at a bend in the river, where we met another group of O.A.R.S. rafters. One of their boatmen (?) was Liz, a pretty brunette with twinkling eyes and silvery earrings and one of the few women licensed to row the

Colorado. In what someone called a fit of macho mania Dave decided to throw Liz in the river, and succeeded. Be that as it may, it set the stage for many more dunkings to follow, one of which triggered unexpected results near the end of the trip.

"What is a Gay Conference?"



That second night brought an unwelcome surprise. Earlier in the day the Glen Canyon dam above Lees Ferry had released an unusually large amount of water to satisfy power demands, and it caught up with us shortly after we had bedded down. Estimates the next morning placed the river's rise at between fifteen feet and eighteen feet, enough to send several sleepyheads stumbling in the dark for higher ground with their hastily retrieved belongings. Fortunately little was lost, but I spent the remaining night sleeping fitfully on a very uncomfortable rock - and apparently not alone. Seems I'd nearly moved in with a scorpion, whom I discovered a couple of feet away as I was packing the next morning. He or she, as you wish, watched carefully while I finished vacating, then sauntered off. Thereafter I exercised a good deal more care about where I thrust hands and feet in moving around.

By the third day each of us had had opportunities to row on the river's quiet section, and a few dared to run some of the milder rapids. We camped that night fifty-six miles from Lees Ferry and

were beginning to feel like old hands at this river business when Dick, our delegate from the Santa Barbara area, left his "bedroom" for a short stroll over to the "kitchen" and almost stepped on ole Pinky. Well, hot damn, so Grand Canyon rattlers really do exist! Liz's group was just then floating by and landed to see what all the shouting was about. Nothing on the trip so far had produced so many cameras so quickly. While shutters snapped like crazy Bruce caught the snake and carried it a healthy distance from camp before releasing it. I wondered about the possibility of waking up face to face with one of Pinky's relatives but shortly forgot about it, thanks to Larry.

Larry was our man from Burbank who had conceived the idea for the trip and went on to organize it, recruit the participants, and contract the services of O.A.R.S. By this time he had become, de facto, our spokesman. Someone had complained to him that the boatmen were not as friendly as that someone evidently thought they should be. The implication, of course, was anti-Gay prejudice. Larry suggested a meeting after dinner for all twenty-one men to discuss the issue. The idea was put to a vote among ourselves and promptly canned. Larry mentioned two boatmen had some "trouble" in dealing with us on a personal level, but neither I nor anyone else I spoke to were aware of it. I felt the vibes had been really good so far and hated the thought of some pseudo confrontation. The incident passed, but Larry unfortunately became a meddlesome busybody in the eyes of some. Prior to the trip he had made the mistake of answering half and half to O.A.R.S.'s query about a beer/soft drink ratio. Since only three or four actually turned out to be non-beer drinkers, our beer supply was already being rationed. Then too, in an effort to thoroughly

photograph the trip he had brought along more gear than anyone else, which occasionally led to vexations. Thus his popularity was low even before the issue of the meeting. Afterward despite his good intentions it was in the red. He did speak privately to Dave, the official trip leader, and that night the boatmen seemed noticeably more interested in our raps.

"Moving into the Unkar, he was literally standing in the raft, yelling like a banshee."

Next day the group was back to normal. The grandeur of this land and its ever changing vistas, the awesome scale of it all, subdued and humbled us and our trivialities. It was here so long before men existed and will, I've no doubt, so remain when we and our dreams have vanished. In the late afternoon we reached Unkar, the most challenging rapid so far. Among the boatmen Bruce obviously relished the rapids. Moving into Unkar he was literally standing in the raft, yelling like a banshee. His excitement was contagious, as was his satisfaction at the end of a good run. After a night's camp below Unkar we moved on to Hance Rapid, another step up on the scale of difficulty. Before running a major rapid we always stopped to scout the best course, which varies with water levels. As we stood on the rocks beside Hance, a motor raft was just beginning its run. Down the center of the tongue they went, driving deep into the water's largest hole. When they rose over the following wave, we could clearly see a jumbled mass of arms, legs, and equipment boxes. With that picture sharp in my mind I was glad our boatmen aimed for a point off to the side of the big hole. At the run's end we

Pink Rattlesnakes continued page 18

found the larger boat pulled up on shore. A boatman was at that moment sending an emergency radio call for helicopter evacuation of a passenger whose foot had been crushed by two colliding boxes. With renewed respect for the river and the boatmen's skill we traveled on.

At Clear Creek canyon we hiked up to a waterfall and pool. The warm side streams were always welcomed for the chance to plunge in and soak ourselves clean - a luxury the cold, dam-fed silted Colorado doesn't offer. At the pool Steve and Terry even ventured to shed their clothes in the creek's delightful freshness. Previously only the Gays had been seen au naturel. While most were content to loll in the pool, five of us continued a few more miles up the canyon where we encountered a wild burro stallion. Loudly snorting his resentment of our intrusion, he refused to retreat as we swung wide around him. That long-awaited cousin of Pinky appeared soon afterward just a foot or so away from Steve's next step. Needless to say, another detour ensued. After picking one's way across lonely desert canyons, dodging cactus and rattlers clad only in tennis shoes and wide-brimmed hat, it's difficult to walk in a Levi bar without bursting out laughing. Rafting our way onward we soon reached civilization at Phantom Ranch. Here the major trails from both North and South Rims meet at the river's only bridges between upper Marble Canyon and Hoover Dam, a distance of over three hundred miles. A quick look around at the milling crowds of hikers, saddle-sore tourists, and mule trains, then we escaped back to the bosom of the river; but not before I'd bought a pack of Marlboro, my first since leaving Lees Ferry. No snide remarks, please, remember it was the Indians who introduced tobacco.

The sixth day was spent scouting and running rapids. Much of the river's major white water occurs withing this seventeen-mile stretch. Somewhere in its midst was Boucher Rapid, a moderate little goody tame in comparison, yet mean enough to leave me dripping with more than just river water since it was I clinging to those oars instead of Steve. He claimed he needed a rest. The days and nights followed each other as the miles piled up and the Canyon revealed more of its beauties. Like Elves Chasm. Hidden away deep withing a narrow cleft lies a series of seven pools, climbing the canyon wall like giant liquid steps. Those who persevere in the difficult ascent soon discover the hot, desert air is replaced by an invigorating coolness amidst lush green ferns, grasses, vines, and flowers. The uppermost pool is surrounded by vertical cliffs of an amphitheater of rock. I walked quietly and slowly through this natural cathedral; to do otherwise would have been grossly irreverent.

"Gowned in a silvery space blanket and coiffed with delicate foliage, short fat Gene was carried into camp on an oar-and-raft-seat 'sedan chair', while we belted out South Pacific's 'Honey Bun.'"

That night was Terry's birthday party. Although I was exhausted by the day's hiking and rowing, the booze and joints which appeared from various pack bags proved the ideal remedy. After the other boatmen

presented him with a freshly baked cake and a few gifts, we served up the evening's entertainment. Gowned in a silvery space blanket and coiffed with delicate foliage, short fat Gene was carried into camp on an oar-and-raft seat "sedan chair," while we belted out South Pacific's "Honey Bun." Not that Rodgers or Hammerstein would have recognized a shred of it. Still there is hardly a summer theater cast anywhere who ever had more fun with its performance. Any reluctance among the boatmen to "accept" us had long since disappeared. They confessed that during pre-trip arrangements the O.A.R.S. manager had realized the group was Gay and had passed it on to them. In fact most other groups on the river at the time knew it, too; yet we encountered only friendliness whenever we chanced to meet.

The only Indians still living within the Grand Canyon are the Havasupai Tribe. Their village is located in Havasu Canyon some ten miles away from the river. On our ninth day we left the rafts, hiked about half way up to the village, and camped overnight. Next day a few continued on to see the village while most of us explored and swam in the exotic travertine pools of Havasu Creek. We met other river parties in the area and discovered a group of eight Gay men from San Francisco traveling "incognito" among one party. Who do they think they're kidding? In any event there was at least one incidence of, shall we say, inter-party fraternization on a personal level. Actually a surprising aspect of the trip was the relatively little bed-hopping among our own group. Some, yes, but perhaps a subconscious desire to escape usual living patterns dictated that, to some extent, such promiscuity as exists within those patterns be likewise left at home. I for one was just too damn tired

at the end of most days. The boatmen claimed we generally showed more willingness to pitch in with the chores of cooking, cleaning up, and stevedoring that most groups and that we were more enthusiastic about rowing and hiking. We definitely consumed more food than other groups. The extra supplies they carry along proved ample, but I doubt if there was much left over by trip's end.

Late afternoon of the eleventh day: Lava Falls Rapid, pièce de resistance of the Colorado River, the most turbulent mass of spitting currents within the Grand Canyon. Only after long and careful scrutiny did each boatman gather his passengers, inspect boat and cargo, and move out to face the challenge. A hooked entry around a boulder into strong cross currents, a long drop down a foaming trench, and a series of unavoidable boat-swallowing holes separated by huge haystack waves are only the highlights. At the bottom sits a house-sized rock angling out into the main channel and throwing off a sloping pillow of water that has flipped countless boats that strayed too close. Bruce went first, but as he prepared for the run, Terry called for his people to get aboard and I did so with a stomach tied in knots. Ahead we saw Bruce's boat drop from sight. Then came that long, long wait. There they were! Shooting out of the first hole and over the crest. Down that roller coaster they flew, then safely past the big rock into calmer water. Amid cheers from those still on shore we hit the first wrenching buffet, and I found myself thrown from the thwart to my knees in the bow compartment. *The hell with it, I thought, They can pry me out when its over.* There I stayed with Dick landing beside me a moment later. Through the water pouring in on us I glimpsed

"As we rose toward each crest the curling backlash gushed over us, followed by a sickening drop into the next hole."

figures rushing by, but their shouts were drowned by the thunder of the river. As we rose toward each crest the curling backlash gushed over us followed by a sickening drop into the next hole. Another, and another, then the big rock loomed above us blotting out all else. But with one last cascading billow over the gunwales Lava Falls Rapid was behind us. We beached the water-filled raft and hurried back up the shore to watch the other runs. Sam expertly guided his way through for a perfect run, but Steve began to broach just before the first hole. In a frantic effort to correct he threw all his weight against one oar, but it was too late. They hit the hole with one oar gone and Steve hanging on precariously. At the top of the next wave we saw him tumble over a thwart into the stern grabbing for handholds. The others were piled in the bow - except for Gene. There he sat, still in place, hands glued to the lines, riding a raft out of control as though it were a porch swing. *He's in shock*, I muttered. We watched them sweep down the last haystack with Steve somehow still on board and realized they would just clear the tip of the big rock. Below it they even managed to recover the lost oar. With four boats safely through Dave then followed, matching Sam's good run.

Larry was furious. He'd lost one of his cameras back in Havasu Canyon and at Lava Falls he was unable to get in a good position in time to film all the action. It began to look as if the whole vacation had become a

bummer for him. Only a day and a half remained. Shortly before the lunch stop of the last full day Dick and Gary decided another surprise dunking was in order and promptly threw Larry overboard. Their efforts to "rescue" him were not immediately successful, and during the confusion we all found ourselves drifting into another rapid. Larry was left to swim it, as the rafts had to maintain position or risk upset. He was picked up below, all but his dignity still intact. But we feared a real flare-up was imminent. Thankfully such fears proved groundless. In fact as the day progressed we noted an opposite effect. By dinner time such comments as, *Larry seems more like his usual self than he has since Lees Ferry*, were heard. Whatever the reasons for the change we all were relieved. And his example of swimming minor rapids was quickly adopted by others the next day.

"How did it go with the fruitcakes?"

Two hundred and twenty-five miles from Lees Ferry, Diamond Creek joins the Colorado. There we left the river. Some eagerly, some with regret, but all with a feeling of accomplishment and a greater sense of who we are, where we come from, and where we are going. The Sky, the Rock, the River, Man, Rattlesnakes . . . Time. Sidney Harris once intimated in his column that all substance, animate and inanimate, is void and meaningless without the presence of men to certify and appreciate it. What foolish notions we mortals concoct in the vain hope of justifying ourselves and our imagination. We are such a small part of the whole. Later that afternoon in the town of Peach Springs I bade my friends farewell. Standing there in a hot, dusty vacant

lot beside busy Route 66, I hugged and kissed those comrades. Maybe the town's Indian residents looked on in surprise; maybe only the passing motorists bothered with a second glance. I chanced to be nearby when

our boatmen collected their waiting mail. One quoted aloud from his father's letter, *So, how did it go with the fruitcakes?* Hearing the raucous laughter which greeted this drollery, I wondered. I really wondered.

A Speak Out !

A city-wide Speak-Out for Human Rights in support of lesbian and gay civil rights will be held at St. Stephen & The Incarnation Church, 16th and Newton Sts., N.W. on Friday, September 23rd at 8:00 P.M.

The activity, which will feature speakers from local and national church groups, labor unions, and professional, political, and educational organizations is being sponsored by the Dialog for Human Rights, an Ad Hoc Coalition to fight Anita Bryant. This organization is comprised of three sponsoring organizations; the Gay Activists Alliance, the National Organization for Women, and the Gertrude Stein Democratic Club.

The forum will close a day long drive for communication and support between the heterosexual and gay

communities in what has been termed "D.C. Come-Out Day".

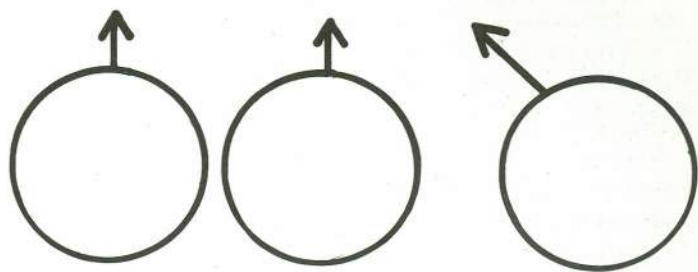
On that day, gay and straight metro residents are encouraged to open up to one another and discuss the gay rights issue and obtain better understanding of their feelings and life-styles.

The evening "Speak-Out" will give Washington area social, political, and religious leaders the opportunity to address and take a stand on the issue publicly.

Contact For Further Information:

**Cade Ware, Coordinator
DIALOG FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
1724 - 20th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009**

(202) 232-3915



"I think he's cruising!"

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**"NEW
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CELEBRATION"
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21**

SECOND MICHIGAN WOMEN'S MUSIC FESTIVAL

The Second Michigan Women's Music Festival was held August 25-28. The festival was held outdoors on 160 acres of partially wooded country land.

The festival began Thursday morning at 8:00 A.M. Throughout the four-day festival, workshops covering a wide variety of musical and nonmusical topics were held during the day. Concerts portraying a wide selection of music were held each night.

Performers at the 1977 Michigan Women's Music Festival were:

Margie Adam
Ginni Clemmens
Sweet Honey in the Rock
Izquierda
Rita Coriell
Alix Dobkin
Cathy Winter & Betsy Rose
Gwen Avery & Jerene Jackson
with
Nicki & Vicki
Lotta Crabtree

Therese Edell
Carlota Hernandez
Casse Culver & the
Belle Starr Band
Maxine Feldman
Sally Piano
Alive
C.T. & April
Teresa Trull
Mary Watkins
Kay Gardner

These women who participated in the festival viewed their role in the festival as being the gatherers of information and resources, and as being the organizers who defined the political and physical structures within which the festival was held.

The political basis of the festival was the creation and affirmation of women's space. Such women's space would allow women to come together to learn through music and through collective sharing of women's cultures, skills, and energies. To the women involved, this sharing or growth process was strengthened by the all-women environment provided for the festival activities.

All in all, the music festival was intended to be a place where all the factions of feminist politics could exist - sharing, learning, and growing in awareness of what women can do for themselves, for each other, and for the world.

In selecting performers for the 1977 music festival, great concern was devoted to choosing a wide variety of feminist musicians. Women of different ethnic and political perspectives, offering many styles and approaches to music came together for four great days of sharing. Also, lesser known musicians were sought out as well as a fair variety of women's bands and groups to really make the Michigan Women's Music Festival a broad and varied growth experience for all women who were fortunate enough to be there!

The above account is courtesy the women who helped produce the Second Michigan Women's Music Festival.

4th National

The Fourth National Women's Music Festival was held in Champaign-Urbana, Illinois, June 28-July 3, 1977. Over 2,000 women from all over the U.S. attended the six-day festival. Workshops on writing, recording, playing, singing, publicizing, advertising, and producing women's music were held during the day - and fantastic concerts were held each night.

The women or groups of women who participated at the highly successful and exhilarating Fourth National Women's Music Festival were:

Alive! (jazz)
Andrea Weltman (original pop)
Periwinkle (native American folk)
No Sense of Humor (rock)
Ginni Clemmens (traditional, folk)
Naomi Littlebear (Latina jazz)
Anne Romaine (country, labor)
Judy Eron & Patty Hall (country)
Lucha (Latina liberation)
Night Angels (original topical)
Willie Tyson (satire, folk)
Cydney Slotoroff (original folk)
Bernice Reagon &
Sweet Honey in the Rock
(gospel, black struggle)
Malvina Reynolds
(original social commentary)
Jane Sapp (gospel, liberation songs)
Hazel Dickens (original, country)
Margie Adam (original compositions)
Hysteria (soul, rock)
Maxine Feldman (Lesbian ballads)
Breakwater (jazz & rock)
Kitty Barber (original topical)
Dian Wallace (original folk)
BeBe Kroche (rock, jazz)

With such a fine mixture and variety of musicians, the National Festival was truly inspiring - in fact, the feeling and energy of women and music was indeed, overwhelmingly strong and beautiful!

Pink Trash extends a special thanks to Kay Ingle for the above coverage on the Fourth National Women's Music Festival.

Women's Music Festival



"LESBIAN CENTER"

A Lesbian Center Group has existed in Charlotte for several years. It started as a group of about 10 Lesbians that met together at first to talk about acquiring a Lesbian Center, but that goal was considered too difficult at that time, so the group called itself the "Lesbian Center Group" to exemplify the idea of strong Lesbian space and the goal of a Lesbian Center was put off for awhile.

Instead, the group started a newsletter called "Lesbian Center Journal". Four issues were printed and then it was stopped. The Lesbian Center Group has also sponsored several dances at the Charlotte Women's Center with the donations going towards a fund for acquiring a Lesbian Center.

For the past year, the Lesbian Center has been having a "Lesbian night" at the Charlotte Women's Center every Wednesday night of the month from 7:30 P.M. to 10:30 P.M.

We've had it with Anita's brand.

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Olivia Records

LESBIAN CONCENTRATE
A LESBIANTHOLOGY OF SONGS AND POEMS



LESBIAN CONCENTRATE

A Lesbian anthology of songs and poems
featuring

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Berkeley Women's Music Collective · Meg Christian
Sue Fink · Judy Grahn · Pat Parker · Linda (Tui) Tillery
Teresa Trull · Mary Watkins · Cris Williamson

Part of the proceeds from this album will go to
Lesbian Mothers National Defense Fund.

Olivia Records is a national women's recording company.
Mail order price \$6.60 (includes mailing costs).
Olivia Records · PO Box 70237, Los Angeles, CA 90070.

the first Wednesday of each month is the general meeting time for the Lesbian Center Group.

In mid-August, 1977, it was agreed upon to have a Lesbian room at the Charlotte Women's Center. This room will hold the Lesbian Center library and some exercise equipment. It will be open from 7:30 P.M. to 10:30 P.M. Wednesday nights.

The Lesbian Center Group is not really a formal group, but rather a gathering of Lesbians of all walks of life. The Lesbian room is a space for Charlotte Lesbians to use for any purpose. All Lesbians are welcome.

Lesbian Center Group

Birchers, Klanners, Baptists Striving to Disrupt IWY Activities

The International Women's Year Commission (IWYC) is scheduled to hold a national convention in November in Houston.

It seems an informal coalition comprised of the Ku Klux Klan, John Birch Society, and various militant religious groups (Catholics, Mormons, and Baptists) has formed to support Phyllis Schlafly in her opposition toward the ERA, abortion rights, and child care.

According to the John Birch Society, "The drive for so-called women's liberation is clearly pro-communist, antifamily and anti-American." (Char. Obs., P. 1A, Aug. 23, 1977) Other members of the anti-feminist coalition feel that women should (forever) be subservient to men.

The main object of the anti-feminist coalition is to crush the women's movement toward equality, and Phyllis Schlafly has even made the prediction that the Houston conference "will be the end of the women's movement." (Char. Obs., P. 1A, Aug. 23, 1977)

After the North Carolina State IWY Convention, Senator Jesse Helms complained that IWY meetings across the nation have been "pro-ERA, pro-abortion, and pro-lesbian." (Char. Obs., P. 1A)

In many states, forces within the anti-feminist coalition have outnumbered and fought back feminist resolutions and have managed to elect many conservative delegates to send to the Houston convention.

In particular, George Higgins Jr., grand dragon

Birchers continued on next page



VD Detection and Treatment

The first phase of a broad-scale VD detection and treatment program gets underway in Raleigh at 7PM, September 11 with an education and promotion session at the Tarboro Center, 102 N. Tarboro Street.

The program is the result of the combined efforts of St. John's Metropolitan Community Church, The Mousetrap, and the Triangle Health Plan. It was developed during the past nine months.

The education and promotion session is designed to acquaint persons in the gay community with specific information about VD, its effects, its treatment, and the way the current detection and treatment program will operate.

The Rev. Willie White, pastor of St. John's MCC, said persons who participate in the session will be asked to share information in the community and encourage all members of the gay community to participate in a community-wide VD screening set for September 29. The screening will be free and free beer will be provided at the Mousetrap for all who go through the screening.

White said the success of the program relies upon the community response and called upon all members of the gay community to plan to participate in the screening. *VD is not just a community problem; it is a personal problem. Just because you have no current symptoms does not mean that you do not have VD. Be sure. Do it in before it does you in,* White said. Because of limited space, persons who want to participate in the training and promotion session should call 919/832-1582.



Fine lesbian music! Meg Christian Face the Music

Meg's 2nd album from Olivia Records, national women's recording company. You can also hear Meg on **Lesbian Concentrate** and **I Know You Know**.

In Charlotte, buy Olivia records at:
New World Records, 3629 E. Independence Bl.
Record Bars, Southpark & Eastland Malls

If you would like a complete list of where Olivia records can be found in North Carolina, write to Olivia distributor Kathy Tomyris, 908 Rose Hill Ave., Durham NC 27705. Ask for Olivia products at your local feminist store or record store. Or send \$6.60 per album (includes mailing) to Olivia Records, PO Box 70237, Los Angeles, California 90070.

Supreme Court Rulings Affecting Feminists

During the 1976-77 Supreme Court term, many rulings led to decisions counter to the goals of women's rights supporters.

Not only was very little gained for feminists during the 1976-77 term, but some rulings actually served to limit or eliminate legal victories that women's rights supporters had won during the past few years.

Now, it seems such rulings by the Supreme Court on sex discrimination have come to be criticized as being

inconsistent and not always being in line with legal principles. For example, until this past year, the court's rulings had been basically consistent on the issue of abortion.

This year the court ruled that neither the Constitution nor current federal law

requires that states spend Medicaid money for chosen abortions. The court further ruled that cities and towns are not required under the Constitution to provide or even allow elective abortions in their public hospitals. This ruling, of course, is not in violation of the 1973 ruling that states could not make it criminal for doctors to give abortions, but the new ruling certainly placed limitations on the 1973 ruling!

Concerning women and employment, the court ruled that private employers may refuse compensation for women absent during pregnancy. This ruling, perhaps the most potentially dangerous, could possibly lead to employers enforcing other restrictions concerning pregnant working women.

The above story is based on an article that appeared in the Charlotte Observer on Wednesday, August 24, 1977.

Birchers/Klanners Baptists continued from page 22

of the Mississippi Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, expended great effort to overturn IWY meetings in Mississippi and Florida. Other Klan leaders did the same in Indiana and Kansas.

Birch Society spokesperson John McManus has boasted that "opponents of libbers, lesbians, loonies, and left wingers are doing well." (Char. Obs., I. 8A, Aug 23, 1977). He further indicated that some birch members have been elected delegates to the Houston Convention.

An IWY official has estimated that of the 1,442 Convention delegates, nearly one-fourth will represent the conservatives' views.

The conservative followers, led by Phyllis Schlafly, feel that the IWY state meetings have been controlled by liberals and the whole affair is, according to conservatives, a total waste of taxpayers' money!

The above story is based on an article that appeared in the Charlotte Observer on Tuesday, August 23, 1977.

\$5 From Anita!

National Gay Task Force
Room 506
80 Fifth Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10011

Friends,

I am a waiter at a local Tallahassee restaurant and a member of NGTF. The five-dollar bill taped to this letter is a tip left me by Anita Bryant and her husband, Bob Green, after a luncheon I was privileged to serve them. I am honored to be able to effect this exquisite irony, that they should contribute to their own defeat, if not immediate, at least eventual.

Also included is a long overdue contribution of my own, of ten dollars.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Jeff Gibson

THAT'S THE SPIRIT—This contribution and letter represent the type of response we are receiving from people across the country. Thank you Jeff...and Anita!

Hank Noles'

Gay American History

by JONATHAN KATZ,

Thomas Y. Crowell Company, 1976,
690 pages; \$9.95 paperback,
\$19.95 hardcover.

BOOK

This book, described on its cover as "A pioneering collection of turbulent chronicles - a startling new perspective on the nation's past", may well earn a reputation as the "gay *Roots*". Editor Jonathan Katz has devoted countless hours to the discovery of all types of documents from America's past that speak specifically of homosexuality or allude to homosexuality. As he states in his introduction, *Most of the documents in this anthology are reprinted here for the first time* and all of them illustrate the attitudes of gays and society's attitude toward gays throughout America's 200 years and longer. What we have here is the most researched, most annotated work on homosexuality in history.

Katz has divided his excerpted documents into six sections. The first section, entitled "Trouble", is devoted to the legal difficulties facing gays, from a 1625 execution in Virginia for homosexual acts up to an interview with the former head of the Miami vice squad, whose attitudes are identical to Anita Bryant's. (He is also a "Baptist church deacon", showing similar religious leanings to Ms. Bryant's.) There is a fascinating account of censorship of the Broadway stage, all started by the staging of a French play about lesbianism. All accounts of same-sex love described in this section are described as though homosexuality is a disease, which leads right into Katz's section on "Treatment". The

section illustrates the many "cures" for homosexuality and shows that most of the research was slipshod, often twisted to support the anti-gay hypotheses. One psychoanalyst even drew lesbian "case studies" from the pages of *My Confession* and *Life Romances* magazines. The next two sections are devoted to women who spent much of their lives passing as men and to gay Indians, who are the only truly native gay Americans. The latter section features an excellent interview with Elmer Gage, a gay Mohave Indian who lived with his grandmother on a Colorado River reservation. The "Resistance" section features accounts of gays fighting back in an attempt to gain their rights. The highlights of this section are the controversy over the American publication of *The Well of Loneliness* in 1929 and the attempt to declare it "objectionable literature" (as was Theodore Dreiser's *An American Tragedy*) and an interview with Barbara Gittings on the early days of the Daughters of Bilitis. The last section, concerned with "Love", while showing the most promise, comes across the worst, since its focus is less upon open homosexual love and more upon ambiguous same sex relationships. It is the section that the reader has been building up to and definitely leaves the reader feeling let down.

Any anthology of this type definitely has its problems and *Gay American History* is no

exception. First, such a book as this derives most of its distinction from being compiled, rather than from being widely read. Both the book's size and price make it the type of work that may spend more time displayed on coffee tables than in the reader's hands. All six of the book's sections are too long and many incidents that are described are repetitive and lead to boredom. The best advice to the potential reader is simply to browse through, reading those items that he/she finds most interesting. Footnotes abound and often serve as distractions when attempting to read them along with the text. Katz does well with oral history, as his personal interviews illustrate, but his comments throughout the book are too long and often turn into harangues. He is all too anxious to talk about all of his excerpts, rather than to let them speak for themselves.

Gay American History is very much a researcher's book. Katz has done tons of documented research in compiling the book and his lengthy footnotes and bibliographies provide sources for continued research by readers who are so inclined. This may discourage the average reader, but there are plenty of things to discover in this work about our gay American heritage that will interest everyone. It may not be as painless to read as *Roots*, but it is a good step in the right gay direction. □

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Watching Anita Bryant On The Sexual Warpath

In the September '77 issue of *Ms.* magazine is an article by Lindsay Van Gelder which follows up the furious wake stirred by Anita Bryant and the Gay Coalition this past June 7 in Dade County, Florida.

Gay Liberationists were defeated by the successful efforts of its main opposition Save Our Children, Inc. whose leading torchbearer is Anita Bryant.

Ms. Van Gelder sheds light on Ms. Bryant and some thought-provoking facts about "Victory Night" as well as Ms. Bryant's childhood.

The article says: *Save Our Children had no victory party the night of June 7 because, as its volunteers pointedly told the press that afternoon, 'we'll be home making dinner for our husbands'.* (*Ms.*, 9/77, P. 103) What this statement reveals to me is that the ultimate rage brewing between the pro-Gay Rights faction and the Save Our Children group seems to pivot back on the old and too-familiar battle of Civil Rights (i.e. *Equal Rights*) for womankind!

Feminists have gained new impetus by getting in the door with the Gay Rights Coalition. After all, gay people in the United States didn't have to worry about being denied civil rights until Anita lit the fuse. Gay people always had as many rights as any other citizens; unless being gay also meant you were born a woman. Thank heaven for the Suffragettes. But also, gayness was not flaunted so much as it is today.

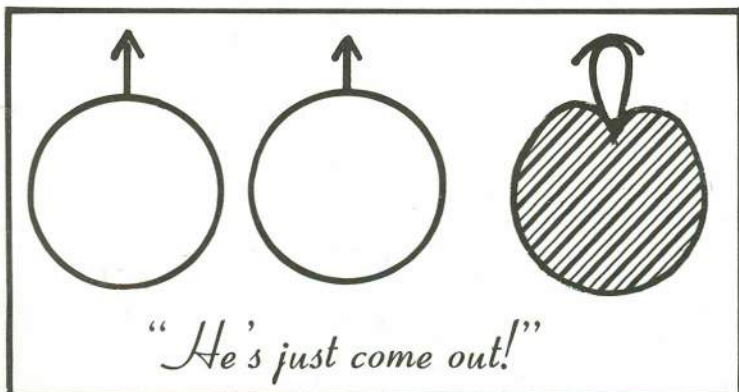
The Gay Rights Movement branched out of a Civil Rights Movement which was originally kindled by women and blacks at least 15 years ago. These are the civil rights Martin Luther King and Gloria Steinem fought for.

Speaking objectively, why should even the females working for Save Our Children, Inc., work all day then forfeit a victory celebration for their efforts to "slave in a hot kitchen" for their husbands? Male or female, I'd want to celebrate my cause, whatever it may be! Wouldn't you?

And to further emphasize a point, Save Our Children's secretary Bob Black said: *Women and Blacks may have been discriminated against for an inalterable condition.* (*Ms.*, 9/77, P. 78) What conditions make women and blacks less good than men? Mr. Black implies that inalterable conditions are *necessarily* undesirable.

Ms. Van Gelder also tells that Ms. Bryant defines her successful musical career as 'God's plan,' not her own (doesn't Anita credit her *own* integrity?), and that Ms. Bryant works hard to maintain the image of "just a housewife."

Sex Warpath continued on page 33



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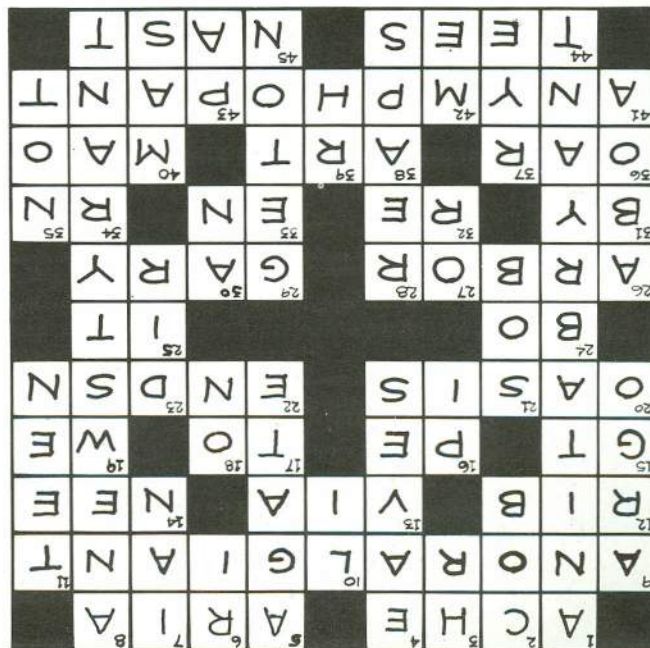
R I P E E M



HINT: FIRE-BREATHING
MONSTER.

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the surprise answer, as
suggested by the
cartoon.

Print answer here:



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Box 7934
Atlanta, GA. 30309

Integrity/National
Rev. Ron Wesner
5014 Willows Ave.
Philadelphia, PA. 19143
Phone 215/748-2118

MCC Greensboro
Box 5551
Greensboro, N.C. 27403

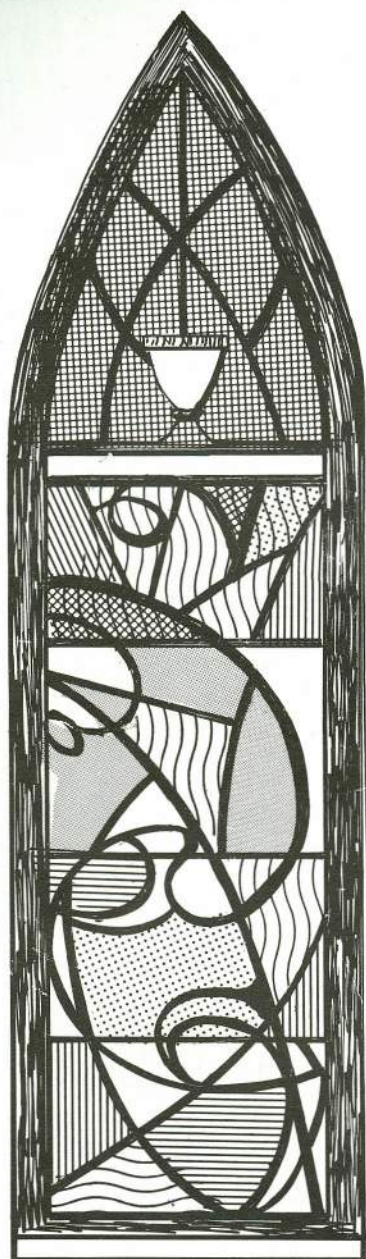
Dignity/Charlotte (in formation)
Box 4345
Charlotte, N.C.

St. John's MCC
Box 26605
Raleigh, N.C. 27611

Dignity Atlanta
Box 77013
Atlanta, GA. 30357
Phone 404/355-1416
Meetings:
First & third Weds. every month
Our Lady of Lourdes Church
29 Boulevard, N.E.
8PM - Mass and meeting

UF MCC
110 Mayland Ave., N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002
Phone 202/543-2260

Dignity
National Office
755 Boylston Street
Room 514
Boston, MA. 02116
Phone 617/267-5646



Denver Meeting of the Metropolitan Community Church

More than 3,000 members and friends of the Metropolitan Community Churches met in Denver for their 8th General Conference.

Aside from the United Pentecostal Church evangelizers who gathered outside the hotel each night, it was a great spiritual festival where Christians gathered to evaluate and reaffirm their faith and work.

The conference was proof positive that the Christian faith can and does exist in the lives of thousands of gay people. Similar faith affirmations are being made through other religious bodies, such as those of gay Jews.

One of the most astounding things evident at the conference was the presence of the Holy Spirit drawing gay women and men together in a common faith in God from such a wide variety of Catholic and Protestant backgrounds.

There are gay people who doubt the legitimacy of gay people forming churches. Some people believe it is another game that some gay people are playing.

But this year's conference (as with the seven previous ones) was directed and participated in with a seriousness equal to any other church body. And it was produced only by hard work and with



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GREENSBORO, N. C. 27403

Phone 292-5980

Sunday Worship 7:30 P.M.

Wednesday Study Group 7:30 P.M.

"Where God Does Not Discriminate"



1st Anniversary Celebration MCC Greensboro

MCC Greensboro celebrates its first anniversary on September 10. A covered dish picnic at Hagan-Stone Park, Shelter #2 is planned to celebrate the event. Any

person interested is encouraged to write Rev. Taylor at:

Box 5551
Greensboro, N.C. 27403

great expense, with members and delegates coming from as far as Australia.

As an example of the commitment of the delegates and conference participants, when MCC Founder Troy Perry asked for a \$5,000 offering for World Church Extension, more than \$8,000 was contributed for that particular cause.

Throughout the conference there was evidence of an increasing interest in more female participation. And through various committees and commissions, efforts are being made to rid MCC of any and all sexism.

As an indication that MCC is growing to maturity, the delegates voted to hold General conference every two years instead of each year. The next conference will be in 1979 in Los Angeles. It will be a glorious 10th anniversary.

Women's Survey And Dignity

courtesy Dignity International

A recent survey among 124 women reports on the personal, social, educational, and religious life of women who have some sort of contact with Dignity. Noteworthy data is as follows:

- 50% of the women have a BA or BS degree.
- Professional areas of education and health are most frequent.
- Socialize in private homes.
- Strongly do not relate to "butch and fem" roles.
- Over 50% regret not being able to live openly and share lives and lovers with family, friends, and professional colleagues.

RELIGIOUS NOTES

The Reverend Willie White of St. John's Metropolitan Community church offers the following monthly religious note:

Does The Bible Condone Homosexuality?

I know of no place in the Bible where it can be said clearly and without qualification that a particular biblical passage condones homosexuality.

However, though this statement is reason for pause and reflection, it is not reason for theological consternation among homosexuals who are also religiously inclined.

In his book, *The Church and The Homosexual*, Father John McNeill rightly notes that the *closest* thing positively said about homosexuals as we know ourselves is when Jesus speaks of *eunuchs who have been so from birth*. But it is far from being conclusive that Jesus had homosexuals in mind when he spoke of eunuchs. Personally, I doubt that he did. At any rate, after ten years of intensive research and study, McNeill can only say, *Those eunuchs who have been so from birth... (are) the closest description we have in the Bible of what we understand today as a homosexual*. But that is a far cry from saying that it is the *same* thing.

These points are being made here because it is important for homosexuals to be honest with themselves when it comes to the Bible. There is no justifiable reason for straining the Jonathan and David stories (along with a few others) in an effort to find biblical justification for one's personhood and sexuality.

On the other hand, it is equally important that homosexuals who are religiously inclined realize that those passages of Scripture which deal with the subject negatively fall into two categories: they seem to be culturally bound and conditioned; or they have been generally misinterpreted.

So where does this leave us? Basically, it throws us back to the fundamentals of Christian faith and Christian ethics wherein we are called upon to see ourselves as a divinely intended part of the varied, creative majesty of God - bound not by particular biblical passages which pigeon-hole us. Rather, we should be bound by the obligation to be honest and true to ourselves and our God whose prerogatives transcend the theological understandings and insights of biblical writers who represent the various perspectives of the 1,500-year period during which the Bible was written.

I take these writers seriously. But I also know that even they recognized that their understanding of God's creative prerogatives were finite. Thus, let us study our Bibles and the traditions of our faith for the spiritual food and nourishment offered us as we are, and not because we need someone else to confirm us as an intended part of God's creation.

As a person of God who happens to be homosexual, I stand with any heterosexual (either in or out of the Bible) and say with them, *I know I am a part of the lovely creation of God*. You can do the same.



LaToure, What Is Drag About ?

Pink Trash: *What's the history of the name Boom Boom LaToure?*

LaToure: Uhm, well it happened about six years ago - I've been doing drag seven. My first name was CoCo Chanel, and it just didn't fit, so Tom Hare, who had the original baths in Charlotte and I used to run around together and he saw a movie one night with a black woman and sorta, related me with her and that's how it came about. It stuck better because I was so big then.

PT: *Compared to - uh-you're small now compared to how big you were then? Let me ask you two questions. What got you interested in drag in the first place, and what pushed you over the point to actually put on a wig and go out there and do it?*

LaToure: Well, when I first came out - and you can ask any of the friends I came out with - I sat in the corner and didn't bother anybody - didn't even dance - nothing. I had seen shows when I first came out and I saw a couple of shows at the Neptune, and then I saw one of the shows at Oleen's, which was a show with John. I got a date with him. I was impressed and so me and several others were living together - that's when I moved away from home - and we started camping around. It was a week before Halloween and we did a show at this friend's house.

PT: *A private show?*

LaToure: Yeah, and then the next weekend was Halloween and this guy had asked Oleen if we

could do some numbers. We did it and the place was mobbed that night. Of course, everybody loves the applause and attention and I guess it's stuck ever since.

PT: *I want to ask you a silly question. I want to know about your first dress and shoes.*

LaToure: Oh God!

PT: *I want to know where you got them, and I want to know the history of those shoes and that dress.*

LaToure: Oh. Hah. I got my first pair of shoes at Lebo's on South Tryon when it was uptown. It was a hoot. Thank God there was a queen working in there.

PT: *You're not doing a promotion for Lebo's?*

LaToure: No. Hah. The dress, I got the dress at Mae Bryant's.

PT: *What did it look like? Was it the you that you are now - could you wear it now?*

LaToure: No. Oh, it was orange sort-of colored flowers - sunburst flowers - you know, a sunflower dress. Oh, it was **so** tacky! Hah. It was pitiful.

PT: *Do you still have it?*

LaToure: No, Ethyl Bailey got it.

PT: *When you do drag, when you're out on stage, I want to know if you really change into a woman? Do you feel like you're a woman?*

LaToure: No. Well a character of a woman, not a real woman. Maybe an ideal of a woman, a show woman maybe, but not a real woman.

PT: *Does your personality actually change? Do you feel different when you start living the part rather than acting the part?*

LaToure: Onstage, yes. Off stage, no.

PT: *Why don't I ask you a few questions about an actual performance. When*

you're on stage, what really goes into it. How long does it take to get a song ready before you can go on stage with it? Do you pick a record out and rush out and do it the next day?

LaToure: Some records you can do that way - for some records it takes time. Maybe a week, maybe



two weeks. It's according to what you put into it. If it's a comedy number I try to find some unusual stuff. Salvation Army took me two weeks to learn. It's got to be some kind of hilarious, campy outfit - a tamborine, a drum, the nose and glasses bit, or a wild wig. Different things. And if it's a serious number, I'll try to

find something glamorous, sophisticated.

PT: *What about when you're working with other people? Is it a rough thing to really coordinate with the other performers?*

LaToure: With some people, yes. Now, like the kids in my show, me and Tina are close, and we can pick up with each other real easy.

PT: *Tina is a little LaToure?*

LaToure: Really. And the rest of them it takes a little more practice. They are not hard to work with. I don't find too many people it's hard to work with.

PT: *Are there any people that you just don't want to work with again?*

LaToure: There're a few.

PT: *Who are they?*

LaToure: Well, I've had my differences with past shows. You really want to know?

PT: *Perhaps, later. LaToure, I want to talk about economics - the economics of drag. Is doing drag profitable? If you pay for your outfit and your labor, can you make any money?*

LaToure: You might clear a few dollars. I wouldn't say you'd make a grand profit. I would think you'd make more money if you worked in a straight club, than in a gay club. If you had a stable full of people who changed every weekend you could probably make a lot of money but the way it is in Charlotte, you can't. You do it because you want to do it and that's it!

PT: *What's the largest amount that you have ever been paid for an engagement?*

LaToure: I've received, with hotel and transportation, up to \$125 for one night.

PT: *When you do drag, you're on stage, everybody in town knows you - and then you're out the next night - the male counterpart of Boom Boom LaToure. You're in the bar and everybody in there knows you as "hey, that's the guy who was on stage in drag last night." What does it do to your sex life?*

LaToure: It hurts with some, there're a lot of people who wouldn't go to bed with a drag queen. It would hurt their ego.

PT: *Are you horny be-*

cause you're a drag queen?

LaToure: No. Hah. I would probably try to pick up some horny man.

PT: *Oleen's is one of the oldest gay bars in North Carolina. You've been there a long time and you're part of, I'm going to call it, the Oleen's history. How have you seen*



Oleen's change since you first started there? What kind of people have crossed the stage at Oleen's?

LaToure: When it first started out it was a lot of riff-raff. It goes and changes with the seasons. I have seen a lot of people come and go, and seen a lot of people stay, and I've met a lot of friends. I

don't think any one bar can hold somebody for a long time because everybody has to have changes. I like the people at Oleen's and the type of clientele she's got. I have a better time at Oleen's than I have anywhere else.

PT: *Meaning as a performer?*

LaToure: As a performer and even when I'm not performing. At Oleen's you can relax more. I love Scorpio to death but I would say the majority of people there are in their little clique and are afraid to let themselves go, where as at Oleen's, you can.

PT: *It's a common statement - I've heard people say it for a long time - that you and Oleen really don't get along too well together and that you could soon be replaced as show director. Is that true or not?*

LaToure: It's true.

PT: *Are you gonna be out next week?*

LaToure: No. It depends on whether I want to go or not. If I want to stay I can stay. If I want to go I can go. As far as friendshipwise, Oleen and I are fine, we're set. As far as

*Boom Boom
& Company*



*The Dazzling
Harlette's
Girls*

"No Illusion Here, Baby!"

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Bryant's childhood homelife was not all too cheery a picture, however. By the time she was 12 years old her parents had divorced, remarried and finally again, divorced. Bryant, Ms. Van Gelder notes, admits that she can't trust any men except her husband Bob Green, who became her manager when the two married. Anita attributes her success to her faith in God and Jesus.

Ms. Van Gelder cites an interesting point that Anita is especially sensitive to the fact that she earns more money than her husband and that, opposing the advice of the Bible, *she isn't 'cleaving to the man'*. Van Gelder indicates that Bryant possibly evokes even a *certain amount of feminist compassion!* This is true if we focus on a young Oklahoma girl working her way from poverty to stardom despite the attitude of those times when a woman's only place was supposed to be in the home attending to a husband and children.

If Anita did manage to shun any prevalent "male chauvinism" - or at least pave her way to a good income - despite discrimination against females, it seems somewhat hypo-

critical that she now advocates a "woman-in-the-home" role.

There also seems to be an element of dispute over "Intimacy" in Ms. Bryant's campaign. Bryant is openly against sexual intimacy out of wedlock and, Van Gelder notes, *views oral sex, even in marriage, as an 'abomination'; (Ms., 9/77, P. 103) as a form of cannibalism.* Bryant is like an over-protective mother who denies her children **opportunities to make mistakes in order to learn.** (Granted, the new "Sexual Permissiveness" has not reduced incidences of venereal disease or unwanted, and/or illegal pregnancies and abortions.)

Perhaps Anita's crusade strives ultimately to recruit Christians and Jesus-freaks who will realize their well-being and successes through a belief in God and Christ and the Bible. A delivery from this point of view, rather than wasting time singling out and deprecating a group of another belief (gay love) would give Anita more support - then shouldn't it also follow, in Anita's style, that, not only gays, but Humans Against Christianity or the Anti-Jesus Advocates have the next word at the podium?

business-like stuff, I don't like the way she handles a lot of affairs but she pays my salary so I have to go along with it, but 98 percent of the time I get my way.

PT: *It's obvious then that you may not get along with her, but you're free to say whatever you want. I want to know some more about Oleen - the other side of Oleen that you don't see as a customer. When you walk through that door, there's Oleen. She's always there to greet you. What's she like from the inside? I want the readers to know. Is it hard to work with Oleen?*

LaToure: It's according - you know - like so many bars, Oleen's has got her moods. Really. Basically, honestly, Oleen is a deep, sincere, honest, outgoing

person. She'd do anything for you. She loves to cook. I don't know how she got in the bar business. She should've been a cook. She would feed you before she'd feed herself. But whatever she gives, she expects so much in return - which is why we have so many conflicts.

PT: *You've done it a long time, you've been in Charlotte a long time. What are your insights on being a drag queen? Is it worth it in the long run?*

LaToure: In the long run...right now it's not. I would like to see Charlotte change, either at Oleen's or another bar where the drag entertainment aspect can be built up. Right now we do need competition in Charlotte to make the rest wake up because things have been set for so

long in the original pattern. Who's got what - it's like divided territory.

PT: *Well, is drag really entertainment, or is it a bunch of freaks over there looking at guys putting on dresses?*

LaToure: No, it really is entertainment. I like to see a good show and I hate to see bad shows. Any kind of show. I can get off watching a stripper strip - if she's good - if she does an entertaining strip and not just some lewd trashy act. I would really like to see either Oleen's or another bar come in and really have a hot show under good management and have their stuff together. Something that's not going to be here one day and gone the next.





GAY IN A STRAIGHT WORLD

by Lynn Crisco

It's something you begin to feel with those first stirrings of sexuality in the turbulent years called puberty. That drawing close to women, needing their companionship, wanting to touch them, honestly, youthfully loving them. It's the going to movies to see and marvel at the actresses, buying records by female singers, and pretending desperately that the local teenaged boys interest you, turn you on in some way. Of course, it's just an adolescent phase you're going through, to be expected. So say the authorities, the psychologists. For many, that may be true. For others like myself...

But I fully expected to grow out of it. I knew that when I grew a little older, some miracle would drop upon me and change my thinking. Men would suddenly become all that they were supposed to be. And I waited for this, stifling my impulses towards women, thinking strongly,

continuously h-e-t-e-r-o-s-e-x-u-a-l--as though the word was an incantation, designed to change me and make me like everyone else I saw around me. I laughed at gay jokes, tried to avoid looking or acting the least bit gay. I did it for thirteen years.

I married, had a child, tried to find what I needed within those confines. My writing stopped. My music died. I loved him in my way but it wasn't what I was looking for in my life. But instead of beating down the feelings, they only grew and became stronger.

There comes a time when you have to stop pretending, especially to yourself, when you allow yourself to say the word "gay" aloud and not flinch. And a woman comes along, a woman you want.

I reached that point at twenty-seven. She showed me a lot about myself and I found that I wasn't ashamed anymore, that this way of life met many needs. I am gay and I accept that now. Separation



UNIFIED

by Lynn Crisco

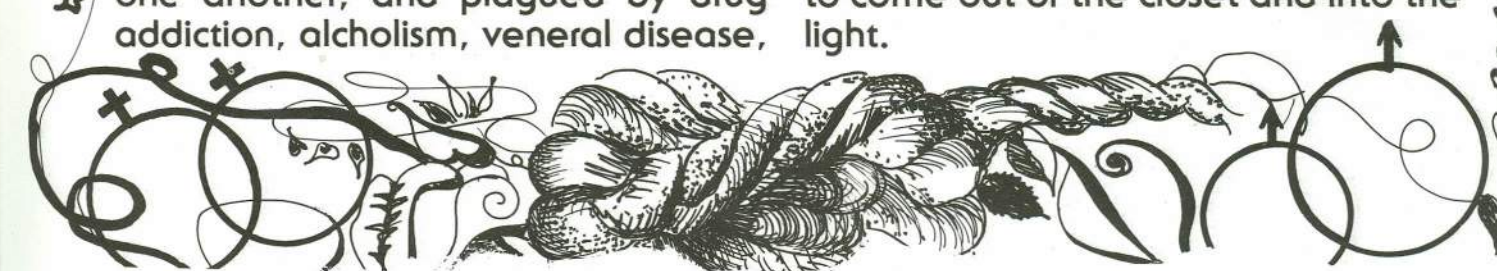
A lesson can be learned from California. I know North Carolina does not boast a thirty percent gay population but there are enough of us to make a voice. A very loud voice.

It took only one loud voice to destroy gay rights in Dade County, Florida, just as only one loud voice removed prayer from the public schools. That one voice of Anita Bryant condemned the gay world, furthering the already ridiculous misconceptions that we are perverts, child molesters, and social outcasts, to be avoided and restrained at all costs. We and our practices were equated to "vampirism". September's edition of "MS. MAGAZINE" quotes some of the Anita Bryant campaign literature as saying that, "there's nothing gay about homosexuality . . . that gay people are extremely vicious with one another, and plagued by drug addiction, alcoholism, venereal disease,

terrible loneliness, suicide, frigidity, impotence . . .".

Black rights were established only after the black population banded together and FOUGHT for what was their due as citizens of this country and as human beings. Women are slowly accomplishing the same thing. But the gay population of today's society has no rights as people or as citizens. Our jobs are in constant jeopardy, housing is denied or taken away, children are removed from us.

The gay community in California is not afraid to stand up and shout back. They unite together to fight for what is rightfully theirs. The gay people in this area are going to have to do the same thing. We need to know each other, trust each other, band together, form a solid organization for our protection and voice. We've got to come out of the closet and into the light.

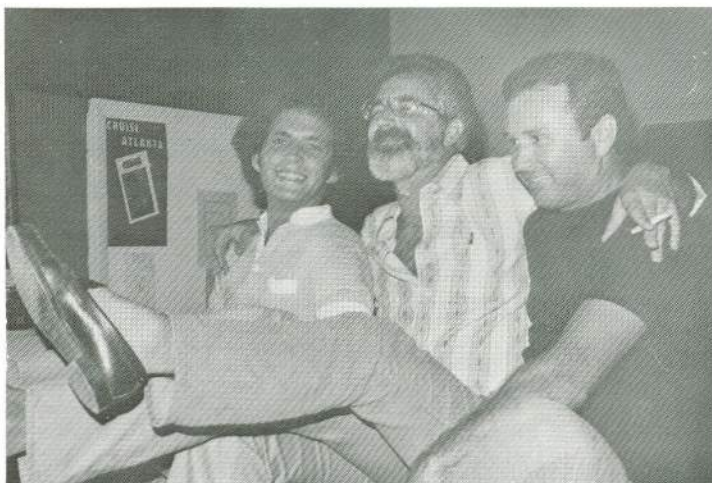


from a husband after eight years of closeting myself in a straight world. Giving up a child for my freedom and peace of mind. Surprised to find that my friends still accepted me, cared about me. Discovering new sides, new people, new ways of life.

I am gay. I am no stereotype. I am a strong, loving, independent

woman. I am willing to work for change, for acceptance, for rights. My writing flows now and the music has grown. I take the chances because I am happy being what I am and doing what I do. After all, love and happiness are all we really have to give and to receive. And love is never wrong, whatever form it takes.

PINK TRASH HOTLINE



Follies Bergère

Thelma Thorton, Isadora Duncan, and Annie Oakley practice their chorus kick at The Mousetrap. They wish to assure their clientele that this performance was of no social or artistic significance.

Preparations are underway for the Miss Mousetrap contest coming Friday and Saturday September 16 and 17. All get ready.

Lost and Found Department



Mark, Mary Magdalene, and Lynne at David's Lounge. Mark was bathing nude recently at the north end of Wrightsville Beach, only to find that someone had taken his clothing. After considerable searching he was unable to locate his duds, but he did find the clothes of his boss, a female, who was also nude bathing. Needless to say, he immediately slinked them on and went home. How she got home is not known. For up-to-date information on nude bathing, check the bartenders at David's as conditions are highly variable.

Redecorating On The Range



Slim and Tex, two of the regulars at Capital Corral. Capital Corral is just completing redecorating and the total effect seems outstanding. Slim especially likes the new dance floor (illuminated) and its stereo system, while Tex is intrigued with the Blue Room and its inhabitants.

Art and Paul, operators of Capital Corral, have a lot of work to do in completing their ambitious plans for a total entertainment center but the final product should be worth the blood, sweat, and tears.

PINK TRASH HOTLINE

Pumping Iron

Sann Hardy and Max Grindstaff, bartenders at David's Lounge; and Thad (AKA Thelma "Available" Thornton), barman at the Mousetrap, get the flesh ready for the Mr. David contest, coming soon at David's Lounge. The contest will be a bathing suit competition only. There will not be a separate category for entries from Camp LeJeune, so competition should be very keen.



Max also passed along the story about the noted Wilmington Greekophile sex star who recently had to be returned by Coast Guard helicopter from a Greek freighter, after failing to make last call for "all ashore". Pink Trash wishes to advise its readers that the next Greek freighter will arrive in Wilmington on September 19. It is the *Miny Fourteen*, bearing miscellaneous cargo.



Weirdos In Fayetteville

Raleigh Cruiser was recently visiting a Fayetteville book store, where he met True Love, a local G.I. Cruiser went home with True Love, who insisted that Cruiser paint his fingernails red, which True Love sniffed dry. Sex consisted of the use of True Love's newly painted fingers and etc. . . . Your reporter was overwhelmed at the orgiastic details, which, when revealed to the Trash Staff, were not believed. In a subsequent re-enactment at the Trash Corporate Offices it seemed possible that exaggeration had occurred. However, the Ft. Bragg PX did confirm that Lancome's newest hot shade of red, Picasso Plum, has suddenly leaped ahead in sales to be their best seller of nailpolish.

Society News

The Paddock Club had a homecoming recently, with a show on Saturday evening and a womanless wedding the following Sunday afternoon. The show, *Vegas Express*, played to a capacity audience.



Giving the bride away. The mock womanless wedding was staged with complete wedding entourage, tears provided by the family, flowers, cake, and traditional music (live, with organ) played to a standing room audience in the Greenville chapel. The reception, enlivened by free refreshment, continued until 2AM.

The Passing Parade

Marion and Oakey Tyson just celebrated their 27th Wedding Anniversary. They have been successful now with the *Scorpio* at three locations, possibly because of their personal mottos, which we hear are:

Marion: *Gimme your money and show me your card.*

Oakey: *We only give away two things here; gum and p _ _ _ , and we're out of gum.*

Will the LaToure/Scott Hardy romance survive the summer? All Charlotte is holding its breath. Gasp! Gasp! Will Hardy threaten to beat up the editor for printing this . . .

Will Nicky's new restaurant get off the ground, or should we say the cellar? Only the building inspector knows . . .

Will Ethyl Bailey and Boom Boom LaToure have a smush-in because of the *Pink Trash* interview of LaToure? Maybe Oleen should have it as a feature . . .

What's the new construction at 825 West Morehead, Charlotte? As the Krusebah, Talk of the Town, 825 West Morehead, JB's, and New Bar Whiskey Ltd. have already gone under here, why not one more . . .
*Send your gossip to the Pink Trash Hotline.
We'll print it!*

PINK TRASH HOTLINE

Disco Booms



Don and Stan working with their tamborine at Christopher's. They seldom get to goof-off like this due to the outstanding reception given Christopher's by the triangle area. A \$3 cover charge pays for all beer and set-ups. Get there early on Friday and Saturday or you may not get in. Bruce Durbin, formerly at Blueberry Hill in Durham, says that he has never seen such a good reception for a new bar or such a noticeable lack of complaints. A super Halloween is planned, but there are no details yet.



Christopher's DJ Doug Sessoms cues the next song. One thing that really keeps the Christopher's crowd hopping is a well located dance floor, a super stereo system, and excellent music selection.

Beat Of A Different Drummer



Ernestine Brown warms the audience up with a willing volunteer, when the Illusions played a recent standing room crowd at the Scorpio. In the show Ernestine has a new Cher number with a fantastic Indian get-up. She put the headdress, shield, and other accessories together herself and in doing so became one of Tandy Leather Company's best customers. The Tandy feather salesman in Charlotte is rumored to have already made his quota for the next several months.



Linda McLean at the Scorpio. One distinct feature of the Illusions' show was Linda's drum accompaniment with the show music. She has played keyboard instruments professionally for over ten years and has appeared in Reno and Las Vegas. Drums are a hobby for her. The performer she's most proud to have appeared with . . . Bobby Gentry.



GUIDE

GREENSBORO

The Bushes
411 N. Eugene
373-9479

Monroe's G.G.G.
Lounge
253 N. Green St.

Happy Nights Disco
2312 E. Bessemer Ave.
373-9409

GREENVILLE

Paddock Club
1008 Dickerson Ave.
752-9139

RALEIGH

The Capital Corral
313 West Hargett St.
755-9599

The Mousetrap
1622 Glenwood Ave.
755-9123

Raleigh Books
111 Fayetteville St.
834-3064

DURHAM

Herb's Lounge
228 Hunt St.
682-9714

FAYETTEVILLE

The Other Side
457 W. Russell St.
483-9115

WILMINGTON

David's Lounge
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763-8068

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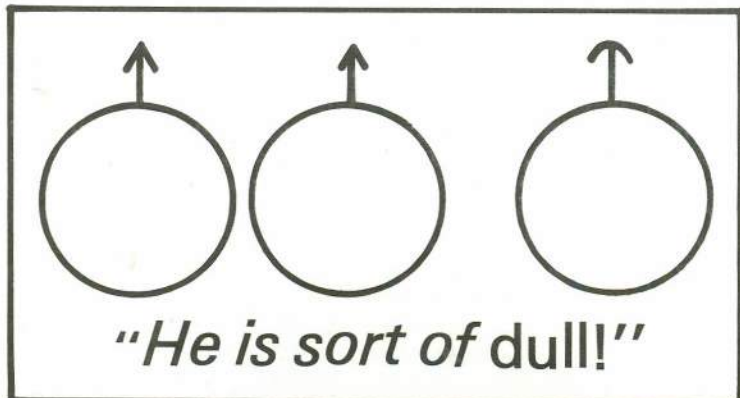
H & M Club
2300 Two-Notch Rd.
254-0436

Fortress Club
5729 Shakespear Rd.
754-9848

CHARLESTON
Club David
135 Market Street

GREENVILLE
Club Gemini
443 E. Stone Ave.

The Disco Lounge &
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709 N. Main St.
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Christopher's →

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FROM DURHAM

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UNIVERSITY MALL

ESTES DR.

EAST FRANKLIN STREET

FROM GREENSBORO

N C 86

NORTH BOUNDARY

ROSEMARY

RALEIGH ST.

UNC CAMPUS

W. FRANKLIN ST.

CAMERON AVE.

COLUMBIA

RALEIGH RD.

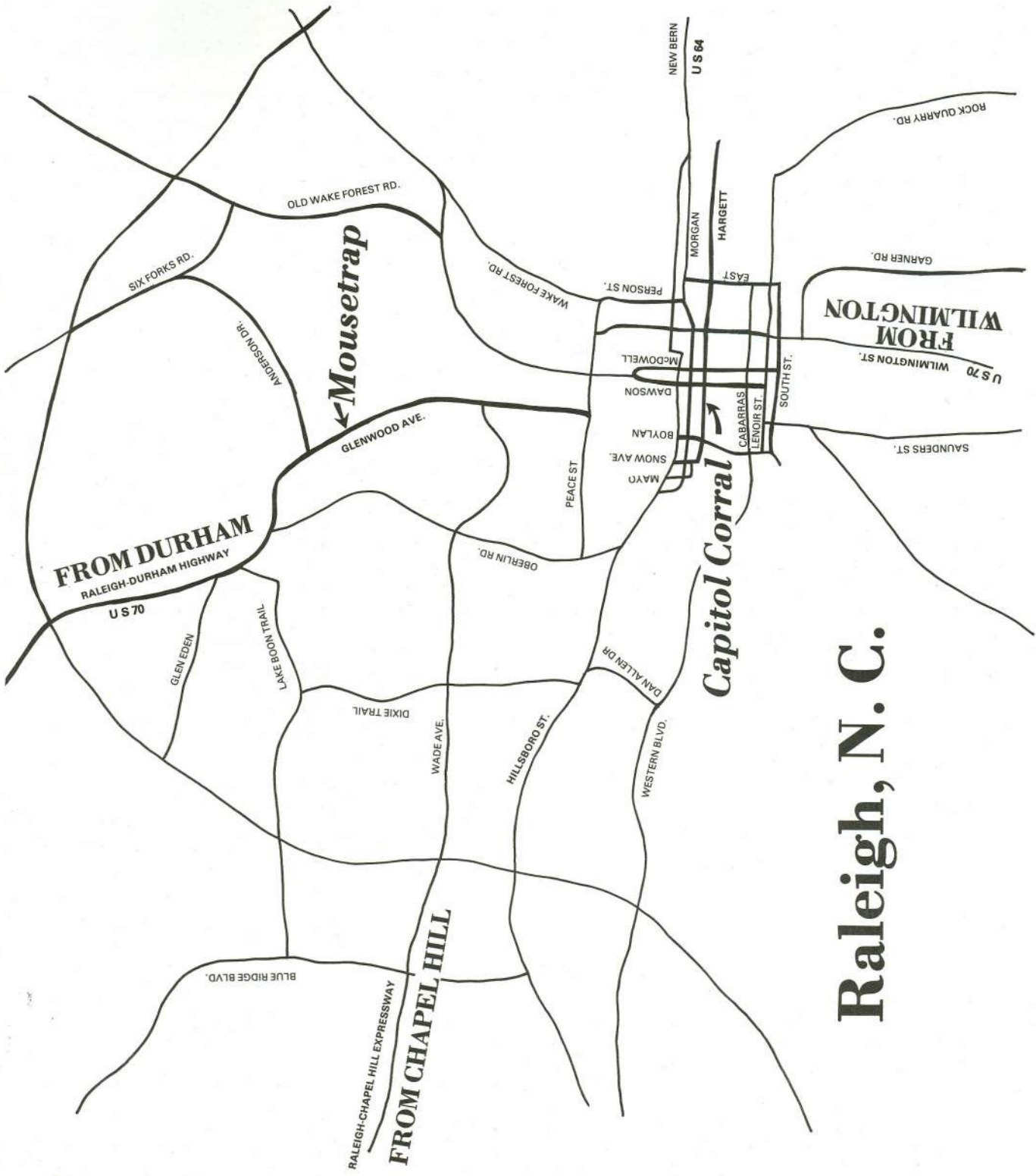
FROM RALEIGH

64 BYPASS

64 BYPASS

64 BUSINESS

N C 54



Raleigh, N. C.

TRASH

WORDS

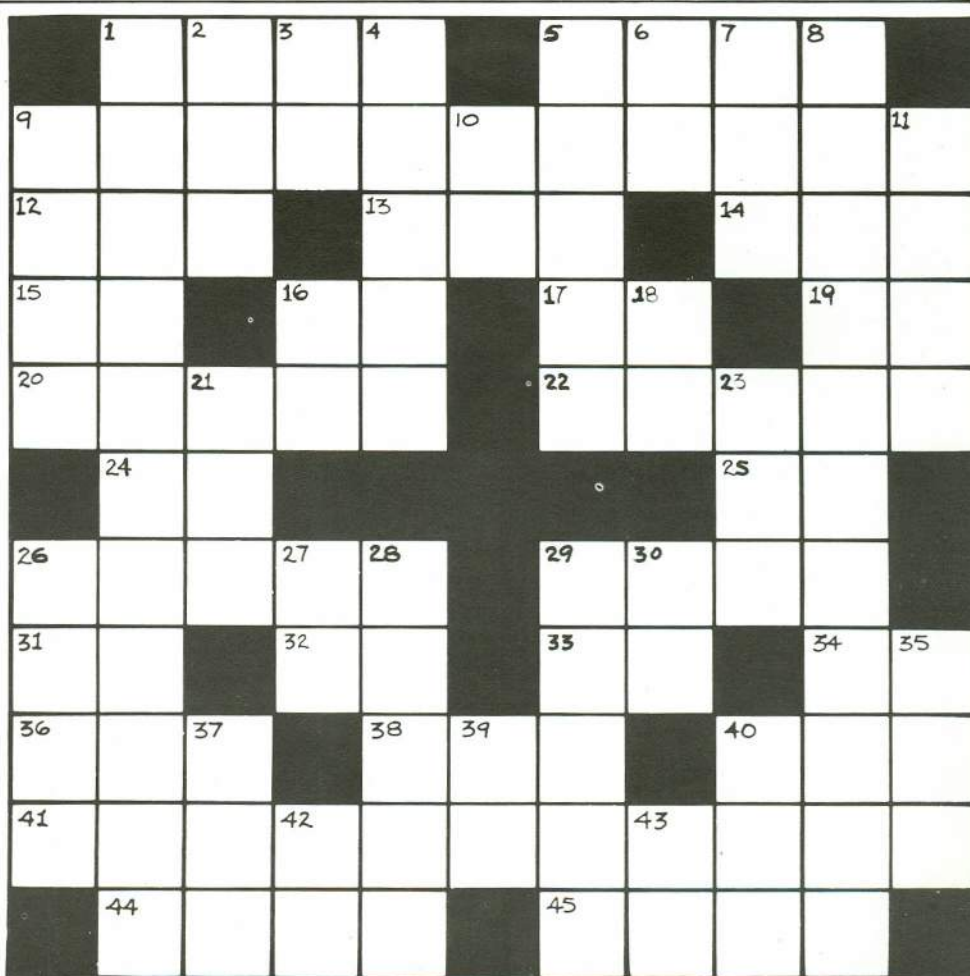
BY HOMME © NYMN

ACROSS

1. Pain in the ass, and other places
5. Melody for single voice! Prima-donnas' operatic term?
9. Has a tremendous appetite for 69
12. Eve came from Adam's
13. By way of
14. Maiden name
15. Butch auto model initials
16. When added to nis, netrate, and nicillin makes for good and bad news
17. Toward
19. I and others
20. Place to sleep with a camel driver
22. Outcome and seamen (abbr.)
24. Mr. Diddly
25. He, she, ____.
26. Shady garden
29. John or Player
31. At
32. Before amer or ality
33. With ding makes a finale
34. Queen's fleet (abbr.)
36. Paddle
38. Is porno this?
40. Late Chinese leader
41. A sex lover's hot breath
44. Places to put your balls
45. American political cartoonist

DOWN

1. Rabble rouser
2. Farm grown dildo
3. Time per.
4. Roof parts
5. Marble or type size
6. Before sky or pen
7. Mr. Fleming
8. Dictator of current events
9. Jason's ship
10. Neighbor of Fire Island (abbr.)
11. Chicken
16. _____ are square
18. Beer _____ tap
21. Weep
23. Before ection
26. Sometimes used in drag
27. Conjunction
28. Harvests
29. Sissy's plea, "You _____ top"
30. Article
35. Butch reply, "I will _____ bend over"
37. Kind of whiskey
39. Added to apsody leads to melody
40. After X
42. I
43. With ck is anal sex (slang)



Answers on page 25

Sylvester is a gay black singer who rose to fame and international notoriety as the star of the *Cockettes*, the madly outrageous homosexual musical revue they opened in San Francisco on New Year's Eve, 1970. The *Cockettes* were outrageous, and Sylvester was a terrific singer. The *Cockettes* quickly became the darlings of the liberated-by-acid crowd and, of course, the gay community. For his performances, Sylvester dressed in what might be called "high drag" - an original glitter queen in a city that would send Anita Bryant up the wall. Sylvester was then, and still is, an amazingly talented vocalist. The shows were stunning - when he sang Bessie or Billie material,

he absolutely looked the part. It takes a lot to set San Francisco flat on its ear, but Sylvester and the *Cockettes* pulled it off with ease.

Born into a large, middle-class family in Los Angeles, Sylvester was raised singing in church, and says he was the child wonder of gospel in the late fifties. By age eight, he was a real star, traveling the gospel circuit on the East Coast and throughout the South.

Although his career is rooted in gospel and church-related material, Sylvester credits his grandmother, Julia, as being the one who guided him most, musically and otherwise. *She was a blues singer during the Thirties, traveling all over. She told me about black stars, that period of time when stars*

were stars, black or white!

As a teenager, Sylvester used to scrounge around record shops, buying old 78s from the Twenties and Thirties. *I really educated myself musically, with my grandmother's help, of course. She taught me so much.*

It was also his grandmother who told Sylvester he was gay. *Right about then I escaped from the church and totally stopped singing. I was too busy being the dark queen on Sunset Strip.* Sylvester adds that he lived as a woman on the Strip for several years.

When the *Cockettes* held open auditions in 1969, Sylvester had already begun to enjoy the freedom of expression that San Francisco allows. About his career with the *Cockettes*, Sylvester says, *It was a gas. We did period pieces - music by Bessie and Billie - and we also did some outrageous glitter rock and roll.*

Eventually Sylvester outgrew the *Cockettes* and went out as a solo. For almost two years he performed as a woman at the Rickshaw Lounge in Chinatown.

Finally someone thought of recording his talent and after several demo tapes and a lot of talk that never materialized into albums, Sylvester signed with Blue Thumb, where he did three lps; *Lights Out San Francisco*, *Scratch My Flower*, and *Bazaar*.

After the tumult of carrying on his outrageous (and expensive) life style for a couple of years, Sylvester decided it was too much and went to Europe to cool it. Later, back in San Francisco, Sylvester put together a band which includes four white rock and roll musicians. Two big and beautiful black women complete the group - Izora Rhodes and Martha Wash.

At the suggestion of friends, Fantasy Records' R & B people, Harvey Fuqua and Nancy Pitts, checked out a club date by Sylvester and his group. *---and were we shocked! He's a marvelous singer and runs that band like a real pro.* His first album on Fantasy is *Sylvester* (F-9531). There is

a disco version of two cuts, "Down, Down, Down" (6:50) and "Over and Over" (9:27) but unfortunately it is not available commercially.

Sylvester has always stressed theatrics in his stage presentations. He's a uniquely talented set designer and costume-maker with a flair for the unusual. But he's always done this in connection with the stage, never to exploit his own personal life. Sylvester leads a quiet life in San Francisco. He lives with Willie Sanchez (credited on *Sylvester* as the spiritual adviser), drives a Volkswagen, and has five Borzoi Russian wolfhounds. Although obviously feminine, he does not perform in drag anymore.

What happened is that the theatrics got in the way of the music. I had to be on all the time! People were more interested in my personal sexual orientation and my costumes than they were in my music. Sure I'm gay, and I'm outrageous about it. My grandmother told me, 'Be whatever you want, but be outrageous about it!' But I don't tell gay jokes and I don't sing gay songs. So what if I'm outrageous? What about the music?

Sylvester's question is now being answered loud and clear. Joel Selvin of the *San Francisco Chronicle* says, *He's a fine singer and always delivers a professional, top-rate show.* Philip Elwood in the *San Francisco Examiner* says, *---his driving intensity as a lead vocalist now overshadows his gayety, and his band (a cookin' affair) propels most of the tunes along with a powerful kick.*

Their sound is disco, the lush sound and soaring vocals. The Bay Area Disco Association's latest survey gives him a solid number one chart position - a pretty good foundation on which to build outside his home city!

The *Berkeley Barb* recently wrote, *Sylvester has decided to come out for the second time. Now he's playing himself and letting his music speak for itself.*





SYLVESTER



DISCO

Disco DJ has received many complimentary letters in the past years. David Wright, the SDDA, and *Pink Trash* are regarded highly by many people in the disco industry. Below are some excerpts.

We at Provocative would like to thank you for all your support and response to our efforts on your behalf in furthering the importance and credibility of disco music and it's relation to the record industry.

The Brothers Simon
Provocative Promotions
Los Angeles, Ca.

We love hearing from you - thanks!

Ken Marier
Boogie Man Records
Oak Park, ILL.

The information . . . has been very informative and it does show that there is some effort being made to expose products to consumers, other than radio, in the Southeast.

Mike T.
CBS Records
New York, N.Y.

The Free Press is very interesting . . .

Bill Downs
Right On Records
New York, N.Y.

We look forward to getting your reviewer reports from S.D.D.A.

Dick Broderick
Morning Star Records
Rahway, N.J.

Special thanks to David and the Southeast Disco Pool for making "Elevator" number one in their market.

Michael Stark
GRT Records
Nashville, TN.

Thanks for your help in the past.


Marc Kreiner
MK Productions

Thank you for your Disco List . . .

Will Crittendon
SMI Records
New York, N.Y.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you and the other five members of the Southeast Disco DJ Assoc. for all the good support and exposure you've given our products. This also goes for the nice things you've said about us in the Free Press. I enjoy reading the publication and look forward to receiving my copy. It is certainly done in very good taste, and I wish you good luck and continued success.

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2. *From Here To Eternity*..... Georgio
3. *I Feel Love*..... Donna Summer
4. *Ma Baker*..... Boney M
5. *Hey You Should Be Dancing*... Gene Farrow (import)
6. *Funky Music*..... Ju-Par Orch.
7. *Erotic Soul*..... Larry Page Orch.
8. *Best Of My Love*..... Emotions
9. *Theme From "Star Wars"*..... Meca
10. *It's Ecstasy*..... Barry White
11. *People Get Up*..... Mass Production
12. *Pipeline*..... Bruce Johnson
13. *Cocomotion*..... El Coco
14. *Dr. Love*..... First Choice
15. *Strawberry Letter*..... Brothers Johnson

★ PICK HIT ★

Turn It Out..... Gary Toms Empire (MCA)

ERA IN THE HOME

The Equal Rights Amendment which is still three states short of ratification, has perhaps received a significant bit of opposition from women themselves - in particular, from homemakers or those women who do not work outside the home.

Anti-ERA groups maintain that ratification of the ERA would maybe be beneficial to career-oriented women, but the amendment would only be detrimental and degrading to homemakers and full-time housewives. Anti-ERA leader Phyllis Schlafly is one woman in particular who denounces ratification of the ERA on the basis that such a move is definitely antifamily, anti-homemaker, and generally destructive to the future of the country.

Homemakers or housewives, who only know the security their husbands provide them, do not realize how easily such security could vanish upon their husband's death or absence. Concerning property ownership and inheritance, wives have virtually no claim or right to such when circumstances warrant settlements or claims or whatever. A homemaker's work within the home is not even considered in most property settlements - nor is such labor covered

by Social Security, even though its economic value has been approximated at \$11,000 a year.

In fact, in spite of some Federal laws and state laws that are working toward eliminating discrimination in these areas, recent studies by the (IWYC) International Women's Year Commission show that homemakers still lack virtually any legal protection in many states.

IWYC, a group chosen by the President to work toward the improvement of women's status, has picked the ERA as their most crucial goal. Amendment of the ERA would actually eliminate existing inequities from laws on the state and federal level. In addition, amendment would finally provide legal protection for homemakers and housewives - instead of devaluing the roles of wives and mothers in our society.

With such acquisition of legal protection, ratification of the ERA may actually prove to be more beneficial for fulltime homemakers than for any other group of women!

The above account is based on an article which appeared in the Charlotte Observer Wednesday, August 24, 1977.

**Cookout
on
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Party
on
Sunday**

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POEMS FROM READERS

GRAVEYARD

I was standing in the field of indifference.
Even the grass was unaffected by
the crunch of my feet.

This place was not of my preference.
A rude intruder, I was unaware
of trespassing.

No one came to make me leave.
Nor was nature ruder than before
there was no place to rest.

Here, only tombstones,
marbled and heavy.
Plotting their same
indifference on the ground.

The field suddenly fissured as if
wanting some sort of sacrifice,
a gift of atonement.

The field fixated on my hands
empty and noticed.

Did it want superfluous exchange?
A simple this for that?

I began to take root at this knowledge.
Maybe there's something between us.
I will learn in no time.

by Mark Huguley

at NICKY's express

**"NEW
NICKY'S
CELEBRATION"**
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

A LESBIAN WOMAN

To be a woman is beautiful.
To be loved by a woman is more
than beautiful.

It is the moon and the stars, the
sun and the sky. It is being a
Goddess who is being adored
and loved by another Goddess.

Being loved by a woman is being
swept up in a big fluffy cloud
and lifted so high that you don't
ever want to come down.

A woman is sometimes soft and
tender, but is also strong and
brave. She is gentle and loving
but yet can be stubborn and
unyielding.

A woman can do anything she puts
her mind to. She is not a weakling,
and definitely not a sex object.
She can be very feminine and at
the same time, very "butch."

With two women loving each other,
it is being in Heaven. There are
more feelings, sharing, experiences
and caring.

Why? Because they know and have
experienced the feelings or
emotions they share. They talk
their problems out, and share
their tragedies with each other.
They give their love freely and
beautifully without guilt.

Donna M. Stivers

YOUTH

Stolen kisses in the night
Hot passionate embraces
Thundering hearts
Pulsating limbs locked in Ecstasy
Sweating bodies hot with lust
Raw passion in the flesh
Well, maybe it really wasn't quite like
that, you see:

She was 11

I was 10

She'd come to spend the night
Cause she was my best girl friend.

by Lea Hopkins

*As dusk falls over the city,
the roads, mountains, and houses
almost disappear into the night.*

*The sky is turning
from blue to gray to black.
This time is a time of reflection.*

*Of thinking back over
the day's accomplishments
or the problems that were there.*

*Dusk turns into night.
A time for peace, nourishment, relaxation
and a time for two people
to share their day with each other.*

by Donna M. Stivers

I'M GAY????

I'm gay?
Everyone thinks I'm straight
I'm gay?
I date men
Have sex with men
I've even been engaged
I'm gay?
I find women most attractive
I watch them all the time
I'd love to hold one in my arms
I'm gay?
I know what straight is:
my mom
my dad
my friends
my community
the butcher, the baker,
the candlestick maker

It's:
clean
upstanding
respectable
I'm gay?

I know what gay is:
my cousin no one talks about
that woman in the suit
that man in the dress
that bar
It's :
strange
different
dirty
degrading
immoral
perverted

I'm gay, I know I'm gay
They're all wrong
I know right from wrong
I'm happy and I love it.

by Lea Hopkins

Letters Letters Letters Letters Letters Letters Letters Letters

Letters continued from page 6

infatuation, but certainly not fall in love? That real love grows and changes, as a living thing, endures all things, even massive pain? Check the Bible for the best definition of real love and see if your conception or experience measures up? It is the most difficult attainment you might undertake in your whole life, requiring fortitude, determination, dedication, and usually excruciating pain. If you are weary and soul-sick to the core of your being of "affairs" of infatuation, shallow sex in "relationships" of comfortable convenience with whoever pops on the scene at the moment, then discard your self-centered pacifiers and become a man, not a spoiled brat, and refuse to participate in disguised self-hatred, an id perverted.

If in your most fore-sighted imaginings, you can conceive of sharing your whole self and accepting others as they really are, without performing roles and affectations or phony pretenses, can deal maturely with expectations, and not necessitate "sex and/or lover" orientation or anticipation in every "meaningful" relationship you undertake. If you can envision sex as a joyous, intimate, personal, special kind of sharing that should come only as the ultimate unifying experience between two very special people who are aware and seen considerable growth together. If you find the very old-fashioned (consider its wisdom compared with what we practice for value) idea of baring your psyche and personhood before baring the bod somehow infinitely more appealing, richer, more rewarding, than vice versa. And really feel that sex is not the be and the end-all, the essential ingredient of every gay relationship that holds itself together, can be incredibly close and still preserve that special relationship for the special person. If you can deal with other people on strictly human terms, and not use them for gratification of your own selfish, spoiled needs or a cushion for your own weakness and insecurity. If romance, sentimentality, quiet sharing, simple consideration, thoughtfulness, empathy, supportive caring, unaffected naturalness instead of self-mocking camp, are all appealing, meaningful concepts to you still within the grasp of your value consciousness. If you have somehow miraculously survived the flood of materialistic modernity with its emphasis on things, money, people as tools and acquisitions. The rip-tide of pseudo-sophistication, jaded hedonism, and bitchy, vicious connivance. If your golden idolatry emblazoned me has somehow tarnished, even rusted, by sad experience and empty existence. Start hoping again, start trying again, and most of all start communicating again.

Have you tired of your own reflection, and matured enough to grasp the guts and glory of that horrendous word, commitment? Or do you still want to play in the house of mirrors at the freak sideshow? Do you have the uncompromising audacity, as I have in writing this, the courage to try to communicate on a realistic plane with another person, not a sex object, are willing to seek common interests to share, perhaps learn new ones, to Work, to Sweat, to establish friendships of lifetime value and meaningfulness? You may contact me through this paper. It may or may not work, but we can broaden a circle and like a chain reaction at least bring together a different breed, people who may never meet otherwise. Be assured it will be a difficult task and not for those who discourage easily. There will be failures and successes, but it is the germ, a beginning. We are working on a quality item, or a work of art perhaps, not something that can be put on lay-away at the five and dime. Therein lies the value. Remember the old adage that anything worthwhile is

never easy. Trappings such as age, physical appearances, such externalia are so much trivia, disposable wrappers. Hopefully, ideally, though no doubt unrealistically, I hope to bring together out of this vacuum, a family or compatible group of Adults who want to share what they can or will. My goal is to be a means of bringing together people who never meet because of their higher aspirations, reticence, or simply lacking the vehicle. If you feel any kinship with most of this or would like to experiment, give me the opportunity, and I will try to organize this project and see where it leads us. Just don't expect anything earth-shattering, but then again, who knows what long-range benefits could derive from such an effort in this benighted area, where there is even no real protest to oppression as blatant, though misguided, as Bryant's. Think, grow, communicate. You couldn't lose anything, and you might gain yourself. With every added person who is sincere we double our strength, our influence, and may someday create that first ripple of healthy change that improves the quality of life, not only for ourselves, but for the whole culture.

My deepest thanks to the Pink Trash for allowing expression of such radical departures from the norm in the gay sub-culture. They have my address and phone, though I am easier reached by written communications. I will contact you and am thinking in terms of group outings, meetings, or trips; I have facilities, but there must be a certain screening involved, of course, or we will simply perpetuate the same styles of the past and present. It will be dull and difficult at first, but look forward and cling to that vision with tenacity. And hope, above all.

A Dreamer

"I have been hurt badly since I have passed the age of 20 years."

June 30, 1977

To whom it may concern:

I am gay 36 years old. I have been gay since I was five years old. During my teen years I had plenty of friends gay and straight. I was very happy to. The gay friends I had then were more sincere and happier than they are now. I want all the gay people to know that they should be good friends and sincere and honest. I have been hurt badly since I have passed the age of 20 years. I think we all should come together and have love and peace for one another. This I can not find anywhere these days. I wish all gay people would stand up for there rights especially in Erwin, Dunn, Coats, Bunlevel, Linden and Lillington, N.C. We gay people have to help one another or we will never reach our goals. I know some of the gay people are doing there part in some city and states. This is what we all should do. I would treat a gay person 60 years old as good as I would one 16 years old. I have received lots of letters from gay people, but they were not all honest and sincere. I don't think we should have respect to persons. I know we have good and bad gay people and we don't have to put up with the bad if we don't want to. We all should be as one big Family. I thank God for the Free Press. It has helped me so much. And it will help alot of others who subscribe for it. I thank all the staff of the Free Press for what they are doing. If any one would like to comment on this letter, write to:

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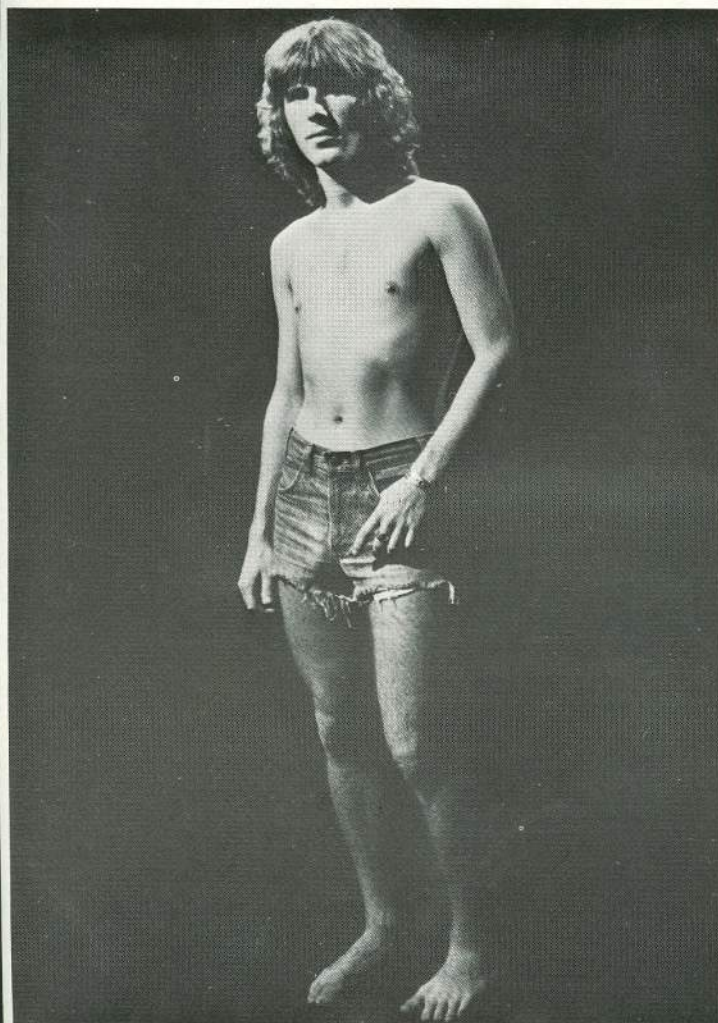
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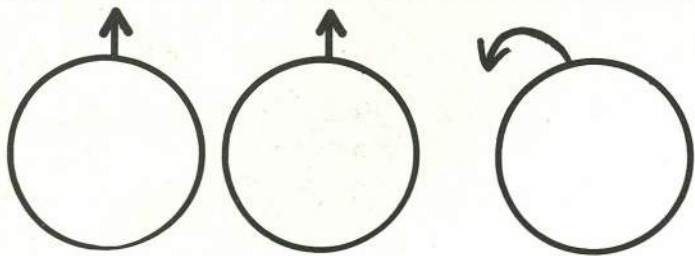
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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

DANNY by STIOUX

DARLING!
IT'S SO GOOD
TO HAVE YOU
HOME...!
STRANGER!

MA, THERE'S
SOMEONE
I WANT YOU
TO MEET.

WHAT HAPPENED
TO YOUR CURLY
HAIR? WHY ARE
YOU DRESSED
LIKE A
LUMBERJACK?

HE'S VERY
SPECIAL,
YOU SEE...
...I LOVE
HIM.

WE'RE HAVING A
BIG DINNER
TONITE & I INVITED
SOME **VERY** SPECIAL
PEOPLE I WANT
YOU TO MEET.

MA,
THIS
IS
CHAD.

HELLO CHAD.
THERE'S THE HERDES
& THEIR **DAUGHTER**
JEWEL, THE STEWARTS
& THEIR **DAUGHTER**
PEARL, THE...

MA,
CHAD
& I
LIVE
TOGETHER.

THEN
TOMORROW
WE'RE
GOING
SKATING
WITH THE
EVANS' &
THIER
DAUGHTER
EMERALD...

**MA, I'M A
HOMO-
SEXO-
AL!**

THAT'S FINE.
...AND ON
WEDNESDAY
WE'LL
GO...

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