

OFFICIAL MINUTES

Gay Community and to unify our movement. We need people to move to Miami to work with us for the period between now and July and hopefully beyond. It would be ideal if (each) Gay organization could send one person now, to work with us and create links with their home Community, with the rest of the Gay people following in July. If you can't come now, come in June; if you can't come in June, please come in July. This is a crucial historical period. The job is great, but so are the possibilities. See you there for Gay Power. (signed) Bob Barry, GAA Miami."

Delegates were urged to write to Nick Vareriani, Director of Community Relations, Police Department, 120 Meridian Avenue, Miami Beach, Florida, to make Miami Beach aware how many Gays are interested in what will be happening there in July. A motion to commend Cliff Witt and the Miami GAA for their impressive reports was adopted by acclamation. Substantive Motion #9 was introduced and adopted. It was announced that cars and people were needed to dye Washington fountains lavender immediately after adjournment. Delegates interested in rewriting the Chicago minutes or in drawing up a list of contingency plans for Miami, to be presented at the Sunday Session, were told of meetings that evening. At 7 p.m. the Saturday session was adjourned.

The Sunday Session convened at 1:30 p.m. and turned to the first item of business on the revised agenda: Report of the Chicago Convention. After some discussion, Substantive Motion #10 was adopted. Substantive Motion #11 and #12 were adopted. A motion to reconsider Substantive Motion #7 was defeated, and the Session proceeded to implementing its passages. Substantive Motion #15, which incorporated several friendly amendments, was adopted following defeat of a motion naming everyone on the ballot for spokespersons as members of the screening committee; a motion to suspend Robert's Rules; use of cumulative balloting (initially adopted after the Chair broke a tie vote, but rejected on a successful move for reconsideration). During the protracted count of the ballots, Substantive Motions #13 and #14 were adopted. It was moved that an invalid ballot containing 5 names each of women and men for spokespersons be declared valid by accepting the first 4 names listed for each sex. An expression of thanks to delegate Bob McMurray for providing without charge the P.A. system was made and accepted. Delegate Deni Covello announced that her organization was assembling a master list of all Lesbian groups and requested delegates to furnish additional names of groups to her at: Gay Women's Liberation Front, c/o Women's Center, 36 West 22nd Street, NYC 10010. It was announced that Gay women may well have their first major test case, backed by the National Organization of Women (NOW); while still in the planning stages, it will be a national effort controlled by women and supported by Gay men. A delegate from the Gay Awareness Action Committee announced that his organization had begun a Gay newsletter which sought national circulation and requested news items be sent to GAAC, P.O. Box 522, Summit, New Jersey. Delegates from Kalos GLF announced plans to distribute a newspaper. Selection of SPS-MCGO spokespersons still not completed, the Chair opened Item #6A-4 for discussion. A motion to postpone it until after Item #6D was adopted. Substantive Motion #16 was adopted. An amendment to include gay bars and other Gay establishments in approaches for donations was defeated; another amendment, asking that all "so-called Gay-oriented churches be asked to have their parishioners donate" was withdrawn in the face of objections. Results of the balloting for the spokespersons and alternates were announced:

Men. in order of votes

Ernie Reaugh
 Ron Alheim
 Frank Kameny
 Breck Ardery
 Maurice Wimborly
 Bob McMurray
 Jim Fouratt
 Brian Campbell
 Morris Kight
 Gene Leggett
 Colin Neiberger / tie
 Allan Vick / tie
 Jeff Orth / tie
 John Gillespie / tie
 Stop May
 Phil Shaw

Women, in order of votes

Spokesperson	Deni Covello
Spokesperson	Cora Perrota
Spokesperson	Barbara Learnard
Alternate	Barbara Gittings
Replacements:	Nath Rockhill
	Brenda Howard
	Jean O'Leary

Delegates from the Purple Star Tribe, Detroit Gay Activists, GWLF NY, Chicago Gay Alliance, Gay Rights Activists, Brooklyn, White House Vigil for Peace, GLF Temple Univ., GAA, Kansas City, and Gay Youth, New York, asked that their protest of the results of the men spokespersons be recorded: while expressing their respect for the men chosen, they deplored the fact that none were under 26 or Third World, or Transvestites, and hence not a cross-section of the Gay Community.

The delegate from Mattachine New York asked that his support for the results be recorded, based on his opposition to balanced ticketing as a hangover from the old politics. Substantive Motion # 17 was introduced and adopted.

A motion to postpone selection of the screening committee, as provided in Substantive Motion #7, until just before Item #9, 'Concluding Remarks', was adopted.

Turning to Agenda Item # 6B-1, it was announced that no list of delegates elected, or delegate candidates seeking selection, was yet available. Two acknowledged Gays have already been elected, plus at least 11 unacknowledged ones who may announce themselves later. In addition, nearly 10 Gay or pro-Gay delegates have been assigned to the Platform Committee, heightening the probability of having the necessary 15, or 10% of the Committee for any Minority Report to the Democratic Convention.

Turning to Item #6B-2, Guy Charles announced that he was the only known yet accredited, as a reporter for the Gay Paper, "The Advocate". Delegates were urged to get local papers to accredit Gay correspondents. As to guest passes, it was announced that they are available only through the chairpersons of State delegations. It was further announced that three delegates at SPS-NCGO would be visiting the Democratic National Committee the following day, Monday, to request that a Gay Caucus be recognized at the Democratic Convention complete with a suite of rooms and a staff with credentials.

Turning to Item # 6B-3, delegates were urged to write letters to State Democratic Chairpersons, requesting passes to Committee sessions in Miami and permission to testify.

Turning to Item #6C-1, the Session discusses the likelihood of a large number of Gays going to Miami to picket and demonstrate.

Substantive Motion #18 was introduced and Substantive Motions #19 and #20 were initially included as friendly amendments to it. On a motion to divide, all were adopted separately, while a third friendly amendment--"That each

group participating in the SPS NCGO resolve to send one busload of people to Miami Beach for the Democratic Convention"--was defeated.

A motion was made to elect from the SPS-NCGO one spokeswoman and one spokesman to be in Miami Beach for the sake of press relations. A substitute motion was then introduced, directing the Miami GAA to designate such spokespersons. Both motions were tabled.

Substantive Motions #21, #22, #23, #24, and #25 were introduced in turn and adopted, under the Agenda Item # 7D.

The discussion of financial requirements, postponed earlier, came up for debate. Cliff Witt presented a brief report on receipts and expenditures to date.

Delegates were reminded of the resolution passed at the Chicago Convention calling upon every Gay organization to donate \$25.00 for preparations for a Gay presence in each national convention.

At this point several delegates made personal and organizational donations, or announced pledges of donations to come.

Substantive Motion #26 was adopted.

A motion to adjourn was made, setting the time for adjournment at 9 pm.

Before voting on the motion, the Chair instructed the Secretary to read the sense of each of the resolutions remaining on the table.

The motion to adjourn at 9pm failed.

A motion to adjourn at 7:30 pm carried by a recorded vote of 23-19.

A motion to limit each person's debate on a motion to 30 seconds was adopted.

At this point some delegations announced their withdrawal from the SPS-NCGO session.

A motion "that NCGO funds be made available, where necessary, to elected Gay delegates, to pay their expenses in Miami" was defeated.

A motion to reconstitute as a Committee of the Whole was defeated.

Turning formally to Item #7 on the Agenda, delegates adopted Substantive Motions #27, #28, and #29.

At 7:30 pm, a motion to postpone adjournment until 8:00pm was carried by a recorded vote of 19-15.

Substantive Motion #30 was re-introduced and adopted.

A quorum call was made and in the absence of the required number of delegations the Sunday Session adjourned at 7:40 pm.

----- Respectfully Submitted, Steve Hoglund, Secretary -----

T.A.G. - PAC

Truth about Gays Political Action Committee

Dear Taxpayer and Concerned Citizen:

DO YOU THINK IT IS TIME THAT SOMEBODY STOOD UP AND SAID NO TO "GAY POWER"?

DO YOU THINK IT IS TIME A SERIOUS UNRELENTING COUNTER-ATTACK WAS LAUNCHED AGAINST THE ASSAULT BY HOMOSEXUALS ON OUR TRADITIONAL VALUES AND BELIEFS?

DO YOU THINK IT IS TIME -- LONG PAST TIME -- THAT THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE LET THEIR CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC OFFICE KNOW THAT THOSE OF US WHO OPPOSE HOMOSEXUALITY AND THE PERVERTED, DISEASE-RIDDLED "GAY" LIFE-STYLE CAN ORGANIZE EVEN MORE EFFECTIVELY AND FINANCIALLY SUPPORT OUR BELIEFS EVEN BETTER THAN THE HOMOSEXUAL LOBBY?

While we believe that you are the kind of individual who is already appalled and disgusted with the increasing glorification of homosexuality as an acceptable "alternative life-style," we suspect that there are a number of facts of which you are not aware. For example:

ARE YOU AWARE that your tax dollars -- moneys paid by you to federal, state and local treasuries -- are currently providing an estimated 46 percent of all income going to nonprofit, pro-homosexual organizations? (Yes, these are the same tax dollars that are in such short supply when it comes to providing benefits for the elderly, job programs for the unemployed and financial support for your public school systems!)

ARE YOU AWARE that in the 1982 Congressional elections members of the "gay community" poured more than \$1 million into more than 100 Congressional races in all parts of the country?

ARE YOU AWARE that of the Congressional candidates supported by "gays" 91 were elected to Congress with the aid of such misleadingly named pro-homosexual political action groups as the Human Rights Campaign Fund?

ARE YOU AWARE that these legislators, who comprise more than 15 percent of the Congress, are publicly supportive of "gay rights" legislation that would make a perverted and illegal sexual preference grounds for special protections under law such as those now afforded to legitimate minority groups?

ARE YOU AWARE that the executive committee of the national Democratic Party has approved an official "gay" caucus within that party?

ARE YOU AWARE that the Republican Party has, in at least two instances, nominated for Congressional seats persons with professed homosexual tendencies? And that Republican candidates -- as well as Democrats -- received financial support from the Human Rights Campaign Fund?

ARE YOU AWARE that the "gay activists" and their various nonprofit, taxpayer-supported organizations are proving so successful in their promotion of the "gay life-style" that a major TV network recently gave air time to a proponent of homosexual child abuse? (The spokesman represented the North American Man-Boy Love Association (NAMBLA), and he arrogantly made a case for legalization of homosexual child abuse under the guise of what he termed "sexual liberation.")

ARE YOU AWARE that the growing acceptance of the highly promiscuous and disease-riddled homosexual life-style -- which "gays" tell us is none of our business -- now threatens the health of the entire population through a condition that destroys the body's ability to resist disease? This condition, Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), can be transmitted through blood transfusions and by other casual contacts with "gays." It is so serious that the National Hemophilia Foundation recently called for the exclusion of homosexual males as blood donors. This proposal has to date been successfully fought by "gays" on the grounds it would unfairly "stigmatize" homosexual males.

ARE YOU AWARE that until now there has been no single, national political action group dedicated solely to opposing the growing political clout of the "gay" movement?

DON'T YOU THINK IT'S TIME that those of us who regard heterosexuality as the desired norm and homosexuality as an undesirable sexual aberration HAD THEIR OWN POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE? One dedicated to supporting candidates for national office who are willing to TAKE A PUBLIC STAND AGAINST "GAY RIGHTS" AGAINST "GAY POWER"? IN FAVOR OF TRADITIONAL VALUES AND BELIEFS?

Well now THERE IS SUCH A COMMITTEE -- Truth About Gays Political Action Committee (T.A.G.-PAC) -- and WE NEED YOUR FINANCIAL HELP AND SUPPORT!

T.A.G.-PAC is a national, nonpartisan political action committee that is registered with the Federal Election Commission (FEC) and subject to a variety of reporting rules and regulations. Our aims include the following:

- * To support those candidates for national office who oppose treating "gays" as a legitimate minority group in the same category as ethnic or religious groups and who oppose or pledge to oppose legislation extending special benefits to "gays."
- * To identify candidates for political office who are "gay" or who support "gay rights" and to publicize

AND THERE IS MORE!

If you contribute \$10.00 or more to T.A.G.-PAC, you will receive ABSOLUTELY FREE a complete report on the pro-"gay" Human Rights Campaign Fund's 1982 election activities, including a complete list of those candidates whom they supported.

If you contribute \$100.00 or more, you will receive ABSOLUTELY FREE a one-year subscription to The DEEP BACKGROUNDER -- a bi-monthly, investigative publication that has established a national reputation for its no-holds-barred reporting on homosexuality within the Washington power structure and on the growing political power of the national "gay" community. This publication is currently available by subscription only at an annual rate of \$20.00 per year.

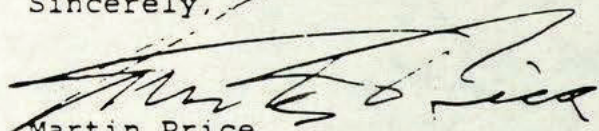
Not only will you find The DEEP BACKGROUNDER an invaluable tool for keeping up on the behind-the-scenes activities of Washington's power-wielders, but it will also feature periodic reports on T.A.G.-PAC activities.

So DON'T WASTE ANY TIME. Even as you read this pro-"gay" lobbyists are working on Capitol Hill and throughout the national political establishment to further their goals. ONLY T.A.G.-PAC stands between them and further success.

The "gay" community has had the ear of Congress and of the nation long enough. It's time for another voice to be heard.

It's time to tell the TRUTH ABOUT GAYS -- and ONLY YOU CAN MAKE THAT HAPPEN.

Sincerely,



Martin Price
Treasurer

P.S.: To make it even easier for you to support T.A.G.-PAC, you may use your Visa or Master Card to charge contributions of \$20.00 or more. If you wish to contribute \$50.00 or more you may pledge whatever amount you wish and make quarterly or monthly payments.

through the most effective means possible the positions of these candidates.

- * To educate legislators and candidates for office about the true nature of the "gay movement," its culture and life-style and how these undermine traditional values and poison the structure of society.
- * To educate legislators, candidates for office and the public about the threat posed to our children by organizations such as NAMBLA, and to support candidates who are pledged to outlawing through federal legislation the activities of those groups dedicated solely or partially to legalization and practice of homosexual child abuse.
- * To educate legislators, candidates for office and the public about the serious and deadly public health threat posed by "gay" sexual activities which are now threatening the entire population with such deadly conditions as AIDS.
- * To educate legislators, candidates and the public about the use of taxpayer money to fund pro-homosexual organizations and activities and to seek legislation barring the use of public money by groups dedicated to seeking special recognition for individuals bound together solely by a perverted and illegal life-style based entirely on sexual activity.

In order to effectively achieve these goals and to combat the the increasingly vocal and well-funded political activities of the nation's homosexuals, T.A.G.-PAC NEEDS YOUR FINANCIAL HELP.

We believe you are the kind of person who treasures traditional family values, who is appalled to learn that you are helping to fund through your tax dollars pro-homosexual organizations, and who is fed up with the exaggerated media attention given such "celebrations" as "Gay Pride Day" and to such sick and obscene organizations as NAMBLA.

While federal law prohibits an individual from giving MORE than \$5,000 to any political action committee in one calendar year, NO AMOUNT IS TOO SMALL. T.A.G.-PAC WELCOMES ALL CONTRIBUTIONS. Remember -- if everyone opposed to the aims of the "gay rights" movement gave even a small amount, T.A.G.-PAC could overnight become one of the best-funded PACs in Washington!

IF YOU WANT TO HELP, Send your contribution TODAY to T.A.G.-PAC!

There are even tax advantages attached to your donations. The Internal Revenue Service allows a 50 percent tax credit on all donations up to \$200.00. This means that you may deduct one-half of your contribution directly from the amount owed in federal income tax!

T.A.G. - PAC

Truth about Gays Political Action Committee

Yes. I want to help tell the TRUTH ABOUT GAYS.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Plan 1. I enclose my check or money order payable to T.A.G.-PAC in the amount of \$_____.*

Plan 2. I am contributing \$20.00 or more and wish to charge my _____ Visa Card or my _____ Master Card.

\$_____ Exact amount of contribution.*

Account # _____

Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

Plan 3. I am contributing \$50.00 or more.* I will send you _____ monthly or _____ quarterly payments in the amount of \$_____ each **

* Federal law requires that persons contributing more than \$200.00 be reported by name to the Federal Election Commission and that information be provided concerning place of employment and occupation. (Indicate if retired, a homemaker, etc.)

Business address _____

Occupation _____

** Monthly or quarterly contributions may be charged to your credit card if \$20.00 or more.

NORTH AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF HOMOPHILE ORGANIZATIONS

Dear Friend:

Concerted action in New York State brought about the end of the abortion law. Concerted action now can also bring about the end of the cruel sodomy law.

You have probably read in the New York Times that the sodomy law of the state of Texas has been declared unconstitutional by a three judge Federal District Court. Though this case is very complex, it can be briefly stated that Alvin Leon Buchanan was arrested in a public rest room in Dallas, Texas, for committing sodomy with another male (a vice squad policeman). A homosexual man who admitted that he had performed sodomy in private, and a married couple who also stated that they performed private heterosexual sodomy with each other were granted permission to intervene in the case. The Federal District Court unanimously declared the Texas sodomy statute unconstitutional on January 21, 1970.

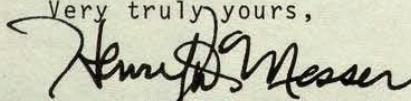
However, the case is not yet over, and it is on its way to the United States Supreme Court by at least three separate appeals. If the Supreme Court upholds the district court decision, it would be a mortal blow to the sodomy laws in every state in the country.

It seems to us self-evident that abolition of the sodomy law is a desirable goal in itself. But some people may say "Why bother?" because nobody is ever prosecuted for private consensual sodomy anyway. If you think about it a bit, the reasons are enormous. The entire matter of discrimination in employment (including government employment) could no longer be justified on the ground that homosexuals are criminals. The question of blackmail (by both police and unscrupulous operators) would disappear. Though "entrapment" is banned in New York City by order of the mayor, another mayor could re-institute it at any time. But, if the sodomy law itself were gone, then homosexual solicitations could no longer be illegal. The loitering and solicitation laws could be knocked out because the "solicitation" would then be for something which was legal. An entirely new social milieu would come about.

An outstanding legal group is working on the Supreme Court appeal. They are contributing their time and professional expertise gratis. However, at least \$1500 of actual expenses will have to be met in order to take this matter to the United States Supreme Court. In fact, \$2500 is a more likely figure. (The printing alone costs \$13 a page.)

Because of the precedent making importance of this case, we are attempting to form a group of persons who will contribute at least \$100 each toward the expenses of appealing this case to the United States Supreme Court. We hope that you can and will contribute this amount. It can be given anonymously if you wish. We are attempting to arrange a tax deductible method of contributing. If you cannot contribute \$100, any contribution will be helpful. If you would like to know more of the actual legal details before making your contribution, these can be supplied to you.

Very truly yours,



Henry D. Messer & Arthur C. Werner

P.S. Please send your contribution to Dr. Henry D. Messer, 22 Charles Street, New York, New York 10014.

Dr. Messer was recently elected a member of the Board of Directors of MATTACHINE New York.

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NEWSLETTER

Vol. XII, No. 2

March, 1967

Editor: Renee Caffero

CBS-TV PRESENTS PROGRAM ON HOMOSEXUALITY - Opposing Views

March 7, 1967 would have been an excellent time for a nation-wide power failure, but alas, acts of God, like so many other things are never around when you need them. In the absence of heavenly intervention, millions of viewers tuned in the CBS documentary on homosexuality. According to the ratings, they tuned out with astonishing rapidity as the program progressed, indicating, one hopes, that the viewers are more intelligent than the producers of that program. (By contrast, the recent David Susskind Program, which discussed homosexuality, without pontificating and without sensationalism, increased its viewing audience as it progressed.)

There were those who praised the show. Indeed, by watching carefully enough, and noticing only the points that agreed with your pre-judgments, every viewer could state that the program was fair to his prejudices. If you are a homosexual, you could ignore Drs. Bieber, Sociarides, etc., and just remember that Mike Wallace tossed off some brief comment to the effect that some doctors disagree with the idea that homosexuality is a sickness. On the other hand, the bigot could ignore the brief aside and remember Bieber and his buddy.

Worst of all, in my opinion, was the arrest scene in the men's room. I am positive that it was not a staged reenactment of an arrest -- it was too realistic, and the dialogue was not artificial enough. I am left with two alternatives from which to choose:

On Tuesday night, March 7, CBS-TV presented an hour-long special on the subject of homosexuality. As far as this author knows it is the first hour-long program on the subject presented by a nationwide network. Although the program did not give weight to the views of those psychiatrists which we agree with, they did mention them, and presented a fairly decent discussion of the entire question. We believe that it was a worthwhile program.

The program began with a homosexual, who spoke of himself quite frankly. He did not think he was "ill," nor did he seem to be. He talked about his realizing he was homosexual, about his first homosexual experience, about what he felt about his own homosexuality. CBS then showed a homosexual talking to his analyst; the man seemed to have other problems along with his homosexuality, and unfortunately, in order to mask his face and voice he more or less covered his entire face and mouth with his hand, so the impression he created was not too good; it was not, however a very negative one, either. Warren Adkins, of Washington Mattachine, was interviewed, and presented his views quite well and articulately, again creating a good impression. Next, a gentleman was interviewed who was apparently quite ill emotionally, apart from his homosexuality. He stressed quite strongly however, a feeling that he did not think he was typical of homosexuals in general, either in his irresistible compulsion or in his own feeling that homosexuality was wrong for him.

A public opinion poll revealed that 10% of the public feels that homosexuality is an illness, and the majority feel it should be punished. A judge in North Carolina then spoke of the irrationality of imprisoning a homosexual for the length of time most states prescribe. He asked whether a sodomist is twice as dangerous as a 2nd-degree murderer, 6 times as dangerous as an abortionist, and

either some kindly, publicity-seeking cop allowed CBS to hide their cameras behind a peep-hole and watch the men's room from the cop's vantage point, or else they hid the camera and entrapped some poor guy to give CBS the desired footage. In any case, the inclusion of that episode in the telecast was uncalled for and completely outrageous. One hopes the circumstances leading to the arrest were not as outrageous.

I happened to agree with most of what Gore Vidal said; however, I fear that his remarks may have been selected for their effect upon the public -- which is not quite ready to give up the idea of marriage, and follow the other courses Vidal suggested. While I agree with him, I feel the intent was to brand him as a homosexual, and to help "prove" that homosexuals intend to undermine our society and its institutions. Needless to say, Vidal and his opponent were not conversing, and the remarks of both were selected from hours of taped interviews.

Similarly, I understand that several hours of conversation with the first homosexual guest, Lars Larsen, were filmed. Of course, the only portions used were those in which Mike Wallace had initiated a discussion of attitudes towards parents, etc., to buttress the crazy idea that homosexuality is "caused" by an Oedipus complex. To add insult to injury, they cut the word "ugly" from another piece of film, referring to something else, and added it into Larsen's description of gay life.

I judge the worth of a program on homosexuality by the reactions of my neighbors. I have gained some notoriety in my neighborhood, and have been "adopted" as the "neighborhood queer" by those who have seen me on television and in the newspapers. They are voracious, those neighbors of mine, in their reaction to homosexuality. In the supermarket, the drug store, the laundry, and even the newsstand, my neighbors give me their reactions to MSNY's latest activities, to radio and tv programs, etc. The response to CBS' fiasco was entirely negative. The little old

to times as dangerous as a drunken vagrant. Unfortunately, at this point the commentator came in with the old cruising and one-night-stand cliches, with the implication that that's all the homosexual ever wants or gets. They then showed a film of the arrest of a nineteen year old boy at a public toilet. They never showed his face but his voice was heard protesting that he had only done it for experimental purposes, that he was only 19, and that it would wreck his life. We hoped that most of the womenfolk watching would at that point say, "Oh, that poor boy, having his life ruined like that at 19. There's something wrong with laws that allow for that arrest." We wish we could go into more detail on the entire program. Briefly, a class in psychiatry was shown, in which the professor (of the "illness" school of thought) pronounced that he didn't see how any homosexual could ever be anything but miserable. A bright student raised her hand and asked whether he then did not believe in the phenomenon of "happy homosexuality," as she obviously did. The Professor did not, but he did admit that it would be fairly difficult to be "seduced into a homosexual way of life - if one did not have the propensity, one would not become homosexual from an experience or two, and vice versa. Dr. Bieber was interviewed and told about how dressing your little boy in frilly clothes and keeping him off the ball-field will make him gay, but doing the same or your little girl will keep her straight. He also mentioned his usual statistic of 1/3 of those who seek help become heterosexual; the commentator did mention that these "illness" views are "not universally held ideas" in the psychiatry field.

Dean Rusk's comment on a gay picket was shown: for security reasons, he said, "an exact standard of conduct" must be demanded of government employees. A Los Angeles police official stated that (in L.A.) about 300 people a year are arrested for lewdness in public places, but that there is "not much we can do about" private conduct.

One of the main problems with the program came at the end, when a married homosexual with children was interviewed, and said he was possibly "ill." On this note the show ended, leaving a negative attitude for the viewer. On the whole, however, we felt that the program was good. True, the "correct" viewpoint was not given as much weight as

left at the newsstand told me that CBS is a bunch of bigots." They ain't as nice as that sweet Mr. Susskind," she told me. The boy at the drugstore greeted me with, "They sure screwed you at CBS, Mr. Leitsch."

The show, in my opinion, was a total flop. It did nothing to improve understanding of homosexuality; it simply preyed upon existing prejudices. Appropriately, it didn't benefit CBS, who slowly lost their viewing audience that evening. Perhaps the next producers to plan such a show will listen to our advice, and do a good one.

What suprised me most of all was the fact that so many of my gay friends liked the program. Dr. Fritz Fluckiger told one of them: "With that attitude, you remind me of a Jew in czarist Russia who, when the Cossaks rode through and kicked him in the groin, muttered, 'Thank you, tahnk you, kind sir, for not killing me.'"

--- Dick Leitsch.

the other, it was presented, and, we felt, not in a derogatory fashion. The fact that television was willing even to present a full-length special is an improvement. At the time that CBS first conceived that show they asked MSNY for a homosexual in therapy, a homosexual prostitute and a married homosexual. When they were asked whether they would not like a happy, well-adjusted homosexual, they said no, that would not be interesting enough. Since then the show underwent many revisions and changes of producer, and they did present several healthy, happy homosexuals. It did have a slant towards the majority viewpoint, but this is to be expected in a new kind of show. MSNY has been fighting a long time, but there is a long way to go before we can be heard without people cringing and asking to hear their version of the correct story. We must not lose perspective because we are interested spectators.

R.V.C.

A PARTY

MSNY is having a gala testimonial-type party for Dr. Wardell B. Pomeroy, long-time friend of MSNY and board member for 10! these many years. Dr. Pomeroy is resigning his post, although he intends to remain friendly to the society and help out whenever necessary.

The Fund Raising Reception and Cocktail Party will be held on the first of April (no foolin') at 8:00 p.m., at the Dryden East Hotel, 150 East 39th Street in Manhattan. The nice thing about this is that the Dryden East invited us, so we have no need to wonder whether there will be a last minute change-of-hotel, as there has had to be in the past.

Admission, at the door, is \$8.00, but before you scream, let us hasten to mention that this includes four cocktails, hot buffet, and tea or coffee. Coat and tie please, gentlemen, and for the ladies attire that will complement coat and tie.

We hope to see a great many people there - including YOU.

PHOENIX

MSNY would like to mention the Phoenix Society of Kansas City, which is just about a year old and seems to be coming along at a great pace. They have been having speakers addressing meetings, they have been featured on radio programs and are doing, in short, all the right things for getting into the public eye. New homophile groups seem to spring up daily now, the latest addition to the family, we think, being SAME of Rock Island, Illinois. (Society Advocating Mutual Equality.) This is very good - if there is no homophile organization in your town, why not do something about it?

Best wishes to SAME, Phoenix, and all the other fledgling groups: KUTGW. (Keep Up The Good Work!)

THE U. S. IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE

The U. S. Immigration and Naturalization Service is again victimizing homosexuals - in this case a thirty-nine-year-old lesbian who has been in the country for twenty years and has held the same job for fifteen. At first, they tried to simply deport her on a "psychopathic personality" basis, but at a hearing the judge ruled that a homosexual is not a psychopath (don't let it get your hopes up, his decision is not binding upon any other judge...).

The Service then discovered that persons of "poor moral character" are deportable, and set themselves the task of proving this lady a poor moral character. Now, they themselves have admitted that the woman has held onto one job for fifteen years; that she was not promiscuous, does not solicit; that all her liaisons began as friendships; that she finds only willing partners; that all her acts are in private with adults; that her relationships lead to deep emotional feelings.

Having admitted all this, the government agents then visited the woman's neighbors, and from the conclusions which they said they drew, the conversations must have gone something like this: "Hello, I'd like to ask you some questions about your neighbor, Miss Z." "That nice lady? I'm sure there isn't anything wrong, is there?" "Did you know Miss Z. has been a lesbian as long as she has lived here?" "Why, I knew the minute I set eyes on her she was up to something wrong. Had an odd way with her, you know, and always carrying on something terrible. Why, do you know, I said to my husband only yesterday, that awful Miss Z....." Etcetera ad nauseum.

The government found that all the neighbors felt she had poor moral character, and is now trying to deport her. The American Civil Liberties Union is handling the case, and MSNY has been asked to file an amicus brief.

SLA BEATEN

Several months ago, the State Liquor Authority attempted to revoke the licence of Julius', a bar in Greenwich Village, after a plain-clothes policeman was propositioned there. Julius fought it, and about two weeks ago the court decided that it would be impossible for the owner of a bar to know or control whether its clientele is homosexual or heterosexual, or know and control who propositions whom within the bar.

The head of the SLA now maintains that he never said anything that would indicate there was a law against homosexuals congregating in a bar. President Dick Leitsch has sent him a collection of direct quotes of himself indicating that very thing, and asked him to explain what he did mean if it was not that homosexuals could not congregate and/or be served. So far, no reply has arrived.....

MORE ON ORGANIZATIONS

Just for an interesting note, at last count there were 29 homophile organizations in the United States and Canada, seventeen of them in California. A far cry from the handful in existence a couple of years ago.

COME TO THE PARTY!!!!!!!
BRING A FRIEND!!!!!!!

POLICE VIOLENCE

On New Year's Eve, police raided two gay bars in Los Angeles, not only arresting homosexuals but brutally beating customers and bartenders alike, and all unjustifiably. One bartender was so badly beaten he had to be operated on to repair a ruptured spleen, and he was only taken to the hospital 22 hours after the incident. At the other bar, the female owner was also attacked, and the manager was left bleeding on the sidewalk.

To add insult to injury, the bartender with the ruptured spleen was then booked on a felony charge for assaulting an officer!

Citizens Must Control Their Police !

MAGAZINE ARTICLES

A month or two ago, LOOK magazine ran an article on men, and included a section on homosexuality. It wasn't very good, and we just thought we'd mention it in passing. Last month, Harpers carried an article on homosexuality, to be reviewed in next month's issue.

The April issue of Psychiatric Opinion, a journal for psychiatrists and therefore highly professional - at this point we don't know where copies would be available for sale, but many libraries stock such magazines - will contain another article on homosexuality, described as "anti" by President Dick Leitsch. Now hear this: the June issue will contain a reply, written by Mr. Leitsch, to this article, making the first homosexual-written article in a professional-type publication. Perhaps it will stimulate some thinking on the part of the more open-minded psychiatrists, who are, after all, the ones we want to win over to our side.

SUSSKIND PROGRAM

Many of you probably saw the David ^Susskind Show the night President Dick Leitsch vied with unknown psychiatrists (he never heard of them until the day the program was to be taped!). The responses have been very gratifying: the director of a regional psychiatric service called to say that although she had always been of the "sick" school of thought, the program had made her stop and think and she was open-minded enough to ask us to send some literature; and she said that, although she couldn't promise an entire about-face, she felt she might have been barking up the wrong tree until then.

APRIL SPEAKER

On April 19, our speaker will be Paul Goodman, whom many of you have heard addressing us before and whose books many of you may have read (and which we hope to be able to sell at the meeting). Mr. Goodman's topic is unannounced as yet, but you can be very sure it'll be very interesting, and he is always a lively speaker.

As usual, the meeting will be held at Freedom House, 20 West 40th Street, at 8:30 p.m. on the 19th, which is a Wednesday.

SECURITY RISKS

The following exchange took place in hearings before a Subcommittee of the House Committee on Appropriations on February 16, 1967:

John M. Slack, Jr. (Representative from W. Va): Give us the details in connection with the security risks during the past year.

G. Marvin Gentile (Deputy Asst. Secretary of State for Security): This would be the calendar year, Mr. Chairman. During the past calendar year we have dismissed 30 people who have left the department under this category. Two were nonhomosexual types, things such as excessive drinking, bad debts, and excessive use of leave, and 28 for homosexual reasons.

(Mr. Gentile was accompanied by one Mr. Crockett, who found himself involved in the following discussion with John J. Rooney, Representative from Brooklyn, New York.:

Mr. Rooney: It would seem to me, Mr. Crockett, under your administration you have increased the animus of the Mattachine Society, the organization composed of homosexuals, to the extent that they picketed the State Department Building here in Washington. Is that a fact?

Mr. Crockett: Yes, they wrote two letters. They wrote one saying we were denying Americans the right of employment, that this was unconstitutional, and they wanted a chance to come in and talk to us about this policy.

Mr. Rooney: About this time each year I get a number of letters from these poor sick people.

Mr. Crockett: And they said if we did not talk to them they would picket us. We did not talk to them and they did picket us. It was rather surprising, both sexes were there.

Mr. Rooney: How many of the 28 were males and how many were females?

Mr. Gentile: Out of this group of 28, 26 were males and 2 were females.

The above exchange, reported in the Congressional Record, illustrates that the picketing activities of the Mattachine Societies are noticed by those in power, and do haunt those picketed. This was further illustrated when newsmen called that State Department demonstration to Dean Rusk's Attention, and forced him to comment on it. While his reply was what might have been expected, public statements do return to plague those who make them, especially if they mirror untenable positions.

Of the 28 persons dismissed for being homosexuals, two had been in government service for more than 19 years. The total years of service given the government by these 28 people was over 212 years. Their only crime seems to have been that they were discovered to have homosexual tendencies. This is evident from the fact that the men from the State Department, who were before the Committee to justify their spending and looking for next year's appropriation, did not bother to show how any of the dismissed persons were known to have engaged in any anti-American activities. Had there been any such evidence, the State Department representatives would have crowed over it before the Congressional Subcommittee.

It appears that Congressman Rooney needs some education. We suggest barraging him with letters, telling him what you think of his statement that homosexuals are "poor sick people." Those who live in the district represented by this "liberal" Congressman should especially make their feelings known to their representative. Rooney represents the 14th Congressional District, which runs from Newton Creek to Ray Ridge Avenue, along the Eastern shore of the Borough of Brooklyn, and which includes much of Brooklyn Heights.

ELECTIONS

It is getting to be election time again. If you wish to nominate someone for an office, you must have a petition signed by at least ten (10) members in good standing. A list of candidates appears on page 8 of this Newsletter.

CONGRESSIONAL ETHICS

While Rooney was applauding the State Department for getting rid of homosexuals and other potential "security risks," Drew Pearson was questioning whether Congress itself might number some security risks among its members. Pearson's prime target is Rep. Mendell Rivers, the darling of the right-wing and Chairman of the House Armed Forces Committee. This Congressman from South Carolina is briefed by the joint Chiefs of Staff and the CIA on their deepest secret activities. His colleague, Massachusetts Congressman William Bates, said Rivers "can spell out in detail the master plan of our bases in the most remote parts of the world."

Congressman Rivers has a problem: He drinks. However, it is widely known in Washington that Rep. Rivers is a known heterosexual, and though he drinks it is nothing effeminate like cooking sherry or Lydia Pinkham's Compound. Rivers drinks like a man! His aggressive drinking has been testified to by witnesses who enter his office in the mornings to find the safe (presumably containing top secret information) wide open, papers and empty liquor bottles strewn about the office and the gallant Congressman slumped over the desk. He has returned from "alcoholic escapades" without any memory whatsoever of whom he may have shared confidences. Last year, Chairman Rivers missed five meetings of the Armed Services Committee, thus holding up a vital \$18 million military authorization bill, because he was drying out at the Bethesda Naval Hospital!

His fellow congressmen, who are so often assiduous in urging the government to exclude homosexuals from employment on the grounds that they may be security risks, give Rep. Rivers standing ovations as a vote of confidence after each Pearson column chronicling his "defects." It is ironic that Mendell Rivers had the audacity to vote to unseat Congressman Powell to "protect the honor of the House."

MONEY

Every year, you pay \$56 to support the United States' military operations around the world.

You pay more than two dollars in taxes on each carton of cigarettes you smoke.

More than 1/3 of the price-per-gallon you pay for gasoline goes to federal, state and local governments.

Taxes work so well, and collect so much money for these governmental agencies that we thought we'd try collecting taxes. We won't kill any Viet Cong, maintain a stockpile of nuclear weapons, cause cancer, or run your car; but we will try to continue to do our best to see that you can live your lives in a free society, where a man does not face discrimination, prejudice, and possible arrest and public disgrace, for his sexual orientation.

We suggest you consider the monthly "buck-a-month" reminders as tax notices, and that you set aside a dollar each month (or more, if you can afford it, of course) to send in response to the dollar drive. Consider it a "freedom tax."

THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION

The man who is in charge of the investigation now going on in Louisiana has a lovely reputation in this neck of the woods: his favorite pastime is chasing homosexuals and getting information on, by, and through them.

MATTACHINE SOCIETY INC OF NEW YORK
1133 Broadway New York, NY 10010

March 15, 1967

Dear Fellow Member:

As required by the Constitution of the Mattachine Society Inc. of New York, the Nominating Committee has reported its slates of candidates for the elections to be held in May. Their selections are as follows:

PRESIDENT: Dick Leitsch

VICE PRESIDENT: David Goldberger, Tom Shapiro

SECRETARY: Renee Cafiero, John L Timmons

TREASURER: Madolin Cervantes, Norman Kilpatrick

BOARD MEMBER: C. A. Tripp

BOARD MEMBER AT LARGE: Michael Kotis, Irwin D Strauss

The Nominating Committee was headed by Robert Milne and composed of the following members: Paul W Speier, Matt Spiro, John Balamos, and Jerry Chandler.

Under Article V, Section 1(c) of the Constitution, further nominations may be made by petition, signed by at least ten active members in good standing, and filed with me before April 15, 1967.

Very truly yours,

MATTACHINE SOCIETY INC. OF NEW YORK

John L. Timmons
John L. Timmons, Secretary

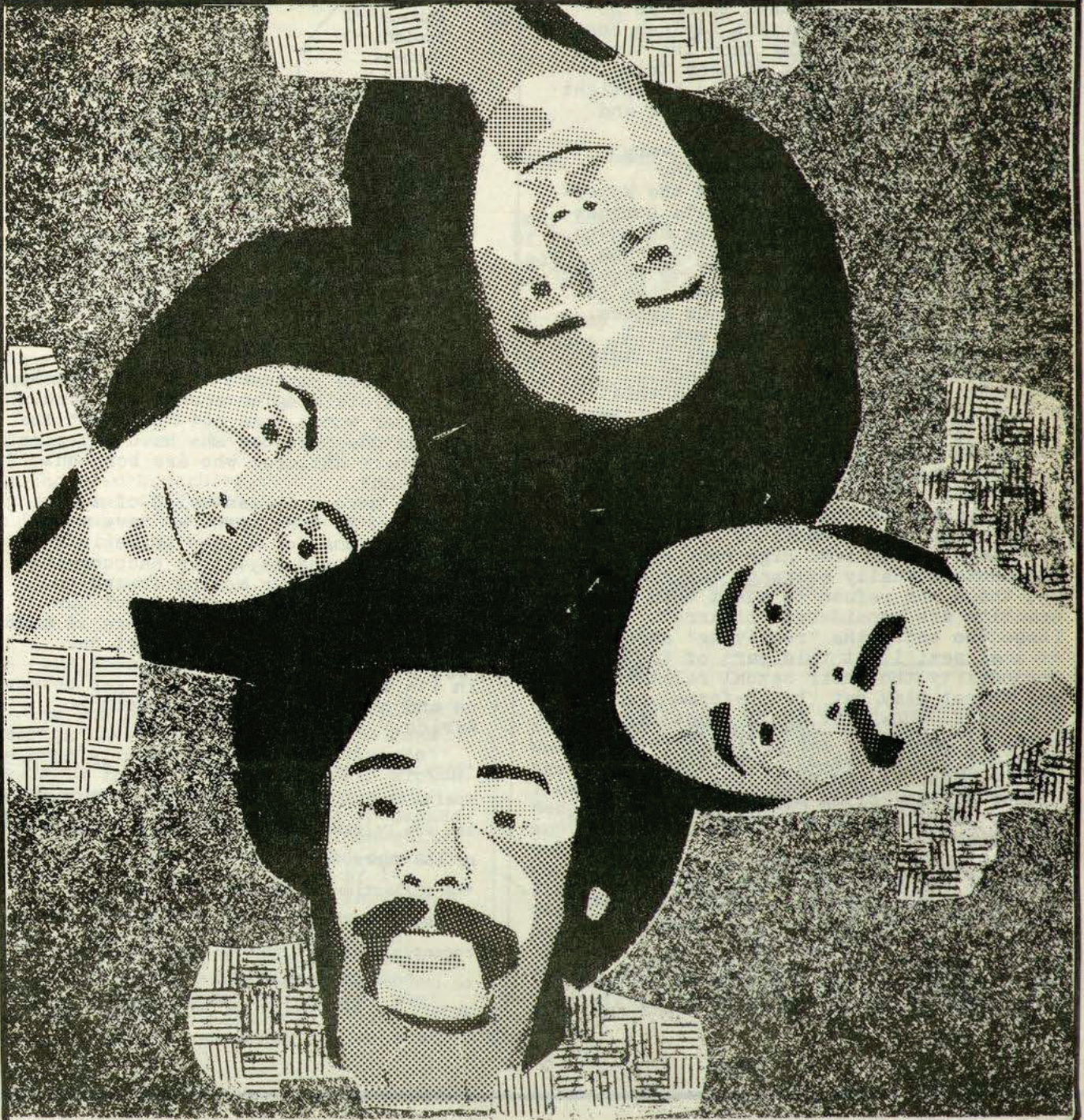
fall 1978



rafiki

the journal of the association of black gays

volume one number one
suggested donation 50¢



homosexuality in tribal africa

There are a great many myths about Africa and its inhabitants. A number of these untruths have been used as "reasons" to oppress us and as aides in destroying positive self-images we may have. We have been told that all Africans were uncivilized savages. We know now, however, that some of the most advanced civilizations the world has ever seen have been African.

A more recent myth is that there is no homosexuality on the entire African continent. This also is far from the truth. Homosexuality is a part of many tribal traditions and is not hindered by uptight religion-based morals as in Europe and America.

The practice of homosexuality is very widespread, particularly among the Dohomey, the Gisu, the Ila and the Wolof tribes. Although they deride it, homosexuality is common also among the Mboundou and the Zandi. Males, especially young boys are often encouraged to sleep together. Reciprocal masturbation between them is in no way forbidden in numerous tribes. The Foulani tribe of Nigeria are particularly inclined to engage in male homosexuality. Their ritual dance, accompanied by songs, celebrates this. The dance also includes a difficult test of initiation (which gives the young men access to the adult community) and includes the application of a severe exercise.

Homosexuality is obligatory among the inhabitants of the oasis of Siwa, in north-central Africa. High ranking residents mutually exchange their sons and those who refuse to adopt this practice are considered "bizarre". Those who enjoy the "receiving" aspect of anal sex, limit this part of their personality to their sexual relations and do not play out "butch-femme" roles. The Moors, known for their great conquest of Spain and their iron-working skills,* has an ancient tradition of gay poetry. Moorish men were free to love either sex and often moved freely from one to the other. There poems reflect this liberty.**

Lesbianism is also common in Africa. The women of the Mboundou, Nama and the Nandi tribes are known to sleep with each other and to sometimes use pices of wood for recirocal masturbation.

The Bobo tribe has one of the most interesting customs. The elderly childless women of the tribe often marry young

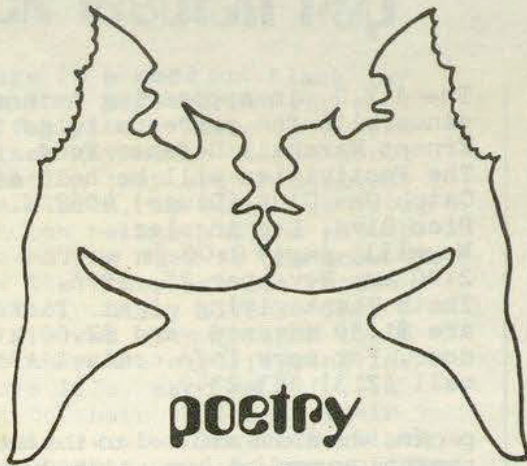


girls, observing all the matrimonial rituals, including the giving of a dowry. These partners make love freely while maintaining an open relationship. The older woman does not "possess" the younger one nor does she have any rights over their children who are born out of wedlock.

Yes, we have many centuries of a loving tradition to draw upon. We have many great reasons for a deep pride in our being black and gay. It is encouraging and helpful in our moving forward to know the cultural traditions of our past and present. However, there is much work to be done to reconstruct our unique history. Rafiki will continue in its efforts to bridge the gap between us and our sisters and brothers in Africa.

**They are credited with famous iron grillwork in Spain. This tradition is also in the ironwork in the New Orleans area, created by the decendants of the Moors.*

***A collection of this gay poetry (some of it dating from the 10 century A.D.), has been recently published and is available by writing to the Gay Liberation Book Service, P.O. Box 40397, San Francisco, Ca. 94140, \$1.95 paperback.*



It started when you
Sprinkled a whisper in my ear
With an occasional lick
Of a wet dripping tongue
You the stimulus
I the response
Following you in a zombie-like
Trance
Under your seductive hypnosis
Into the shower
Where the water can't compete
With the dripping hotness
Of our internal bodily flames
Hearts pumping fast; tongues darting
Moans and groans
That fail to be drowned by
The rushing steaming waters
I hear you swear
Then replace it with a smile
Of relief
As the hard breathing melts
Into stamps of approval
And the water continues to trickle
Down the drain.

Steven Corbin

Is It Just The Fact

You came and you took her.
I was told to stay away.
So I left her with you -
You thought to stay.

But she loves me
as I love her
so we can't come apart.
It is a feeling of enjoyment.
It is a lasting beat
to our hearts.

Why do you object
Are you afraid of pure love?
Or is it just the fact that
I am a woman that
she loves?

Frances Andrews

From A Woman To A Woman

Lady loves and lady cares
Of this I've been aware
Lady loves and Lady cares
And now I'd like to share

For Lady knows my strong desire
To love you lady fair
Not to move upon your soul
And toss it to the air

But to live among our heart's desires
In a love we've never dared
For Lady loves and Lady cares
Of this I've been aware
Lady loves and Lady cares
And now I'd like to share.

Frances Andrews

south africa

During the past few months we here in America have been bombarded with news reports of our brothers' and sisters' struggle for liberation in South Africa. We have the news that over three hundred lives have been lost and thousands of people, black, white, and non-white were wounded as they protested against the official racist policies of the white minority government. The true losses, you can be sure, are much greater than we have been informed. And we in America, thousands of miles away, can only use our imaginations to understand the suffering that must be part of daily life there. However far away we might be, we must

take a stand for the cause of humanity and on the side of human dignity. We owe our support to the blacks of Azania (South Africa) whose ceaseless flow of sweat and blood produce from deep subterranean mines the diamonds and precious stones that we wear on our fingers.

We owe our support to the blacks of Zimbabwe (South Rhodesia) who labor in mines 12 to 24 hours at a time to produce the chrome that decorates our cars. All of us don't know it but we are aiding their oppression in an indirect fashion. So when we glide up and down the streets of America in our

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ernest marshall case

Ernest Marshall, a 42 year old black man, was convicted of sodomy and oral copulation with a consenting adult in private. He was sentenced to fifteen years in San Quentin State Prison in June of 1975. A law had already been passed and signed making those acts legal as of January, 1976, only six months later in the state of California.

His case is on appeal and funds are needed to insure his aquittal and provide him the best defense possible. Legal paperwork is both a necessary and expensive process of the present system of justice and requires professional clerical services, which are also expensive.

The issues in this case not only affect Ernest Marshall but also all of us who are gay. Constitutional rights of privacy, infliction of cruel and unusual punishment, infringement upon Constitutionally guaranteed equal protection, and a failure by the court to instruct the jury regarding the implied consent of the sex partner are issues which are to be argued (the other

The A.B.G. is sponsoring a fund raising dance with the proceeds to go to the Ernest Marshall Defense Fund. The Festivities will be held at the Catch One Club (Disco) 4067 W. Pico Blvd. Los Angeles. We will party 9:00 pm until 2:00 am, November 25, 1976. That's Thanksgiving night. Tickets are \$1.50 (advance) and \$2.00 at the door. For more info contact ABG, or call (213) 483-2340.

person, who alone admitted to the acts but wasn't named an accomplice, was a white male of legal age.)

The Association of Black Gays has established a legal defense fund for Ernest Marshall. We ask your support by telling others and spreading the word, sending us your ideas for fund raisers, or sending contributions to the Ernest Marshall Defense Fund c/o Ron Grayson, 1701 Clinton St. #513, Los Angeles, Ca. 90026.

history of a.b.g.

The ABG was founded by a group of concerned women and men who felt black gays were not getting a fair share of political, social and economic advances of the gay community. For some reason the larger gay community (mostly white) has found it expedient to conscientiously exclude black gays from most, if not all, of the recent political and social advances that have been made since the 1969 Stonewall Riot. What the white gay community fails to realize is that there were many black and Puerto Rican gays that were getting their heads busted in also.

Some members of ABG had previously worked with other white gay organizations and had found that the needs of black and other third world gays were not even considered. This led to frustration and finally to the realization that the gay movement was and is racist and the only way we as black gays are going to have our voices heard is to separate ourselves from the white gay movement and build something of our own. However, building a black gay conscience is difficult and takes a tremendous amount of love, understanding, and guts.

It can be safely stated that the gay media is racist and openly so. The Advocate, a nation wide publication that is supposed to voice the "gay community", is by far the most flagrant

racist publication in existence. In an interview that one of the members of the ABG had with a newswriter of the Advocate, he was informed that the reason more articles and nude photos were not included about blacks was because the constituency of the Advocate was mostly white and would perhaps be turned off by them.

Everyone whether black or white knows the blatant racism and sexism that goes on in the gay bars around the country. When an active movement was launched to stop the racist and sexist practices of the Hollywood bars by some concerned whites and blacks the leadership of the gay community would not give support or input. They felt that there was no basis to the claim, even in the face of an overabundance of evidence from outraged blacks and women. The only time they would give support was when a white woman was not allowed into Paradise Ballroom: This woman was a member of Metropolitan Community Church (a gay church) and she happened to be in the company of one of the church's ministers. She was not allowed to enter and the next night at least two hundred white gays were out in front of Paradise Ballroom picketing and screaming slogans. These same people would not lend their support to fight racism. This kind of evidence raises some very serious ques-

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black lesbian rap

Yes, there is a need for black gay women to come together to rap about their lifestyles. There is a need among black gay women to rap about the direction they see themselves going as blacks, as women, as gays, and as human beings. Black gay women also have a need to talk about the problems that they are confronted with in their daily lives. They need to discuss with friends the feelings they are experiencing in their love life, married life, in relating to their children, their jobs, their In short, black gay women have a need to communicate with others who can honestly relate to what she is experiencing.

"What can be gained from my involvement with a black lesbian rap group?" This question is sometimes asked by those who want to get involved, and many times by those who refuse to get involved. I feel that there are many potentially positive experiences for personal growth and development that can be gained from such groups (as with any "gut" level rap group). Many people suffer from a bad or negative experience because they feel they are the only one to have this negative experience. They may also feel helpless because they can't seem to work this problem out by themselves. They may also feel bad about the experience because the majority of people they know personally tell them that they have a "problem."

I feel that the awareness that one can gain from knowing that she is not alone in her search for her true self is a positive gain. Also, great strength and a feeling of unity come from knowing there is a place to go to be with others and share their experiences. These I feel are just a few of the rewarding experiences that a black lesbian can have in a rap group.

In working and relating with a black lesbian rap group I have to say that I have had negative as well as positive experiences. I must say again that to a large degree I have developed a more positive way of seeing myself. Also, I have been able to choose the direction I wish to take my life in a more affirmative way.

I can remember times when I became angry with myself and with some of the other members of the group I was involved with at that time. There were some who stayed with the group and others who left. Everyone had a dif-

ferent reaction to what was happening with the group. Most women had a different outlook on the direction she was taking yet felt she could relate to the group. There were also some who saw nothing to be gained from the group. Yet, there were others who were in touch with the group's purpose and objectives and so, saw the group's strength and beauty.

I feel there are women who come to the rap groups out of curiosity or the need to socialize with other black gay women. However, all women who become involved in a rap group have something they want to receive from the group. Often, there is a desire for a better understanding of herself. If this is the case, the "feedback" from other group members on how they "see" one another can be invaluable. I feel it is important to have this need and desire for self-awareness. Yet, it is also very important to come to the group ready to give as well as receive. This was one of the weak points of the group I was involved in. We had a lack of women who could work and hold things together when the energy was low (or may I say when our understanding and our capacity to give to one another was low). At those difficult times few women were strong enough to be willing to ride the humps. One, two, or three or four women just can't produce enough understanding and "giving resources" to supply the needs of the entire Los Angeles black lesbian community.

So what I am saying is that another one of our weaknesses is in the area of involvement. More women are needed who are willing to both give and receive in the rap group context. Black lesbian rap groups need women who are willing to share the positive as well as negative experiences that they may have had or may be having at this time.

Surely I can't be alone in my search for truth as a human being, as a woman, as a black, and as a lesbian? There must be other black gay women out there who share my struggle?

Disco! Disco! Disco!

CATCH ONE CLUB!

4067 West Pico Blvd.

Los Angeles

Hours:

5 p.m. to 2 a.m. Sunday thru Thursday

5 p.m. to 5 a.m. Friday and Saturday

Phone: 734-8849

so. africa

continued from page 3

expensive cars, and flaunt our jewelry in our social circles, we must see in them not the price paid in dollars but the price paid in human suffering. We must remember that the people who mined these metals receive little more for their labor than the bare necessities to sustain life and yield "another day's work." Yes, we too must share the responsibility for their suffering and shame. Shame on us!

We Blacks here in America are not always conscious of the relationships of international events to our problems here at home. The struggle for the liberation of the African continent is to most of us far removed from the hurry and frenzy of our daily lives. In fact, many of us did not know until just recently that some 13 million blacks have lived under the feet of less than 5 million whites for over three hundred years in Azania (a situation that amply parallels our bondage here in America little more than a hundred years ago) Institutionalized slavery, woven right into the fabric of southern Africa is now being addressed as a major political issue around the world. Well, it's about time! White ruled Azania (South Africa), Zimbabwe (South Rhodesia) and Namibia (South West Africa) and the white minority governments there are in their dying days, as European control of Africa nears its end. The fight for southern Africa is one of major strategic importance to the world's "superpowers."

This brings us to the sensitive but all important subject of outside intervention.

The geographical positioning of Azania (its' pivotal function with reference to the Indian and Atlantic Oceans), makes it a prize for the military of both the U.S. and the Soviet Union.

As it stands right now, the U.S. has access to it and would certainly fight to maintain it in the name of "global stability." Southern Africa, with the exclusion of Angola and Mozambique, is dominated by a network of capitalist dominated European powers. The U.S. and other western European allies have extremely large multi-billion dollar holdings in southern Africa.

We have heard it said by both presidential candidates Ford and Carter that the U.S. would defend capitalism and its allies to keep the west from being "strangled" by the communist supported

guerilla forces that might ultimately nationalize and socialize the African economies. This would of course pose potential threats to a vital flow of raw materials.

What about the American people's opinion? Certainly the government must anticipate widespread public opposition to U.S. intervention in African affairs? Finally, what would we Afro-Americans have to say about it? 50% of black America is unemployed or underemployed. We too are having to deal with racism, discrimination, poverty, and injustice. The fact of the matter is that our struggle here and the plight of black Africans is inextricably tied to the liberation of the entire "third world." Kissinger and other American military and political strategists know this.

Therefore, we are all victims of countries that are built upon the exploitation of man by man, for their economies are based on the use of an expendable group of second class citizens. Racism, discrimination, and the unequal distribution of goods and services are inherent parts of such a system. Examine the policies and practices of this country and its allies. See if you do not agree. The U.S. has always claimed to be the epitome of freedom, and the defender of democracy. Seeing beyond the rhetoric and following the activities of the quasi-military C.I.A. we see the obvious fallacy.

Our clandestine support goes not to those popular struggles proclaiming their desire for self-determination (including the right to choose their own form of government) but to the minority regimes of pro-capitalist, anti-communist fascists like the Shah of Iran, Franco in Spain and the abominable Chilean junta. America has cultivated prospective pro-American elites in Africa and elsewhere and propped them up as "the peoples' representatives." The objective has been to secure raw materials and/or access to what are perceived as key geographical positions.

The so-called "new policy" in Africa elaborated by Kissinger in Lusaka, Zambia earlier this year is hollow and hypocritical. What is hypocritical about the U.S. position on South African apartheid is that right now, while Kissinger pronounces the U.S. commitment to majority rule and equal opportunity, there are tens of American based corporations such as

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a.b.g. history

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tions as to the moral and social consciousness of the leadership in the gay community here in Los Angeles.

The members of the ABG have found that working solely with black gay women and men has been beneficial individually as well as collectively. We have found that by talking honestly about ourselves, our joys and problems as blacks and as gays, we have begun to cut the barriers that divide us as blacks and have come to an understanding of each other that we have not had in the past.

In our short existence since July of 1975, we have been involved in many areas of gay concerns. In September of 1975, we had a panel give a presentation at the Long Beach State College Gay Conference. Our presentation was aimed at the racial oppression in the gay community and needless to say it was very successful. October of 1975, some members of the ABG had an unsuccessful meeting with Mayor Bradley. This meeting was to discuss with the Mayor the possibility of having a black gay person selected to be liaison to the gay community from his office. The ABG was involved in the recent rally and march to oust Police Chief Edward M. Davis from office because of the cruel treatment of gays and irresponsible statements that he has made on television regarding our life style.

The ABG was asked to give input into a social science class at Cal State L.A. to guild gay awareness in graduate students who would one day be working in social service agencies.

A panel of ABG members has given lectures and recommendations to the Board of Education of this city in dealing with the problems of students who are gay in our high schools and junior high schools.

Some members of the ABG have given lectures at a local high school to raise the consciousness of students. This is a very important aspect of our function as this will help young people understand what being gay is all about. We hope we do more of this in the future.

Recently, a member of ABG appeared on KCOP's Wednesday morning show (a television program that interviews people who are actively involved in their communities). We feel that there is no limit to what the ABG can do for

the black gays and the entire black community. Our dream is one day to join the national black movement and help stamp out oppression of all black people.

Here are some statements made by our members about the ABG. "The Association of Black Gays is the only place I have found where I can meet other black gay sisters who have some sense of black consciousness and purpose concerning what they are seeking from life and love. The women in ABG are strong, beautiful, identified black women and I can definitely get into that. It's like finally coming home to my very own family finding nothing but complete love and understanding". Gloria Brown

"ABG for me serves as a promising political outlet which is essential for us blacks to survive in a gay community where we as third world people are overlooked and consequently ignored. I have also come to know the members as my family away from home". Steven Corbin

We really get down at our meetings. They have a warm close feeling whether we are discussing the business needs of the group, rapping collectively or individually before and after the meetings. The meetings are pot-luck and there is usually plenty for all to eat and drink. There is also music and dancing after meetings.

If after reading this article you have any questions regarding anything discussed above or would like to join us, you can contact us by writing to ABG, c/o L.F. 2800½ Grand Canal, Venice, California 90291. We hope you join us, share what you have to offer and help the ABG grow and become a vanguard in the struggle for liberation in this country.

soul food is good for you

1. Greens are a good source of vitamin A, vitamin C and calcium.
2. Sweet potatoes and yams can give you a lot of vitamin A.
3. Chicken is a good protein source and is less expensive than red meat.
4. Watermelon can add significantly to the vitamin C intake.
5. Dried beans (pinto, navy, kidney and black eye peas) combined with brown rice are a good source of protein.

book reviews

Consenting Adult, Laura Z. Hobson, Warner Books, June 1976, 286 pages, \$1.95.

Laura Hobson in 286 pages takes you through thirteen years in the life of the Lynn family. A family that is made aware of the fact that one of its' members is gay. In these thirteen years the family changes from shocked disbelievers into accepting, loving and consenting adults. It is mainly the story of Tessa Lynn, an editor for a publishing house in New York City. Her seventeen year old son Jeff informs her in the first several pages of the book that he is a "homosexual," but has not participated in any explicitly homosexual act. He wants to see an analyst for treatment, a wish to which Tessa readily accedes. The story is complicated by Ken Lynn, Jeff's father, who is a recent stroke victim and who is unable to accept the fact of Jeff's gayness. There are the usual fights between father and son, mother and son, and mother and father.

The real story is simply Tessa's -- how she comes to realize her own faults and hang-ups with relating to her son; how she realizes that Jeff and Ken, although they aren't where they should be yet, both have made remarkable advances in accepting gayness; how she grows stronger and becomes in fact, a "consenting adult," who genuinely offers her consent to her son and his friends. The book is an extremely detailed treatment of the emotions and feelings of all those involved. It does not, however, go into any sexual detail. Ms. Hobson explains the reason for this lack of sexual detail on two different occasions within the context of the novel.

This work shows that Ms. Hobson is very well informed about gayness, is very strong in her convictions, and is also an author who is interested in writing and not just selling books. She has written a book that is extremely interesting and at the same time one of the most informative works available on the problems, anxieties and peculiarities of being the parent of a gay child.

I would highly recommend it for your reading enjoyment.

E.M. Brazile

Soul To Soul: A New Vegetarian Cookbook, by Mary Burgess (Woodbridge Press Publishing Co., Santa Barbara, 1976) 156 pages, \$3.95

A while ago I tried to give up meat. Meat was (and is) expensive. I had found substantial research showing that many more of the world's starving people could be fed if the grain grown for cattle was fed directly to humans. I also felt that I was somehow more pure when I didn't contribute to the killing of animals for my meals. With all that in mind I did without my sausage in the morning, forgot about my hamburger for lunch, and I even gave up my dad's barbecued ribs. All that vegetarianism lasted about three or four months. I was as healthy as ever but my new diet was just plain boring. The vegetarian cookbooks I could find all had a great number of recipes but none of them were for food that tasted like mama's.

All that should be remedied by Soul To Soul: A New Vegetarian Cookbook. For the first time, someone has adapted our wonderful style of cooking to a meatless diet. Mary Burgess, a black woman from Louisiana, has done a skillful job in this book. Some of the particularly good looking recipes are "Mama's Okra Gumbo," and "'If You Have' Fruit Pie" (made with pears, apples, peaches, cantaloupe, honeydew melon, cherries, and walnuts). The Entrees section of the book includes such delights as "Country Stew" and "Meat Loaf" (which uses "vegeburger" made from grains--a recipe for this is included). Ms. Burgess includes many recipes using meat substitutes made from grains and spices that taste just like the real thing. That should help someone use to the taste of meat ease into a meatless diet. There are 250 unique recipes including every meal and snack of the day. There's information on canning and freezing, growing your own food, and even children's menus. So, if you want to save money on your food bills and maybe eat better at the same time, get this book. It probably isn't at your local bookstore, however, it is available by mail from the Venice Bookstore and Culture Palace, 1510 Pacific Ave., Venice, CA 90291. Send them \$4.50 to cover the book, tax, postage, & handling and the great folks there will send it to you promptly. NOTE: This is not a book pushing "organic" foods--there are recipes calling for sugar and a few even call for Dream Whip. That fact may cause problems for some while others may like this fact. I would assume that honey or raw sugar, and whole wheat flour could be substituted in appropriate amounts. Real whipped cream is suggested for those who want to avoid all the artificial stuff in Dream Whip. Happy eating.

disco discontent

If the ABG were to write to Scott Forbes, owner of Studio One, this is how it would probably read:

Dear Scott,

How are you? We see from your photograph in the August 11th issue of the Los Angeles Times that you are in good health. We have also observed that your disco, Studio One, is as prosperous as ever, and business is booming.

However, with this in mind, we and many other groups and individuals have experienced or observed and received reports of an entrance problem at Studio One. The facts indicate that the people working for you at the door harrass blacks, women and other third world people who wish to enter the club by asking for a ridiculous amount of ID. We would like to add that this is not required of white males. Why even a white friend of ours told us that he and his wife were turned away from Studio One because she had on open toe shoes. Now Scott, is this any way to run a disco?

We are sure you remember an incident last summer (1975). A letter was written to you regarding this very matter by the Gay Community Mobilization Committee. In this letter the committee asked that you: (1) stop the racist and sexist door policy, (2) post a sign with a phone number for people to call if they felt they had been discriminated against, (3) have a person monitor the door to insure the community that your establishment had stopped this inhuman treatment. You know what happened after that! The negotiations between you and the committee broke down. The only alternative for the committee was to organize a boycott.

We remember the first night of the picket; of how you came out of Studio One yelling and screaming of how you were going to have the picketers arrested. We did not leave, and we were not arrested.

However, you did place a sign at the door stating what the Alcoholic Beverage Control required as positive ID. You also hired a "token" woman to check IDs. But Scott, the discrimination continued.

Also, that same summer an article appeared in the Los Angeles Free Press about the discrimination at Studio One. The author of the article monitored the door and saw that women, blacks, and latinos were indeed systematically turned away.

The most recent display of your unyielding contempt for blacks and women was an article in the August 11th

issue of the Los Angeles Times. Scott, you should really watch what you say. Namely, "Blacks started coming here pretty heavily a year and a half ago, because the straights started coming for awhile. The straight blacks were coming to try and pick up the chicks, which is basically the problem with any straight club. A little pimping, a little drugs started. The bad element came."

These words that you spoke proves to us that you exercise very little responsibility for the community you are supposed to cater to. Did you ever consider other ways of curbing the so-called "pimping" and "drug" problem? There are other discos that operate without these problems. You could have asked for some community input as far as abating or even eliminating it.

When the reporter pressed you on your door policy, you answered:

" 'OK,' Forbes offers, acknowledging that blacks and chicanos also can be homosexual, 'we have an I.D. policy, which is uniform. Every one who walks in this club is supposed to have an I.D. If you don't have an I.D., then you don't get in. If you look intoxicated, if you're not dressed properly, if you smell bad, you don't get in. Let's face it,' he says, 'if you haven't bathed in a week, you're going to offend a thousand other people.' "

Is that why we can't get in Scott? It was very unwise of you to lump those you have been discriminated against and the idea that some people smell bad in the same breath.

From a community standpoint, the social conditions under which your disco is operated are deplorable, to say the least. Instead of your working to make Studio One a place for all gays to come together, your raunchy tactics indicate that you have, and will continue to divide us.

You are a gay male, which personally makes you aware of oppression. You are presently serving on the board of directors for the Gay Community Services Center. This sheds some light on the commitment you have for the social problems that face gay people. Your moral awareness may be inferred from your affiliation with Metropolitan Community Church. You also have a precise and well-developed minf in business matters. This is shown in the ever increasing growth and popularity of Studio One.

Scott, you really have to get your disco together as well as your act. Start to honestly examine the racist and sexist issues that divide us.

Scott, who knows? Maybe there will be another boycott-- a boycott that will be successful-- and you might find yourself looking for a job.

so. africa

continued from page 6

Chrysler, Mobil Oil, IBM and Du Pont, just to name a few, that employ tens of thousands of African labors at the same disgraceful wages, and under the same (or worst) conditions as South African manufacturers.

Why doesn't the U.S. bring pressure on its multi-national corporations and force them to improve the despicable working conditions and upgrade the inadequate pay scale of their African employees? Would that not be an excellent example of its commitment to human dignity (i.e., practicing what we preach so well)? Let's face it! Without U.S. capital investment, military and political support for the fascist, racist minority regime, the white minority could not control Azania.

A black ruled, socialist southern Africa would be a disaster from the perspective of the multi-nationals of both the U.S. and western Europe. Nevertheless, this appears inevitable.

Meanwhile, Kissinger and the South African minority government scramble to salvage some kind of transitional, puppet government to placate the struggle for complete liberation.

As the days pass and the conflict continues we see that a peaceful, evolutionary transition to majority rule becomes less and less likely. The minority governments have declared that they will not relinquish power to the black majority. Ever! Obviously, they have not learned a lesson of history -- man's desire to be free and dignified is never destroyed by any weapons or brute force a government can muster.

Azania, Zimbabwe, and Namibia will be liberated. Bloodshed and human life is not a price too great to pay. The stage is set for still more tragedy in man's ascent toward a just society.

thank you!

The Association of Black Gays would like to take this opportunity to thank some of the groups and individuals who have helped us in our first year of being together.

We thank Jewel Williams, owner of the Catch One Club for opening her doors to the community. Jewel has also helped us with our fund raising.

We thank Attys. Tom Coleman and John Rodriguez for their unselfish legal work in the Ernest Marshall case.

We also thank Tom for the use of his office and materials.

We extend thanks to Sally Fisk, Commentator for KCOP T.V. for giving the A.B.G. the opportunity to express our views on The Wednesday Morning Show. A warm thanks to Jack Slater of the Los Angeles Times and Dave Johnson of the Los Angeles Free Press for writing articles that exposed the treatment of blacks and women and discrimination at Studio One.

A very special thank you to the Gay Community Mobilization Committee, The Lavender and Red Union and The Gay Caucus of the Peoples College of Law for their dedicated efforts to rid the gay community of racism.

RAFIKI is the quarterly publication of the Association of Black Gays. Its title comes from the Swahili word meaning friend. That's what we hope to be for you.

Although we agree with most of what we print, the opinions of the authors are their own and do not always reflect ours. We welcome your feedback and criticism. Love to all.

Manuscripts, art and photos sent to us should include a self-addressed stamped envelope. Our next deadline is Wednesday, December 31. Pseudonyms are okay.

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a.b.g.

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