

GPU news. Volume 5, Number 3 December 1975

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December 1975

GPU NEWS 50¢

Vol 5, No. 3



Cover Painting from the Louvre Museum, Paris
La Mort d'Hyacinthe (The Death of Hyacinth) by Jean Broc (see page 4)

THIRD G.A.U. CONFERENCE HELD

New York, N.Y.—Over 1,000 people attended the Third Annual Conference of the Gay Academic Union during the Thanksgiving week-end. This year's conference was held at Columbia University, Nov. 28-30.

The first GAU conference in 1973 attracted 325 men and women and last year's event over 600. Unlike the previous conferences, this year's had no general theme, but featured more than twice as many panels and workshops than last year. In addition a much wider range of topics and workshops were presented.

The opening speeches were given by Tony Russo and Dolores Klaich. Russo had replaced Sgt. Leonard Matlovich as a keynote speaker after an anti-military faction had insisted that Matlovich not participate in the conference.

In a letter given to all opening session participants, the group said, "We unequivocally support the efforts to end the Armed Forces policy of excluding gay people from the military because of our sexual orientation. . . We oppose, however, the uncritical acceptance of gay leaders of the sentiments expressed in the statement, 'I love the military.' " (The statement had been made by Matlovich in an interview in the New York Times in September.)

Panel discussions over the three day conference covered such diverse topics as: "Circumcision as Psycho-surgery," "A Feminist View of S & M," "Images of Lesbians in Fiction," "Early Medieval Attitudes Toward Homosexuality," "Teaching Gay Courses," and "Lesbian Mind and Body."

Dr. John Money spoke on transsexualism; Martin Duberman spoke on "Coming Out and Staying Out," Louie Crew and James Zais spoke on economic oppression of gays, and Barbara Love on "Lesbianism and Mental Health. Gene Damon, Frank Kameny and Peter Fisher spoke on the "History of the Gay Movement."

The conference was marked by strong moves by lesbian-feminist-separatists to use the conference as a forum to express their views on separatism. In spite of an early agreement that all panels and workshops would be open to all persons, regardless of sex, one panel closed itself, allowing only women to enter. Males who spoke were frequently hissed, booed and catcalled. The final session found tensions running very high. Jim Levin, one of the conference sponsors, cast aside his

closing speech to "speak from the heart and the gut." He said, "After the treatment I have received here at this conference, I will no longer carry around a burden of guilt just because I am male. In my opinion, separatism will set us back at least five years as it did the Black movement." His remarks were greeted with boos and hisses, as were those of other male speakers who called for "unity and understanding." The conference ended on this note of division.

GAYS ON CAPITOL HILL



Washington, D.C.—In the nation's capitol to open Metropolitan Community Church's new office for national affairs (see GPU NEWS—Oct. 1975), the Rev. Troy Perry met with church, government and gay community leaders to begin planning for MCC's "Affirmation 76" Seventh General Conference which will be held in Washington next August.

Perry met with Gary Aldridge, openly gay legislative assistant to Democratic Senator Alan Cranston

of California to discuss prospects for gay civil rights legislation at the federal level and with Arthur Flemming, head of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission. Shown with Perry above are Dr. Franklin Kameny, well-known Washington gay leader, Scott Johnson, treasurer of MCC Washington, the Rev. Roy Birchard, director of MCC's new Washington office, and Kerry Brown, head of MCC's General Conference '76 Committee.

FUNDS RAISED FOR MATLOVICH

Washington, DC—Serious statements and the light touch blended during a fund-raising party for Leonard Matlovich's legal fees in appealing his Oct. 22 discharge from the Air Force.

"I guess I'm an all-American boy," Matlovich said. "I don't smoke. I don't drink. And I don't run around with women."

"I think it's our time in history," he then added. "This may be a resurgence of the civil rights movement. The time and the issue have met. It's not me that's the issue."

The mostly-male crowd of nearly 1,000 at Pier Nine (a gay discotheque) donated about \$2,500 in cash, plus checks. One check for \$1,000 was presented by members of the Scorpions Motorcycle Club. Some 10 to 15 of leather people attended.

"As a black," said city councilman Marion Barry, "I know what it means to be oppressed. . . . If I say we have to fight the oppression of all people, I have to come down here and show that I mean it."

News photographers were banned from Pier Nine for fear some still publicity-shy folk would object.

Then gay actor Michael Greer took

the stage. "It's good to see so many of you come out tonight," he said, getting a huge laugh. "To me, the definition of being gay is knowing your attorney's phone number by heart. . . . But I can't help thinking that straight people are a bit obvious. They don't give a damn who knows."

"I did time in the Air Force," Greer then continued. "I didn't have the courage to come out and declare myself. And God, it takes tremendous courage. The neatest thing about Sgt. Matlovich is having such a great image for us all."



COUNSELING WORKSHOPS SET

New York, N.Y.—Dr. Ralph Blair, Director of the Homosexual Community Counseling Center in New York and Editor of *The Homosexual Counseling Journal* has announced a series of one day workshops on "Counseling and Homosexuality" to be held next year in various cities around the country. Last year's tour was highly praised.

Designed primarily for the helping professionals, the workshops will also feature a wide range of topics of interest to individual gays. Dr. Blair will be joined in the presentations by experienced psychiatrists, psychologists and other therapists as well as by gay men and women from each community.

The following schedule has been set: Oklahoma City, Jan. 10; Houston, Jan. 12; Chapel Hill, Jan. 31; Knoxville, Feb. 2; Birmingham, Feb. 14; Jacksonville, Feb. 16; New York, Mar. 6; Boston, Mar. 20; Des Moines, Apr. 3; Fargo, Apr. 5; Milwaukee, Apr. 10; Huntington, W. Va., Apr. 24; Denver, May 8; Seattle, May 10.

Registration fee for the program is \$20 per person or \$15 when 3 register from the same organization or \$10 for students. Conferences begin at 9 AM and end at 4:30 PM. Registration fees include lunch and literature. For further details write: HCCC, Inc. 30 East 60th St., New York, N.Y. 10022.

Dr. Comes Out

Chicago, Ill.—Dr. Walter Lear, one of the directors of the Northeast Pennsylvania Department of Health, "came out" publicly as gay at the convention of the American Public Health Association held in Chicago in mid-November. The Association is the largest and most influential public health organization in the U.S. Lear made his announcement in a speech to the convention and promptly formed a gay caucus at the gathering.

Lear had informed Pennsylvania Governor Milton Shapp of his decision before he went to Chicago and received his approval. Lear is one of the highest public officials in the country to "come out."

APPLETON LIBRARY TO CARRY GPU NEWS

Appleton, WI—For some time the Fox Valley Gay Alliance has been working with local libraries within the Fox River Valley in an effort to make available to both gay and non gay residents, a more expanded and contemporary selection of materials related to the gay theme.

The FVGA reports a modicum of success with the agreement of the Appleton Public Library to carry GPU NEWS along with the library's other periodicals. Previously, the Milwaukee Public Library was the only library in the State of Wisconsin to carry a gay periodical. Assurances have also been given by the Director of the Appleton Library that more materials reflecting an honest view of the subjects concerning homosexuality and the gay lifestyle will be purchased and made easily accessible to the public.



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ELECTION RESULTS

Madison, WI—Gay and pro-gay candidates fared fairly well in elections across the country.

Both of the nation's openly gay state legislators won reelection easily. Elaine Noble was returned to the Massachusetts House with a 4 to 1 margin. Alan Spear trounced his opponent and returned to the Minnesota Senate despite some grumbling from the gay community that he had not worked hard enough for gay rights legislation.

Wisconsin gays were generally pleased with the results of the election. Over half of the candidates on record in favor of gay rights were elected, and all of the candidates actively supported by gays won.

GAYS RESPOND TO WFMR'S PLIGHT VIA GPU NEWS

Milwaukee, WI—The gay community responded to a GPU NEWS editorial concerning the plight of Milwaukee's classical-jazz radio station, WFMR, with accolades; and, more importantly for the station: money.

Members of Gay People's Union and other readers applauded the community service attitude of the editorial and contributed money directly to GPU NEWS so the station would be aware of the gay community's response. GPU NEWS has purchased a charter membership in the WFMR Listeners Guild on behalf of Gay People's Union.

With a month to go, WFMR has only reached 36% of their goal. Elsewhere in this issue we again provide an announcement on behalf of the station. Readers wishing to join the Listeners Guild are urged to use the coupon provided.

The Winners: ☒

STATE ASSEMBLY

John Norquist
Michael Kirby
Robert Behnke
Marcia Coggs
James Moody
Peter Bear
Jonathan Barry
Richard Flintrop
Stephen Leopold
Mary Lou Muntz
Marjorie Miller
David Clarenbach
Steve Gunderson
Bernard Lewison

STATE SENATE

James Flynn
Warren Braun
Ernest Keppler
Fred Risser
Lynn Adelman

GPU ELECTION

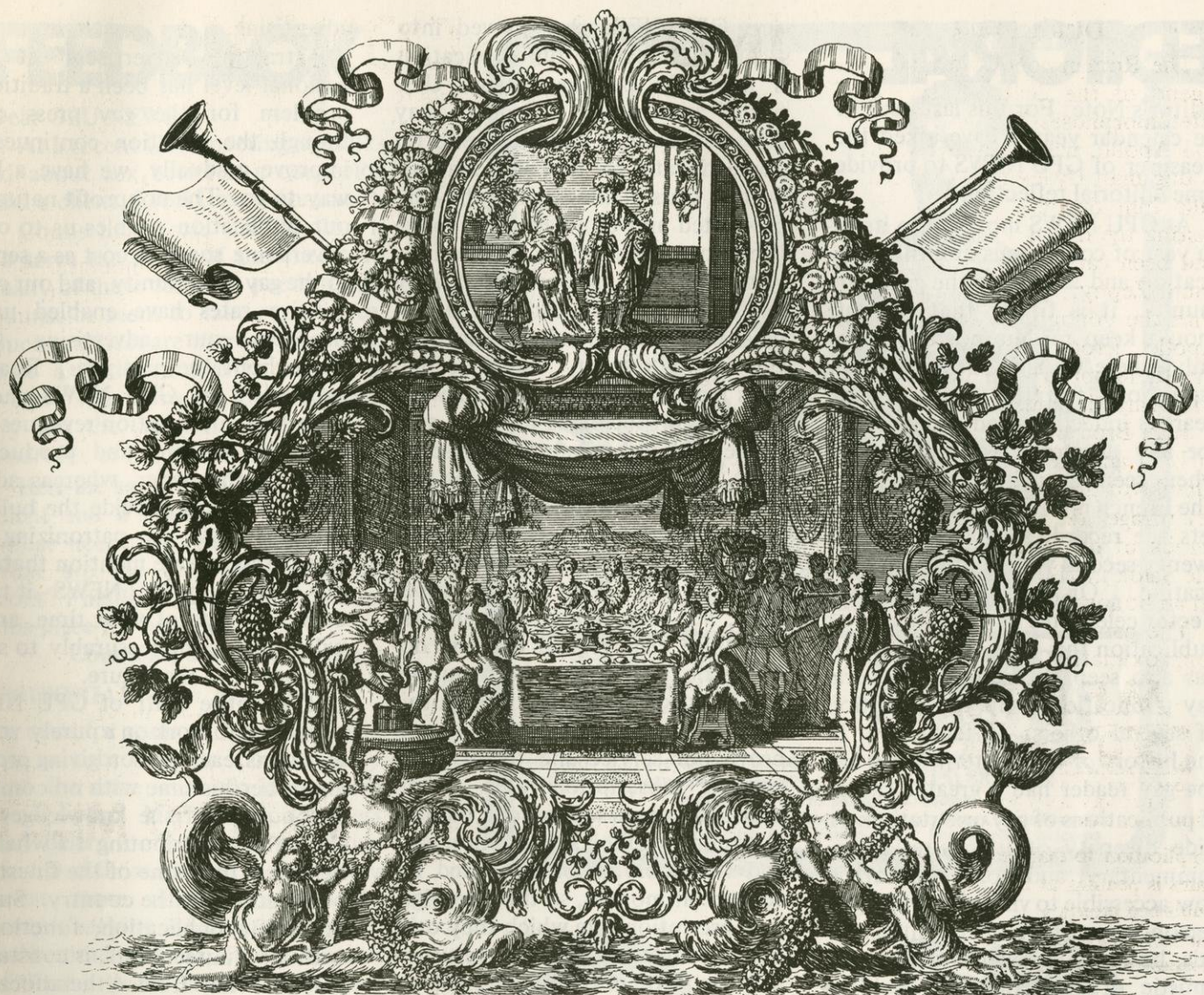
Milwaukee, WI—Gay People's Union will elect four new board members at their business meeting on Monday, December 6 at 8 pm. Nominations for officers for the coming year will also take place with their election to be held during the January business meeting.

Vying for the four vacancies on the Board of Directors are: Robert Johnson, Paul R. Safransky, Dean H. Slater, Carol Stevens, Louis Stimac, and Persia Straub.

The constitutional questions surrounding the candidacy of Mariam Ben-Shalom have not been resolved as we go to press.

Other activities at GPU for the month of December include an open house with refreshments on December 27, a General Rap Session on the 13th, and a presentation on Homosexual Rape by Alyn Hess on the 20th.

GPU meets every Monday at the Farwell Center, 1568 N. Farwell at 8:00 pm. Business meetings are the first Monday of the month. Meetings are open to the public.



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EDITORIAL

(Editor's Note: For this last issue of the calendar year, I have asked the Treasurer of GPU NEWS to provide some editorial reflection.)

As GPU NEWS moved into its fifth year of continuous monthly publication and service to the gay community, it is fitting that its staff should keep readers posted on not only where we are, but also of our aspirations for the future. Five years is indeed a good track record for any nonprofit gay publication when seen in proper perspective. The French review *Arcadie* probably sets the record, as it is now in its twenty-second year of monthly publication. On the national scene, *Vector* celebrates its twelfth year of publication this year. The past year has also seen the demise of several gay publications, and the inception of several others. In fact, never in the history of the western world has the gay reader had a greater choice of publications of gay orientation. A wide diversity of literature, news, commentary, and homophile art is now accessible to virtually every gay person everywhere. In contrast to this, however, by even the most optimistic of estimates, gay publications have reached no more than about ten percent of the gay population. From this two consequences follow. The first is that the gay liberation movement has a long way to go in its educational service to the individual gay. Secondly, from a purely market perspective, the future offers great prospects of growth for the gay press.

The past year has seen four noteworthy steps forward on the part of GPU NEWS, each of which will enable us to better serve the entire gay community in the coming years. First, the purchase of typesetting equipment has enabled us to reduce production costs and to introduce a much-needed flexibility in the format of our publication. Secondly, in the face of increasing postal costs and deterioration of third-class ser-

vice, GPU NEWS has moved into second class mailing (our application is presently pending before U.S. postal authorities). Readers may have noticed that we no longer offer domestic rates for first class mailing. Second class mailings, since they are pre-sorted and bundled prior to delivery to the post office, move quickly to their destinations: preliminary test mailings have shown that, in most cases, they rival first class service in this respect. Use of second class mailing will enable us to avoid subscription increases to those subscribers who had first-class subscriptions, in the face of impending rate increases for first class mail; and our third class subscribers will profit from the faster delivery without increase in cost. With our December issue, we have phased out all first and third class regular mailings domestically. It has not been our desire to make any profit through this service change, but rather to improve our service and to avoid increasing subscription rates. First-class subscribers with several months remaining for their subscription have had this subscription pro-rated for additional months, so that the higher subscription rate which they originally paid has been fully returned to them through their subscriptions.

A third change was an aggressive campaign to increase our circulation, both through subscriptions and distributorships. The past year has seen an increase in circulation of over 100%, and our campaign continues. Circulation presently hovers at two thousand, with subscribers throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, and the United Kingdom. Beyond Milwaukee, retail outlets offer GPU NEWS for sale in New York, Montreal, Nashville, Rockford, St. Louis, Boston, Washington (D.C.), London (England), and other cities; and we hope to be on the west coast and in central Europe soon. Circulation for GPU NEWS is not simply a luxury, for its continuous increase is one of the two sole means by which we can keep our costs down and our service up. The other is

advertising.

Attracting advertisers at the national level has been a traditional problem for the gay press; and, though the situation continues to improve gradually, we have a long way to go. The nonprofit nature of our publication enables us to offer advertising space at cost as a service to the gay community, and our competitive rates have enabled us to broaden our advertising base throughout the past year. Readers supportive of GPU NEWS should note that subscription revenues pay only for mailing and production costs of the paper, whereas advertising revenues provide the bulk of printing costs. In patronizing our advertisers, please mention that you saw their ad in GPU NEWS—it takes only a minute of your time, and it will assist us immeasurably to serve you better in the future.

The entire staff of GPU NEWS continues to work on a purely volunteer basis, each person giving profusely of her/his time with no compensation beyond the knowledge that she/he is contributing to what we believe is truly one of the finest gay publications in the country. Such a nonprofit publication, functioning with a volunteer staff, is constantly playing what I call "the allocation game"—sometimes successfully and sometimes not. This game is played at three levels: time, money, and space. The decision to devote time and effort to one project always entails withdrawal of time and effort from other potentially worthwhile projects. The same is true of financial expenditure: since financial resources are finite, increased costs or allocations in one area automatically commit us to cutbacks in others. And finally, more to the point of your interests as readers and supporters of GPU NEWS, allocation of printing space in each issue to one sort of content (whether advertising, editorial, news, literature, reviews, or local events) always entails a cutback in other areas. Some Milwaukee readers may occasionally fault

(Continued on page 7)

FEEDBACK

Dear GPU NEWS:

At a recent GPU meeting we talked about sex between a counselor and a client. I feel I must comment.

Counseling's sole justification is to serve the needs of the client. In many of these cases the needs of the counselor seem to take precedence. Such practices are narrowly based at best and destructive to clients at worst. The counselor loses objectivity and the client is not helped to assert his or her own independence.

Here are some questions: When a client and a counselor go to bed, whose needs are really being met? What are the emotional ramifications? Finally, in what position does this place the agency?

Counselor and GPU member

EDITORIAL (from page 6)

an issue for want of local coverage, and a subscriber in London may find the same issue too heavy with local news. Mail-order purchasers may desire more advertising of this kind, and those seeking pen-pals may desire more classified ads; while readers seeking information and social commentary may find too much of these in particular issues. Reader response (some of which we publish regularly in the FEEDBACK section) has been overwhelmingly favorable on the whole, which suggests that we are retaining an intelligent balance in the long run (which is not to deny that particular issues may be less balanced than others). Readers should keep their letters coming, since they are our fundamental guidelines; while at the same time they should be mindful of the allocation game—inclusion of one thing involves exclusion of another, and such decisions must ultimately be squared with our firm commitment to serve the entire gay community.

For GPU NEWS and its staff it has been a good year; and, of more importance, there is the promise of more and better things to come.

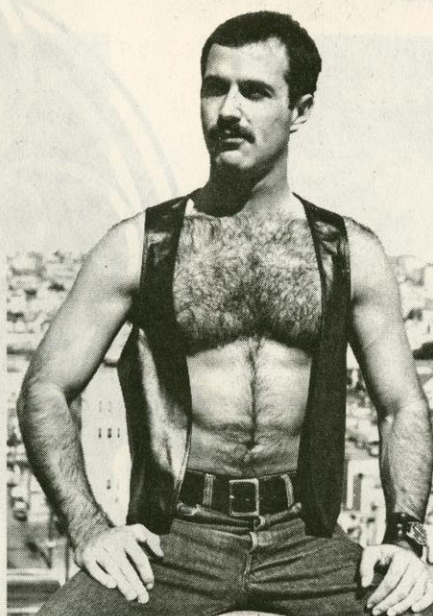
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Photos: GPU NEWS

Editor's note: Last month the second editorial, written by Alyn W. Hess, chairperson of Gay Peoples Union, was critical of Milwaukee's "drag community," comparing their co-operation with GPU with that of other groups in other cities.

There are, of course, two sides to every coin and GPU NEWS is pleased to present the following interview in rebuttal by two of Milwaukee's title holders: Peaches Toy, Miss Black Wisconsin 1971-1976 and Sandi Alexandra, Miss Gay Milwaukee, 1973-74.

GPU NEWS: What is your major disagreement with the editorial of last month?

PEACHES: The terminology used by the writer was derogatory to the so called "drag community."

GPU NEWS: How?

PEACHES: Our contests in Milwaukee are given out of pride—they do establish gay pride and the editorial indicated that gay pride can be found only through GPU or similar groups.

SANDI: The editorial also referred to Chicago's ball being held "out front in a big hotel." The Centre Stage where we held our event is just about as public as you can get in Milwaukee. Prior to this year the event was held in a gay bar. We are very proud of this accomplishment.

The editorial made it look like GPU was only mentioned after they insisted on it. That's not true. The sponsors scheduled announcements for various parts of the program and GPU happened to be scheduled after the intermission, that's all.

GPU NEWS: Let's see if we can clear up the terminology. There are several terms that sometimes confuse people: transsexual, transvestite, female impersonator and drag. What are the differences?

PEACHES: A transsexual is a person, male or female, who feels trapped in the body of the wrong sex; a woman in a man's body or a man in a woman's body. The body, in these cases, can be changed with hormones and surgery to fit the proper personality.

SANDI: A transvestite is usually a heterosexual male that reaches erection and/or climax while compulsively wearing women's clothing. A female impersonator is a professional entertainer who earns a living impersonating a woman on stage. He usually wears women's clothing only on stage.

PEACHES: A drag queen is a homosexual who from time to time dresses in female



Sandi Alexandra, Miss Gay Milwaukee 1973-4

clothing primarily for social reasons.

GPU NEWS: Don't drags enter contests?

PEACHES: Of course, all the categories we have just mentioned do enter contests. Therefore, it is not accurate to call these events "drag contests."

GPU NEWS: What should they be called?

SANDI: These contests always have a specific title; for example ours was called The Miss Gay Wisconsin and Mr. Groovy Guy Contest. These titles should be used.

GPU NEWS: Do you feel that GPU has let down this segment of the gay community?

SANDI: GPU should learn more about this segment of the community so they will have a better understanding. Then they should educate the rest of the community both gay and straight about us.

GPU NEWS: How should they go about this?

SANDI: One way would be for GPU NEWS to feature some informational articles about the various facets of the gay community. These should include not only impersonators and drags, but leather and levi, glitter, lesbians etc. We gay people



*Peaches Toy, Miss Black Milwaukee 1971-76
Chanel Capri, Miss Gay Wisconsin 1975-76*

are not even educated to the life styles of one another.

GPU NEWS: Putting the shoe on the other foot, what do you think this segment of the community can or should do for GPU?

PEACHES: Members of this segment should co-operate in putting these articles together and should co-operate in putting together panel discussions about their life style at GPU meetings.

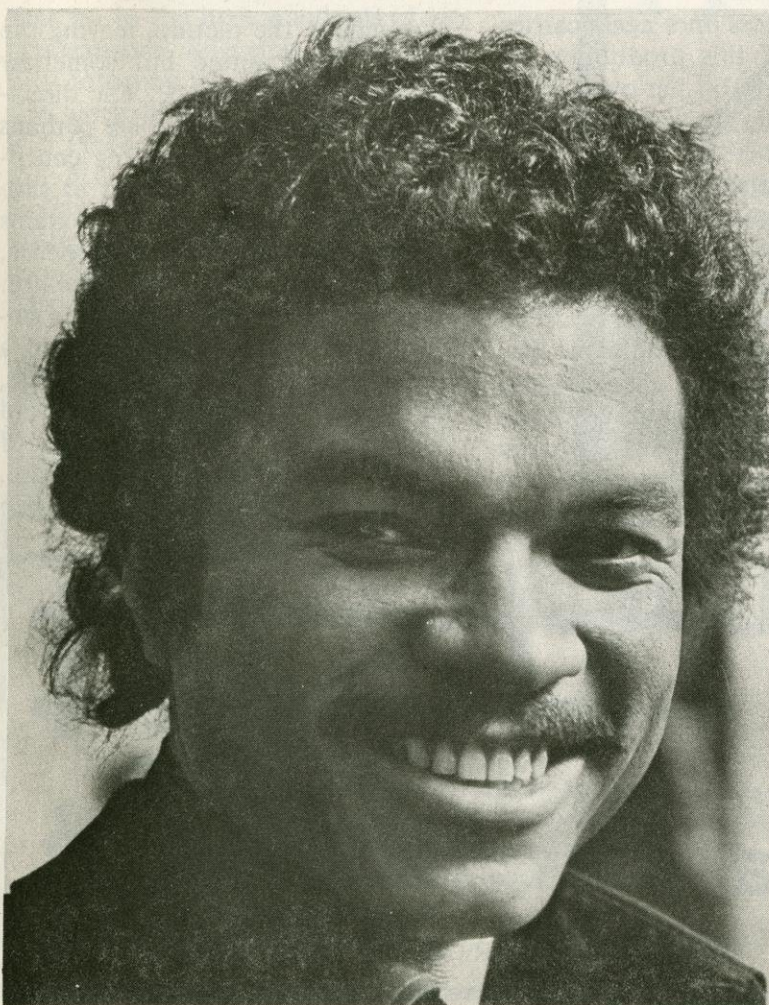
GPU NEWS: Sandi, you have made some suggestions for GPU NEWS. What are they?

SANDI: I think GPU NEWS should educate the community about the causes, reasons and purposes of GPU. Most gay people in Milwaukee are not familiar with what you stand for and what you are doing. Use part of each issue of GPU NEWS for this educative purpose. How can we liberate ourselves if we do not even understand ourselves and do not really know what our organization is all about? If we educate ourselves to one another's life styles, then we can all work together for liberation for all of us.



MAHOGANY

reviewed by
mike mitchell



Young children, easily excited and uncontrollable at times in trying to relate several ideas at once, often produce only garbled chatter. Much the same thing can be said for Paramount's latest release starring Diana Ross; **Mahogany**.

Set in Chicago and Rome, **Mahogany** is the rags-to-riches story of a poor working secretary aspiring to fame in the jungle of fashion and design. An accidental break launches her on the road towards that goal, but also brings her into immediate conflict with her love life, her personal values, and her self-image as a black person. The primary stimulus for most of this conflict originates with the secretary's lover, an also-aspiring Chicago alderman, played by Billie Dee Williams. The rest of the movie follows secretary and boyfriend as they attempt to reconcile their love for each other and the all-consuming demands of their respective careers, which seem to pull them further and further apart.

The very subject-matter of **Mahogany**, high fashion and the coutourie houses of Europe, will have a near-universal appeal for gays. This profession has long been one of the few career areas which has openly accepted talented gays. This film pays token acknowledgement to this fact, but the gesture is stereotypic and insulting; as much to gays as to the black intelligence associated with the production. In one particular scene, Ross purchases a smart Italian sport coat for her beau only to have him protest like



some bush-league hick that he “feels like a sissy.” Could it be that the producers were trying to reinforce the masculinity of the newest of black supermen, Billie Dee Williams? If so, they would do better to respect the intelligence of the viewer and drop such cheap gimmicks altogether.

The cast is of sterling caliber, but tarnished by a trite dialogue and incomplete character development. Only Ross and Williams are given any chance to rise above the script’s limitations, while Tony Perkins, Jean-Pierre Aumont, and Nina Foch all fall back into stock, type-cast

roles. Diana Ross once again carries the weight of this production almost completely on her own shoulders. However, she carries it with the same super-star stature that brought her cinema fame in *Lady Sings The Blues*.

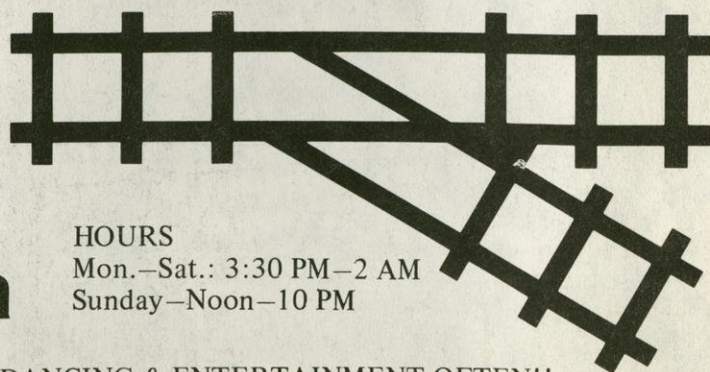
A KNOCK ON WOOD

The producers evidently felt that the outstanding costuming (most of which Ross designed and made herself) and the romantic appeal would carry the film over its numerous and substantial faults. Superficially the story line succeeds although the sub-themes, showing great promise and potential, are aborted one by one

throughout the picture, leaving the viewer disappointed but somehow pleasantly entertained. The directing and cinematography are perhaps the only other outstanding contributions which can be said to save this film. Although it contains brilliant pieces of humor, suspense, and emotion, that’s all they are: loose pieces which never form a single entity. The overall result is a production which looks first-class, but lacks deep-down quality and real substance. As with so much of today’s imitation-wood furniture, perhaps this film should have been entitled “Plastic Mahogany.”

The Side Track

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DANCING & ENTERTAINMENT OFTEN!!

REVIEW

The Rights of Gay People. An American Civil Liberties Union Handbook. By E. Carrington Boggan, Marilyn G. Haft, Charles Lister, and John P. Rupp. N.Y.: Avon Books, 1975. Pp. 268. Paper binding, \$1.75. (May be ordered directly from the publisher: Avon Books, Mail Order Dept., 250 West 55th St., NYC, NY 10019. Include 25¢ per copy for handling.)

The A.C.L.U. handbooks include volumes on the rights of reporters, mental patients, prisoners, servicemen, teachers, students, women, suspects, the poor, and hospital patients. All have been issued by Avon Books in paperbound format, and each deserves to be acquired by persons in these respective categories. **The Rights of Gay People** is the newest entry in the series, and it lives up to the high standards of its predecessors. Boggan is a New York City attorney who has done extensive work in gay civil rights. Haft is a Professor of Law, Director of the A.C.L.U. National Project on Sexual Privacy, and chairs subcommittees on prostitution and victimless crimes for the American Bar Association. Lister is a Washington, D.C., attorney who served as a law clerk to Justice Harlan of the U.S. Supreme Court, a consultant on civil liberties issues to various state and federal agencies, and is presently an associate professor of law at the

Yale Law School, of which Rupp is also a graduate. Credit is also given by the authors to the assistance of Dr. Franklin Kameny.

The volume is divided into ten chapters, each offering an informal but well-documented account of distinct problem areas: the right to organize, equal employment opportunities, occupational licensing, the armed services, security clearances, problems of immigration and naturalization, housing and public accommodations, the gay family, gays and the criminal law, and finally the rights of transvestites and transsexuals. Appendices offer for ready reference a listing of laws (by state) applicable to consensual adult homosexual acts (with range of pen-

alties), statutory provisions (by state also) which affect the licensing of gays, a schematic version of a joint domicile agreement, a brief and rather incomplete bibliography of gay publications and organizations, samples of existing laws which prohibit discrimination against gays (Minneapolis, Minnesota, and East Lansing, Michigan), and a listing of A.C.L.U. State Affiliates from which further information (and possibly assistance where needed) may be sought.

Most highly commendable is the fact that the individual chapters are not written in legalese (a special dialect of English slang known to lawyers and incomprehensible to

(Continued on page 33)

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REVIEW

Cool Zebras of Light by Robert Peters. Christopher's Books, Santa Barbara, Calif., 1974. 72pp. \$2.75.

Reviewed by J.D. Butkie

As gay people, a maligned minority within the framework of a homophobic cultural setting, we are reaching an ever-increasing and multi-faceted awareness of our unique "quest" for intimacy with the passing of each day. It is we who must grapple with sexual issues outrightly censored or all too conveniently ignored by numerous heterosexuals. Questions come easily to mind. Is monogamy still a promising alternative? How does one deal with the intricacies inherent to polygamous, affectional relationships? Must homoerotic behavior cautiously be hidden or should it be openly celebrated, consequences notwithstanding? Bob Peters, in a new volume of poetry, **Cool Zebras of Light**, offers a commentary in which he sensitively investigates the emotional spectrum through which he, as a gay person, moves. The lusty search for love with the resulting inability to quench that passionate craving is Peter's central theme.

Questing for love involves, for this particular poet, a journey away from his "roots" in America. Bob's disappointing travels through Germany and England with Lee, a younger sexual partner, provide tension within the frame of geographical shifts. The principal tension, however, revolves about the unsatisfactory affiliation between a frustrated yet devoted man of letters and his free-wheeling sidekick. Nonetheless, the determined poet/lover refuses to resign himself to a state of hopelessness; rather, he takes deliberate action to rectify the situation as best he can and allay the torment of these moments of misery:

YOUR DEATH POEM
they found you naked
in an alley, stoned.

when you crawled
your head burst
into flowers
holding black forked
tongues. instead of
arms flippers struck
with diamonds.

I will take you and run,
ignoring the worms,
the claws
on your feet.

What is sought are experiences embedded in the tenderness of mutual gratification: ". . . come into the next room./I want to hold you." In "Aubade," the persona strives to kindle warmth through caress of unmoving flesh: "I wake/turn under the warm/leaves of blankets/to touch you/& move closer/until I am pressed/against your back,/ & my arm moves/over your groin/& rests. . ."

Dissatisfaction becomes an inherent feature in this two man relationship, and violence soon breaks forth as a result of unfulfillment:

IT'S NOT ALL OVER

the beasts are out.

under a bridge
weared of clover
a unicorn lies down.

jealousy
with its forehead
carbuncle grabs
for its meat,
a bear wallows in
its own shit.

I meant it
choking you.

Even with the subsequent move from Germany to England, emotional anxiety loses none of its destructive force. Lee remains desirable to Bob, and yet, he continues to thwart the achievement of that serenity so hunted after by the poet: ". . . (I think of you/screwing in the baths/& being screwed). . ."

The two males engaged on such a sexual battleground eventually separate, call a truce, coming to terms somewhat with their incompatibility. In one of the numerous prose sections, the poet relays the parting in language that consciously lacks any hint of inappropriate lyricism:

"I see Lee to his train. He should be home a week before I am. His departure is smooth, casual, the bitterness drained into something like joy. A passing scrim. At the apartment I pack for Amsterdam. I am numb." The diction here is spare but caustic. No false sentimentality is manipulated to alleviate the pain and desperation felt; life's fresh sores and bruises are left unbandaged, the vulnerable is exposed to underscore one man's traumatic experiences in his pursuance of love.

Gays, whether they be aficionados of poetry or not, undoubtedly will react strongly to Peter's account of the inevitable vicissitudes in life and love. Numerous prose sections will enable those less familiar with the poetic form to appreciate the love-metamorphoses that a vulnerable human being undergoes. On the other hand, poetry devotees will revel in the imagistic power of Peter's lyrical capabilities.

COOL ZEBRAS OF LIGHT

your fists
are warm
against my ribs

the musk of love
is hot mercury
pressed between
layers of skin.

at last
cool zebras of light
are feeding.

Affection, lust and loss interact in this sequence of "in search" love poems. Their interweaving creates a vehicle for shaping the poet's artistic sensibility: one characterized by unrelenting, all-encompassing tension. In a society where human beings increasingly become what Gabriel Marcel characterized as "mass men", that is, desensitized to and unappreciative of basic emotional drives, Bob Peters torches a bonfire to rouse us all to the existence of "the child within," of the never-aging component of every human being which seeks so desperately nourishment, encouragement, fulfillment.

REVIEW

MARGINS # 23 (8/75). "FOCUS: LESBIAN FEMINIST WRITING AND PUBLISHING." Edited by Beth Hodges. Pp. 72, \$1.00 postpaid. (Order from Margins, 2919 N. Hackett, Milwaukee, WI 53211.)

However small the amount of serious studies of gay male literature, it appears vast in contrast to the almost nonexistent published criticism of lesbian literature. Even those publishers outside the gay sector which have recently attempted to make gay literature accessible to a wider audience (for example, *College English*, *Gay Literature*, and Penguin's anthology, *Different*) seem to feel that no apologies are in order for identification of "gay" with "gay male" in a literary context. The present issue of *Margins* (a monthly review of little magazines and small press books) takes a small, but most important, step toward remedying this species of masculinist sexism which sadly appears to be no less rampant within the gay movement than without.

Following an editorial by Beth Hodges, the issue is divided into six parts. The first ("Overviews") offers two survey studies of the lesbian novel by Julia Stanley and Gene Damon, an overview of lesbian magazines by Karla Jay, an annotated checklist of lesbian feminist resources by Karen Vierneisel, and a photographic essay by Nina Sabaroff. The second through fourth parts are devoted to specific reviews and/or reflections on the function of lesbian literary criticism in modern society. There are reviews of lesbian poets (Susan Griffin, Judy Grahn, Audre Lorde), novels (*Les Guerilleres*, *Amazon Expedition*, *Woman Plus Woman*, *Lesbian/Woman*), surveys of pulp novels, and additional photographic essays.

The fifth part ("Sisters All") offers reviews and interviews which deal with specific lesbian magazines and with the lesbian theatre. Finally (Part VI: "More Voices,

More Views"), essays and reviews by Fran Winant, Adrienne Parks, and Joan Peters present some personal and historical reflections on lesbian literature and the development of the lesbian press.

In her editorial introduction, Ms. Hodges seems almost apologetic for the overview structure of the issue: whereas, for the present reviewer, this appeared its greatest strength. Given the vast and unexplored territory of lesbian literature and criticism, attention is properly given first to matters of general geography

before plotting out more circumscribed areas. Nor do I regard this remark as implicitly sexist, since I have met too many lesbians who are almost totally ignorant of their own literature. As always within the gay movement, self-education is of no less importance than public accessibility. In this spirit, all persons (gay or nongay, women or men) owe a great debt of gratitude to the editor of *Margins*; for, to say that this issue fills a gap would be a monumental understatement at best.

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Gay Therapists and Gay Clients

by joseph l. norton, ph.d.

This article will deal with two rather disparate topics. The first topic is whether being openly-gay is harmful or helpful to the therapist who happens to be gay. The second topic concerns some of the problems that gay clients bring to therapy that are different from those of non-gay clients.

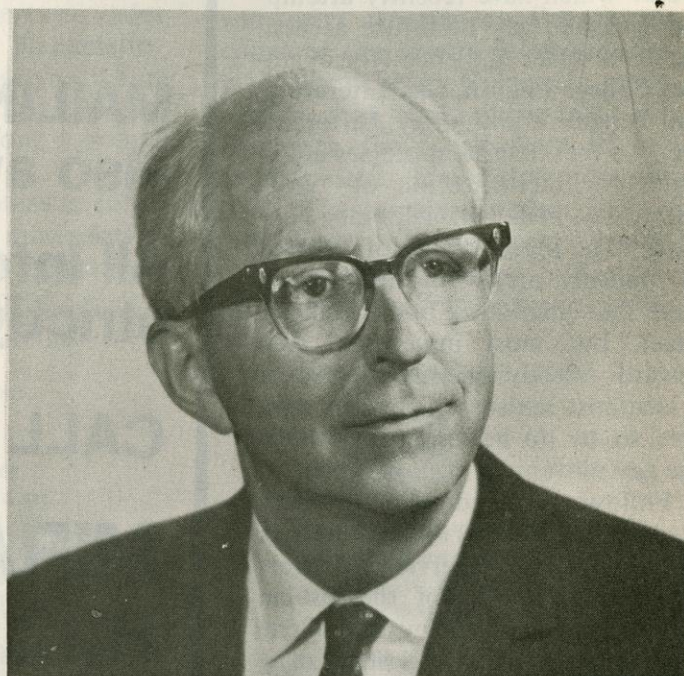
GAY THERAPISTS

Obviously, a therapist who happens to be gay must decide whether or not to be open and public about that fact. The gay therapist must first consider whether or not being openly known as a homosexual will affect his or her relationships with employers and fellow therapists. Unfortunately there are, at present, so few of us therapists who are open about our gayness that I can only offer a few general observations. No research has really been done in this area.

Clearly, several of us have not had any difficulties whatsoever in integrating our gay lifestyles with our work as therapists, particularly some of us who work for universities. Occasionally one even gets the feeling of being a token gay on the staff. One candidate for a job as a therapist last spring was actually told that the job was open only to a Black, a woman, or a gay. (Unfortunately the specialty area did not fit him, although he qualified in one of the three minority groupings.)

While I can report to you on people whose terms were not renewed because they were openly gay, I can also report on a professor who received tenure after he helped found a local gay liberation organization. I also know of another who received a merit pay increase in competition with other faculty members. More than one gay therapist has told me that their heterosexual therapist colleagues are pleased to have an open gay therapist to whom they can refer individuals seeking help as homosexuals.

Personally, I have found that being open about my gayness has proved to be helpful and rewarding, but would hesitate to recommend such a position for



Joseph L. Norton grew up in a small up-state New York village, attended St. Lawrence University, served in the Army for four years, completed his Ph. D. in Counseling Psychology at Syracuse University, and worked as a counseling psychologist and counselor educator in Michigan, Illinois and New York State. He was married and with his wife kept at zero population growth with a son and a daughter.

In 1971, after his divorce, he transferred his professional activities from being president of the New York State Personnel and Guidance Association and from being president of the Faculty Senate of the State University of New York to being director of the Caucus of Gay Counselors of the American Personnel and Guidance Association, co-coordinator of the Unitarian-Universalist Gay Caucus and to being a member of the steering committee of the Association of Gay Psychologists. Dr. Norton is currently Professor of Education at State University of New York at Albany and is active in public presentations about homosexuality. He was the keynote speaker at One of Chicago's annual banquet in Chicago in 1974. This article was originally presented as a speech before the American Psychological Association.

every therapist who happens to be gay. Ideally the sexual orientation of the therapist should not (and usually does not) enter into most vocational or educational counselling situations and therefore should not have any effect on either the person's ability as a counselor or qualifications for employment. In fact, gay therapists should have special insights that should be helpful to them in counseling homosexual clients. However, in actual practice, the entire matter of whether or not to be open must rest with the individual therapist. Indeed, since so little is known about this area, I would appreciate hearing from gay therapists as to their experiences and decisions about whether or not to be open about their sexual orientation.

When counseling gay clients, even where the reasons for counseling have nothing to do with the client's sexual orientation, many gay therapists have found that the counselees do comment on the fact that it is nice to hear "us" rather than "you people." Individual gay therapists differ on their choice of gay clientele. Some even feel that a gay male cannot truly understand and work with Lesbians, while others feel quite comfortable working across sexes. At least for those gay counselees who are uptight about being sexual at all, it might seem less threatening to have a gay therapist of the opposite sex. Yet a gay counselee having a straight therapist of the opposite sex does not seem to work out so well. I have found that many gay therapists spend much of their time "picking up the pieces" of a gay counselee who had a non-understanding heterosexual therapist of either sex. They have had straight therapists who say, "I don't want you to talk to me about that part of your life," or "All you need to do is find the right man" when working with a Lesbian counselee. This certainly doesn't help the Lesbian unsure of her situation. So, it does seem clear that openly-gay therapists can and do have counselees for whom the sexual orientation is immaterial, but it also seems clear that certain percentages are referred, or come, exclusively because they know that the gay therapist will not put them down for their affectional and sexual orientation.

In another direction, since the topic has come up with heterosexuals, it seems appropriate to comment that there is no evidence that gay counselors, any more often than their heterosexual counterparts, actually accept the thesis that direct sexual interaction with their counselees is therapeutic. Certainly the gay therapist who is propositioned by the counselee has to take into consideration all the same concerns about transference and the effect on the therapeutic relationship as the heterosexual therapist in similar circumstances. Most gay therapists seem willing to accept the point made by a women's liberation person with respect to sexual therapy: if the counselee is fat and over forty, it may be therapeutic for the counse-

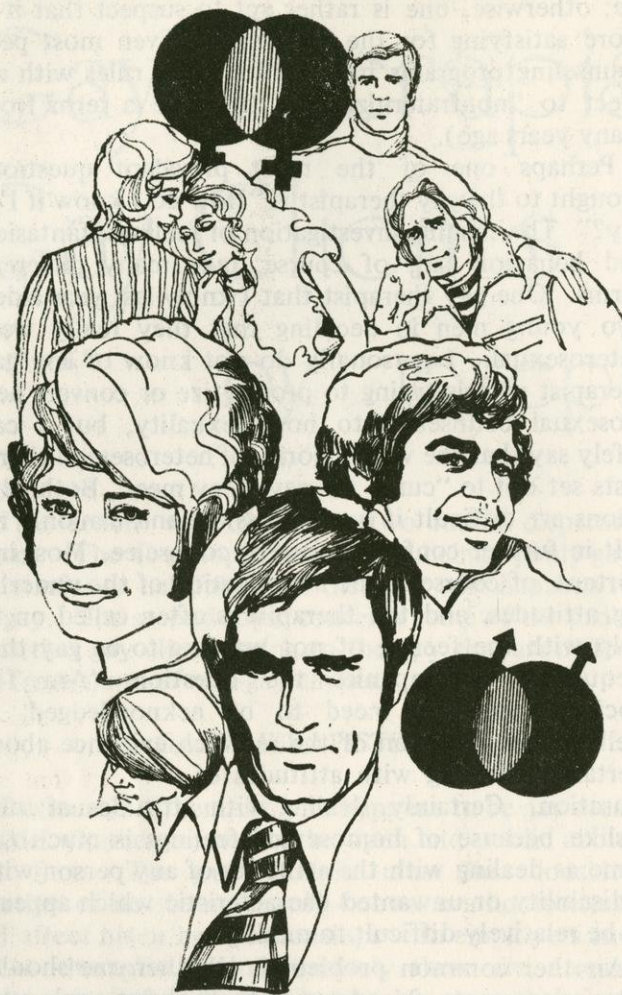
lee; otherwise, one is rather apt to suspect that it is more satisfying for the counselor. Even most peer counseling programs have rather strict rules with respect to "nonfraternization" (to take a term from many years ago).

Perhaps one of the most prevalent questions brought to the gay therapist is "How do I know if I'm gay?" The ensuing investigation of feelings, fantasies, and behavior can, of course, take many different forms. One gay therapist that I know last year aided two young men in deciding that they really were heterosexual. I personally do not know of any gay therapist who is trying to proselytize or convert heterosexual counselees to homosexuality, but I can safely say that the vast majority of heterosexual therapists set out to "cure" the gays they meet. Both situations are difficult if not impossible and can only result in further confusion for the counselee. Most important, of course, is the investigation of the underlying attitudes, and the therapist is often called on to help with the feeling of not wanting to be gay that frequently accompanies the question "Am I?" Society's pressures need to be acknowledged, as well as the confusion of the research evidence about Certainly, dealing with attitudes of causation. Certainly, dealing with attitudes of self-dislike because of homosexual feelings is much the same as dealing with the attitudes of any person with a disability or unwanted characteristic which appears to be relatively difficult to modify.

Another common problem is whether one should tell one's parents, friends and others about one's gayness. At first glance this might seem to be unique to the gay world, but it is really not too different from the problems of telling parents of unwanted pregnancies and other behaviors or plans of which parents will disapprove. Certainly there is no single answer. Counselors can cite individuals whose parents refused to support further education once they found out a child was gay and others who kicked their children out of the house at the discovery. On the other hand, the multitude of data concerning the mental satisfaction of being open and the research evidence that open gays adjust better than those who hide support the notion of being open with others as well as one's self.

While some counselors report that a gay in love with a straight roommate is the most painful kind of counseling, it really differs little from counseling about any unrequited love. The only difference here is that the counselee is more often in a close physical proximity during more intimate moments of life than are the typically unrequited heterosexual pair. The solution for one, however, is no easier than for the other.

A counselor at a gay switchboard may face questions that are different from the ones faced by a therapist in his office. Although it might seem unlikely, switchboard counselors have reported calls asking what gay



*Drawing from the Milwaukee Journal
by Journal artist Barbara Erickson*

people do in bed—and will you show me? Requests for dates, indicating that the caller is in a state of sexual deprivation are also frequent, but most gay switchboards make it a standard practice simply to recommend that the caller come to the center to meet more people or refer the caller to other gay gathering places for interaction with other gays. While switchboards do not like to give the feeling of a brush-off, they nevertheless generally resist any direct appointment making over the phone. Sometimes, to aid a hesitant person in getting to a meeting or an open forum, staff people will meet the individual outside and enter the center with him or her as a gesture of support. The totally bashful, shy, lonely or upset caller often needs considerable support before being able to make that first move of entering the gay world.

Most therapists, in contrast to the switchboard centers, usually do not get the information calls: Where are the gay bars? Can you give me information for my term paper? What are the laws with respect to my keeping my children? etc. However, in counsel, therapists may get into the questions of possible harm that keeping one's children might do, the problems of

maintaining a heterosexual marriage when one of the partners is gay, or concerns about aging as a homosexual. (As to the latter, one article reports that gays are better able to face aging than straights, but the stereotype certainly says something else.)

Not all problems are brought to the therapist or switchboard counselor by closet gays. Open gays frequently bring problems involving harassment, abuse or other unpleasant treatment. The problems of facing a hostile world are many. They are not even unique to the various minorities, who may, however, have a heavier burden than others. But students who have been kicked out of their homes by other students who found them to be gay, students who have been beaten up at the shopping center, or threatened with physical abuse by groups of straights, can feel very insecure.

Employment questions are faced by both the therapist and the switchboard counselors. The question of how do I get a job if I come out is not an easy one to answer. One job candidate sent out ten resumes indicating activity with the Gay Liberation Front and received only one distant inquiry without an offer of interview. He then sent out four resumes without that bit of information and received two travel-paid interviews. Until the world is less hostile, therapists do need to caution the job seeker, despite all of the psychological benefits of being open. Counseling teachers or teacher candidates is especially difficult. Since the Supreme Court did not accept the Acanfora case, we have no clear guidelines. The courts first dealt with Acanfora's being fired as a teacher by saying that he could not be fired simply because he was homosexual since that was irrelevant to his job as a teacher, but that he could be fired for flaunting his homosexuality, for his very public openness about it. This decision was then reversed, with the new reason given for why he could be fired being that he had not put his activities with the Gay Liberation Front on his vita sheet. The Supreme Court refused to hear the appeal, so the constitutional issues are not settled. The original finding, however, still is an interesting precedent. Some unions have come out to tell administrators to get off a gay's back, but in reality not all unions can be counted on for this much support, at least within the teaching field.

In sum, the problems coming to gay therapists from gay counselees may have some unique aspects to them, but are primarily much like those that come to any therapist from any counselee. The feeling among therapists about whether only a gay therapist can effectively counsel a gay is divided, with some therapists even insisting that only a lesbian can counsel a gay woman effectively. There is certainly some evidence that some gays sometimes get counseled effectively by others than same-sex oriented counselors. Perhaps some good research will indicate the validity of such matchings or lay the matter to rest for good.

REVIEW

Some Kind of Hero, by James Kirkwood. NY, Crowell, 1975. Reviewed by Jim Jones.

James Kirkwood's latest novel, **Some Kind of Hero**, is a disappointing book. Eddie Keller, the main character, is a Vietnam veteran who spent five years as a POW in North Vietnam. Eddie returns to a society that has vastly changed in the years of his imprisonment. It is not the society he has kept alive in his memory, memories which have in turn kept him alive. Eddie returns to a society which has left him behind and, more specifically, to a wife who is living with another man, a daughter who does not know him, and a mother who is seriously ill. The way he copes with the myriad problems facing him, makes up the story Kirkwood tells.

The theme Kirkwood has chosen is certainly a timely one, and one which needs to be treated. He handles it well, and has a special knack for keeping his characters and plot moving quickly by using much dialog and humor. He is a very good storyteller, and the reader's attention never lags.

The problem with the book is that it simply exudes repressed homosexuality. While urinating, Eddie is taken prisoner, penis in hand. He eventually receives a roommate, Vin Poirier, and—naturally enough, being in such close quarters and all—they eventually discuss gay sex. In the first sex scene of the book, they both masturbate while looking at each other. Kirkwood is careful, however, to point out that they do not touch each other, although Eddie and Vin both enjoy the experience and are consciously aware of what they are doing. At this point, the reader has hope that maybe they will get some kind of good relationship going.

The next sex scene is reminiscent of D. H. Lawrence. It takes place at night during a storm when

Vin, the more "male" of the two, rapes a not-entirely-unwilling Eddie. It is described as a totally animal experience, one without the intellect or emotions of the participants involved. Eddie tells us that this kind of animal sex happened more than once, and each time the impetus was an outside physical force (a storm, a bomb attack) and each time Vin was the aggressor. At this point, the reader has to wonder what kind of sexual relationship s/he is being presented with here. The participants never discuss what they did sexually, and it is clear that the reason for this is a tacit agreement not to do so. The sex act is described by the author and seen by his characters as something one does because one is horny and the only outlet available is the other human being present. It is not gay sex, it is sex.

Vin and Eddie develop a very close relationship. They love each other, Eddie tells us, although he makes clear that they are by no means gay, they simply have a deep feeling for one another. This is the problem of the entire book. Kirkwood has placed his two male characters in situations where a definite

homoerotic bond develops between them, and where they even have sex together, but he persists, at the same time, in attesting quite loudly to the definite heterosexuality of both his characters. He simply refuses to face the fact that he has created two gay characters.

This has been a problem with other works by James Kirkwood. In his first two novels, **There Must Be a Pony!** and **Good Times/Bad Times**, his main characters are adolescent males who develop very close relationships with another male. In **Good Times/Bad Times**, it is clear that more went on between Peter and Jordan, who were best friends, than just pillow-talk. Kirkwood has denied this repeatedly, most recently in an interview published in **Mandate**. It really doesn't matter if they had sex or not, their entire relationship is laced with gayness, a fact that has made the book popular with gay people but a fact which Kirkwood insists on ignoring because of his own closetedness.

I had thought that Kirkwood had come out in his last novel, **P.S. Your Cat Is Dead**, where a writer and a

(Continued on page 36)

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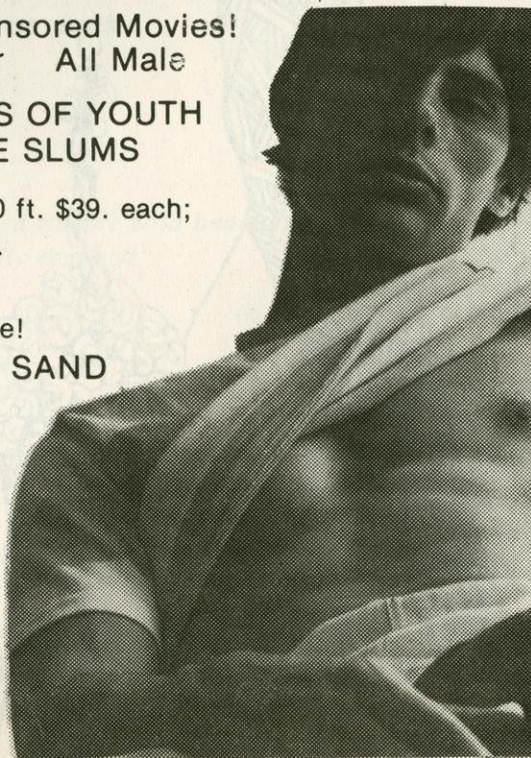
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FROM A TRANSVESTIC FEMALE TO THE GIRL WITHIN HER

*I am writing this
because I don't think you understand
Why I left you*

*I left you because
You could not laugh
I left you because you could never let anyone
see you, or penetrate you
I left you because you only loved yourself
and me
Maybe if there was some way to bring back
that boy you once had
I could be happy
But you and I both seem to know
Although we never spoke of it
There is no means by which he could ever return*

*You told me a few times, you whispered it
You told me how you had really loved him
How you just loved him so much
You never said so
But you told me how you met him
And then you got this far-away look.
the beach, the sea, the cold.
looking in windows all the time.
his eyes were like ice, you said
and his smile, well, his smile was like
amazement*

I noticed the tear streaming down your cheek

*That is why I am leaving you
I could never love you*

*So many times I watched you
So many times I thought as we walked on the cold beaches of the sea
I am leaving you because I have finally realized
Your smile is like amazement*

*I am going away now
Someday I might once again
see you
But I think, even if it were many years in the future
You still could not laugh
Without my seeing the hope in your eyes.*

By Sheila Sullivan



The Businessman, the Soldier, and the Pimp

by Daniel Curzon

Jack made the seven ball in the side pocket, but since he and Lawrence were only playing "slop," he didn't think much of his shot. "By the way," Jack said, twisting his cue into the blue chalk, "I meant to ask you earlier—have you come blood again?"

Lawrence opened his mouth in annoyance, like a fish that's been hooked, and looked around guiltily. He gave Jack a squint that told him to shut up, then tilted his head slightly toward the only other person in the Stag Bar except the Japanese bartender, a Marine captain with a skinhead haircut and two bottles of Schlitz in front of him, who was sitting at the bar across the room from the pool table.

"Oh, he can't hear!" Jack said, taking his next shot, almost knocking the eight ball into an end pocket. "I asked because I was worried about your health."

"My health's fine," Lawrence mumbled. He stretched to take his shot, resting the cue awkwardly on his thumb. He was still wearing his black topcoat, although it was unbuttoned. His bulkiness made him miss the easy shot Jack had left.

"It's a bad sign to come blood," Jack said.

"Well, it hasn't happened again!" Lawrence insisted, annoyed and nervous, turning his back so the drinking Marine couldn't see his face.

Jack was referring to the last time he and Lawrence had gone to bed together, in Lawrence's cold, tiny Japanese apartment. They'd both been frightened by the red blood in the semen on the sheet.

"Don't they say the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church?" Jack joked. "Or do they say it's the seed of the martyrs that's the blood of the Church?"

"The Church is rather a serious matter," Lawrence corrected, angry inside, blinking his gray, uneven eyes, touching his almost chafed facial skin.

"You take your religion seriously, don't you?" Jack smiled, mostly in exasperation.

"Some things are serious."

"Some things are ponderous too," Jack laughed, sitting on the edge of the pool table to make his shot. His white turtle neck sweater made him feel bulky and itchy in the overheated room. Still he thought the flamboyance would unnerve Lawrence. There was more than a grain of unkindness in Jack's attempts to bring Lawrence more out of his closet. "You know, if you weren't so good in bed, I'd probably never even speak to you." He missed the shot.

"My loss then," Lawrence replied testily.

"How can you be a Catholic when the Catholics have condemned your kind for hundreds of years?" Jack said "your kind" with heavy irony, putting up his hand to block his mouth from the Marine at the bar.

"The Church is re-thinking the whole question."

"I hope Mother Church doesn't forget to tell the souls burning in Hell for all eternity when She changes her mind." Jack sank the four ball and jumped up, looking short and big-chested and a bit smug, like a pugnacious snowman.

"It wasn't your turn," Lawrence said, taking the four ball out of the pocket and replacing it on the pool table.

"Sorry, Larry-san!" Jack grabbed the chalk and ground it against his cue tip. He called Lawrence "Larry" whenever he wanted to annoy him.

Lawrence stared at Jack with mild hostility, thinking that he and Jack really had very little in common except sex. If he could only meet other Americans, or even Westerners, instead of Japanese! Both he and Jack realized they'd been using each other for want of anybody else. Tokyo wasn't a gay paradise unless one happened to fancy the small, yellow Orientals, and Lawrence didn't. He removed his topcoat, and Jack applauded and bowed like a Japanese. Lawrence bowed back, wanting to argue, to tell him that he couldn't help it if he didn't feel at

ease in an Officers Club and that's why he hadn't removed his coat sooner.

"The colonel ought to be here in a few minutes," Jack said. "He's finished at five."

"I'm grateful you're introducing us," Lawrence said, noting Jack's attempt to soften the tension between them, wanting to make it a pleasant evening.

From the wall near the dart board, close to one of the gaudy pinball machines, Jack got the bridge used for difficult shots and sank his shot. "Only I must ask you this—can you pass the colonel's short-arm inspection?"

"What does that mean?" Lawrence said, bridling because he thought it might be a gay term that he didn't know, something that would give them away to the Marine.

"Weren't you ever in the service?"

"They also serve who also sit and sell stocks. No, I wasn't."

"Never mind. It has something to do with venereal disease."

Lawrence flinched again, bringing his hand up to his head, which was starting to go bald on the crown. "I don't think VD is as common in the business community as it is in the military."

"You sure you want to meet this lieutenant colonel? From things you've said, I get the impression you don't care much for the military."

"Well, let's face it. The military isn't on the same level, generally, as the business community."

"I suppose not..." Jack wanted to say more. But he contented himself with saying nothing. He certainly was no admirer of the mindless military, but he thought the "business community" that Lawrence was always standing up for was just as puritanical and grim and bleak. But he didn't have to deal with the "military" as such and he was grateful. He only had to teach their brats Social Studies, and to use their clubs occasionally, like this afternoon. "You want another drink?"

"Why not. Drinks are so cheap here."

"The military approves more of drunkenness than of perversion."

"Let me get this round," Lawrence demanded, pulling a thousand-yen bill out of his wallet. His clothes hung loosely on his one-hundred-fifty pound frame; he had lost weight in the year and a half that he'd been in Japan, mostly from grieving because he'd had to leave Los Angeles. "All I've got is Japanese money, I'm afraid."

"Let it be my treat."

"I'll take you to dinner before you leave then."

"A Japanese restaurant?"

"If you insist."

"What good is knowing Japanese as well as you do if you never use it?"

"I use it every day when I'm selling stocks," Lawrence disagreed.

Jack wove his way through the hardwood tables, past the shuffleboard, to the semi-circular bar and ordered two Mai-Tais, ignoring the Marine captain, marveling over Lawrence, who spoke excellent Japanese and yet hated the Japanese people—"those monkeyfied people," as he called them, like his inefficient secretary, whom he couldn't fire because she went with his office. He had actually studied the language very hard to master it—all for the "business community." Jack came back with the Mai Tais and handed a glass to Lawrence.

Two Navy men with manicured beads entered the Stag Bar, trimly dressed in their black uniforms, V-shaped gold stripes on their sleeves. Jack acknowledged them with a grin, and both smiled back. "Hi!" he called.

"Afternoon!" the better-looking one replied.

"Would you like to go to bed with me?" Jack said under his breath for Lawrence's benefit.

"Watch yourself!" Lawrence reprimanded, touching his

bald spot again.

"Don't be so nervous! Jesus!"

Lawrence waited until the two Navy officers reached the bar and sat near the Marine. "You'd better be a little more nervous, or you're going to get into real trouble."

"Nobody's going to bust my jaw, nobody's going to fire me for being gay. We're not going to be victims any longer."

"That's what you say now. But don't you realize that people still are fired! Don't you?"

"People give in too easily."

Lawrence straightened his necktie, which was already perfectly pulled up to his throat. "You can't go around asking guys if they want to go to bed!"

"I only *whispered* it, for God's sake!"

"I know, but they might have heard you."

"They could make a pass at some woman, and not get god-damned *arrested* if she said no!"

"You're asking for trouble." Lawrence sank the last ball, even though his form was terrible. "I think I beat you—with that last shot."

"Good! I want you to be happy."

"You want to add up the numbers to be sure?" Lawrence clicked a couple of the ivory balls together, gloating.

"No, I'll take your word for it." Jack wished the lieutenant colonel would come in and join them. The strain of the dwindling relationship with Lawrence was preying on his patience.

"The drink's very nice," Lawrence said, trying to be sociable.

"*Domo arigato*. The drink was made by a Japanese of course." He pointed at the middle-aged bartender, who was watching a monster program on the television set above the bottles of liquor.

"I'm not against all Japanese," Lawrence gritted. "I just don't want to go to bed with them."

"Don't you get tired of talking in sneaky whispers? Don't you ever want to brag about your tricks, the way that asshole Marine over there does?"

"I don't particularly want to be an asshole, or act like one."

Jack had started to rack the balls for the next game, but changed his mind. "That's not what I mean—even if that's what I said!"

"You don't seem to understand, Jack, that if there was the least breath of scandal about me, I'd lose my job. And I can't afford to lose my job."

"Don't you think we've got to stop putting our heads on the guillotine and letting them whack them off?"

"The business community expects people to act right. And there're far more of *them* than there are of . . . us."

"Act right?" Lawrence, you're in danger of becoming an old fogey."

Lawrence wiped his perspiring palms on his grey suit trousers. "I'm only thirty!"

"All right, then, you're in danger of becoming a young fogey!" Jack chuckled.

Lawrence took a calculated sip of his Mai Tai. "You'll probably get fired before the school year's over."

"Maybe it's a good thing I'm transferring. The DOD system might dislike my latest exploit." Jack scratched at his eyebrow humorously.

"I hate to ask what it is," But Lawrence was quite curious.

"Nothing much. I called the coach at Kanto Mura High and asked him for a date."

"You did what?"

"Well, that's not quite accurate." Jack acted tickled, a partial disguise of his fear of the possible repercussions. "I called the coach, whom I'd seen in a gay bar in Shinjuku about a year ago, and asked him if he remembered me."

Lawrence was intrigued and came closer. "So what

did he say?"

"He said he didn't remember." Jack shrugged.

"Was it clear what you were after?"

"Sure it was clear. I reminded him that he'd looked around four or five times—cruising me hot and horny—in the bar downtown. It appears that Coach Crotch has gotten married and is on the straight and narrow these days."

"What did he say?"

"He was flabbergasted, to judge from his silence."

"Did you give him your name?"

"And my phone number, if he should change his mind."

"Criminey, Jack, what'd you do *that* for?"

"It was open and direct. And unsuccessful, I might add."

Lawrence was intrigued and disdainful simultaneously. "If you ask me, that was a very dumb, dumb thing to do. You aren't that hard up!"

"I didn't do it because I was hard up."

"What if he turns you over to the principal?"

"Fortunately my principal's gay too."

"What if he reports you to somebody else? God, that was dumb!"

Jack smoothed the hot sleeves of his turtleneck sweater, feeling the discomforts of the room, the traces of cigarette smoke and the lumps of cooked air. Then he stared harshly at Lawrence. "I'm glad I'm not in love with you."

Lawrence hesitated, then ventured: "The feeling's mutual. It'd be awful to love somebody you didn't get along with."

"Or somebody that didn't respect himself."

Lawrence flushed. "I don't think respecting yourself means making a fool of yourself in public."

"No, respecting yourself means lowering your voice to zero or changing the topic every time some fucking straight gets within ten yards of you!"

"Grow up, Jack! You've got to live with the world as it is, not as you'd like it to be."

"If I could get a job in any place else except this dreary, god-besmirched military environment, I'd be gone in a second! I wouldn't even clear out my BOQ room."

"Well, that's why you'd better behave yourself then—you have nowhere else to go. You want to be out on your ass in the snow?"

"No—nor spending my life worrying about my paychecks and my investments and my Dow-Jones Industrial Average!"

"Life is compromise—" Lawrence began. But at that moment the lieutenant colonel came into the bar. He was the manager of the Officers Club, with whom Jack had gone to bed a few times the previous spring, but Jack and the officer had no more in common than he and Lawrence did. Jack thought it would be nice to introduce them to each other since he was transferring to Okinawa at the end of the term.

"Colonel Graven, this is Mr. Block."

"How're you doing? Call me Gravy, like everybody else does." He shook Lawrence's hand vigorously, with the accepted "manliness" common to military men.

"Call me Lawrence."

"Well, well, it's certainly a pleasure to meet you." Graven winked at Jack, meaning that he was delighted to have a possible sex partner. Like Lawrence, he didn't like the Japanese or blacks or even Europeans, though the latter would serve in a pinch. He had sort of a tired affair going with an airman first class, but mostly he masturbated alone, and complained to Jack about it whenever they met.

The lieutenant colonel was wearing his Air Force uniform, and looked like an ad for re-enlistment. At one time Jack had been impressed by military uniforms, especially when he'd first arrived in Japan, the year before, but now he realized costumes weren't enough to guarantee sexiness. There was something incongruous about Graven—in his butch uniform.

his hair silvered, very robust at forty-three, and yet with a decidedly faggy voice, high-pitched and given to emphases on every other word.

"Hey, you two want a drink?" Graven asked.

"Not really," Jack said, "I've had plenty."

"Well, conversely then, how about walking around the local merchant's displays? They're in our Fireside Room. I wanted to have it in the main dining room, but we're having a Buck and Doe Dinner Dance there tonight."

"What happens to you if you're not a buck or a doe?" Jack asked. "Sure, let's go!" He put his cue back into the rack.

The lieutenant colonel picked up a dart and threw it off-center at the target. "Used to be pretty good at this," he apologized for his bad aim. "Still pretty good at other things," he said with much insinuation to Lawrence.

In the doorway, which Jack reached first, he raised his arm to the Marine and the two Naval officers, who were laughing about something. "See you bucks sometime. Maybe for a foursome?" he said.

Lawrence half-pulled Jack out of the Stag Bar into the corridor that led to the vendors' bazaar. "Jack's going to get us all into hot water," he said to Graven. "He doesn't seem to realize they crucify martyrs!"

"Does he give you those lectures as well?" Graven took out his plastic bottle of spray mist and humidified his nasal passages. Jack hadn't thought of it before, but Graven and Lawrence were ideal for each other, the one with his dried-out sinuses, the other with his textured, moistureless skin. "We all want to talk freely," Graven said, spraying the inside of his nose again. "I get so . . . so sick of having to listen to all these military jocks tell me about their lays and asking me where they can find some pussy!" He wiggled his eyes, more effeminate than usual. But as soon as they got to the entrance to the Fireside Room, he had recovered his usual demeanor.

"Feast your eyes!" Graven chuckled, pointing at the rows of tables set up to display Japanese goods: piles of corduroy jackets and pants, kimonos, bronze figurines, clocks, Seiko watches, plastic toys, some multi-colored glassware. "Also feast your wallets." He leaned over confidentially. "Don't let it out, but I get a ten percent cut of everything they sell."

"Ten percent?" Jack asked, incredulous.

"Yeah, for letting them sell their stuff in the Club."

Jack bit his tongue, wanting to say something about kickbacks, but he restrained himself.

Graven picked up a yukata. "I wear one of these all the time in my room. Did you ever own one?" he asked Lawrence.

"Afraid I haven't."

"Well, you'll have to try mine," Graven said, smirking. Most of his jokes, Jack had discovered, were *double entendres*.

"If you don't watch yourself, you might wear your yukata in the Club one day, and the military would begin to suspect!" Jack teased, trying not to be dour.

Graven wagged a finger. "Listen, nobody's going to suspect anything about me. I had three women proposition me last night at the Wing Commander's Sayonara Party. And with only twenty-two months to go before I retire from this cotton-picking outfit, I'm not about to spoil everything by making my inclinations obvious."

"Why should you have to worry about being given a dishonorable discharge in the first place? For sex?" Jack said.

"Hey, hey!" Graven warned. His mouth puckered and twitched with fright. One of the male Japanese vendors looked over at them and bowed, acknowledging the Club manager. "This is no place to go into one of your sermons."

"It's not preaching to talk about the subject."

"People might get the right idea!" Graven winked at Lawrence. "Can't have that. Twenty-two months, and then I'm out."

"And of course, once you're out of the Air Force, you'll work for the destruction of homophobia—is that it?"

"Listen, if you want to destroy yourself, go ahead. Just don't drag the rest of us down with you, that's all!" Graven had stopped being jovial.

"It's a double standard—" Jack began.

"Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah!" Graven said. "Hello, Papa-san!" He waved at the Japanese vendor, who bent even lower.

Jack went on. "Sex isn't bad for people. It's good for them. Perverts are people!" He felt slightly preposterous, but the other two exasperated him.

"That'll make a lovely slogan on some sign," Lawrence patronized him. "But you've still got to face the fact that the majority of the executive class and so on don't understand. And we live in their world."

"Minorities can also change opinions—in fact, it's always minorities who change opinions," Jack argued back.

"Would you like to buy a Japanese doll?" Graven asked, lifting a white-faced Kabuki doll up to his own head.

"You two!" Jack shook his head. "The industrial-military complex, if I ever saw it."

"Don't knock it, baby!" Graven said. "It pays the bills."

"I don't feel like a screaming radical until I'm with you two," Jack said, trying to get back into the spirit of their get-together; he knew that he couldn't be militant and retain his friends, especially makeshift ones like Lawrence and Graven.

"Well, I'm against police entrapment—there shouldn't be any of that shit," Lawrence agreed.

"You're perfectly correct!" Graven added.

"I bet you're also against concentration camps for Jews and polio for Tiny Tim," Jack said.

"What?"

"Laws don't change by themselves."

"I've got only twenty-two months to go in this cardboard organization, and then I'm out," Graven told them again. "You don't have any right to ask me to sacrifice my retirement or my life for a bunch of queers."

Jack hung his head. "My God, the self-contempt."

"Besides, it's not that bad!" Graven protested. "We do all right."

"And if we had two ounces of courage between us, things would be a lot better."

"You can't have everything," Lawrence said.

Jack suddenly decided that he'd rather eat alone, even in his single room, even though all he had was asparagus soup and tangerines. "We're scared fairies."

Both Graven and Lawrence frowned. "I've got a citation for combat duty," Graven bragged. "So don't tell me."

"Bigoted, frightened, yellow, banal, twerpy little fairies," Jack let each word drop out of his mouth precisely.

They hated him; he could see the hatred lodge behind their eyes like ammunition.

"Oh yes, you're so brave, such a big man. Big man!" Graven snorted, his effeminate voice choked in his throat.

"Why don't you go bother somebody else! Go preach on a streetcorner somewhere," Lawrence snapped, his eyes darting cautiously around as one of the officers' wives moved closer to them in another aisle.

"Excuse me," Jack said, "I've finished my pimping job. Merry Christmas!" He turned and walked out of the bazaar without looking back.

"What a . . . what a creep!" Graven said.

"It's people like him who do harm to the cause. Really they do!" Lawrence added.

"Shall we retire to my BOQ?" Graven asked, grinning devilishly. "I've got some Scotch and some etchings you might like."

"Why, I don't mind if I do, Colonel," Lawrence snickered. "Call me Gravy, remember? Everybody does."

HERE&THERE

Madison, WI—A church which one year ago denied a gay center director a licence to preach, has now declared there should be a gay ministry within the church. A task force of the University United Methodist Church denies the sinfulness of gay behavior and the gay condition in and of itself; it holds that there is sin "only in the failure to live according to agape (Christ-like love). It further called for full participation of gays in the church, reform of the church's sex education program, and changes in attitudes of persons within the mental health field.

—*Advocate*

Philadelphia, PA—The blind and physically-handicapped now have an inroad to gay-liberation materials through recordings from the Library for the Blind, and perhaps later the Library of Congress. First-off to be recorded were **Lesbian/Woman; Society & the Healthy Homosexual;** and **The Gay Mystique.**

—*Lesbian Connection*

Santa Monica, CA—A female impersonator became Homecoming Queen at the 5,000-student College here. "Goldie Glitters" won hands down over two 19-year-old sorority-members. In a 90-second ceremony, the 29-year-old gay man accepted a trophy—and a kiss—from activist Morris Kight, while police made several firearms arrests in the stands.

In unrelated developments, a Lesbian activist was crowned Queen at New Mexico University at Albuquerque. P. M. Duffy-Ingrassia, active in the woman's movement and the Student Senate, defeated 8 other candidates—seven of them sorority members. Governor Jerry Apodaca reneged at the last minute on his promise to attend the ceremony. In 1970, a heterosexual male was elected Queen there.

—*Newsweek*

Milwaukee, WI—"In 1939, the Army considered organizing a unit of women to be hostesses, messengers, cooks, and waitresses. In 1975, women are packing parachutes, repairing aircraft, and maintaining missiles. The U. S. Coast Guard will soon accept its first woman."

—*Amazon*

Philadelphia, PA—A bill that would bar gay people from being employed as teachers, policemen, prison guards, and mental health workers was vetoed by Gov. Milton Shapp. But the bill had passed the Senate 47-0 and the House 182-10. This was due in part to conservative legislators' reactions to the governor's affirmative action plan for gays. "This bill," he said in his veto message, "is the worst piece of legislation I have seen in my five years as governor of this state." He called the bill "poorly drafted," "vague," "vindictive," and also "repressive," adding that "it goes against everything I have worked for all my life." Attached to the veto was a Justice Department opinion adjudging that the measure was unconstitutional. Gay spokespersons applauded Shapp's apparent decision to stake his office on the question of gay rights, but most also said it was unlikely that enough legislators would change their minds to prevent an upcoming override of the veto, which would occur with a two-thirds margin.

—*Newsweek*

Rome, Italy—World famous film director Pier Paolo Pasolini was murdered near Rome on November 2. A seventeen year old male prostitute has confessed to the crime stating that Pasolini made homosexual advances which the boy fought off.

Pasolini had only recently completed a film based on De Sade's **The 120 Days of Sodom.**

—*Gay News*

Chicago, IL—The only open gay among ministers of the United Presbyterian Church has received that church's first nod of official status. Rev. David Sindt, head of the church's Gay Caucus, was approved by the Chicago Presbytery 126 to 81 to work in that area. In June, Minnesota's Twin Cities Presbytery voted unanimously to allow Sindt to conduct church labors with the gay caucus outside of Minnesota.

This differs from the church's annual General Assembly, which decided not to recognize the Gay Caucus, and which in 1973 decided to "disapprove" a call to Sindt from a Lincoln Park church as an unpaid assistant minister to the gay community. The committee then contended that a gay preacher could not be "objective" in ministering to gays.

—*Pittsburgh Gay News*

San Francisco, Ca.—**Join Hands**, a gay male prisoner support group will soon begin publication of a gay prisoners newsletter which will also be called **Join Hands**. The newsletter will consist primarily of letters, articles, poetry, and stories written by gay prisoners.

It will be available free to prisoners and outsiders will be charged \$1 per issue or \$4 per year (about six issues). Write: **Join Hands**, PO Box 42242, San Francisco, A., 94142.

—*Press Release*

London, England—Michael Butler and Anthony Grey, trustees of the world famous Albany Trust, England's pioneer gay counseling service, recently wrote a letter to London's **Gay News** regarding sex between counselors and clients.

They said ". . .there should be only one person—the client—on the counseling couch. Are not those who "counsel" or "befriend" so as to gratify their own personal needs really clients in disguise?"

Gay News—



THE GAY GOURMET

"KATES RIGNANTI"—GREEK CHICKEN

I was told flatly, in New Jersey once, that "This is the best chicken recipe." Well now of course there is no "best"—and yet, friends, little did I know—they were, somehow, right. You go see for yourself now.

Pre-heat oven to 325. Cut up a 3-legged or 3-breasted FRYER into portions. Mix together 1/3 cup OLIVE OIL; 1/3 cup fresh LEMON JUICE; 1 teaspoon SALT. Rub the above over (*AND under the skin of*) the bird. Plop into flat open pan, shove in oven to brown 5–8 mins. while you....

.....meanwhile simmer together the following in a saucepan: 1/8 pound (1/2 stick) fresh BUTTER; 2 tablespoons (*or more!*) crumbled OREGANO; 2 cups TOMATOES (canned or fresh; but, drained & all smashed up).

Then deposit the above evenly on top of the chicken and bake all, uncovered, at 300–350 degrees—s-l-o-w-l-y—about an hour or until done, basting or not. Serve with RICE and PEAS—or anything else for that matter.

Certain dishes seem to import and impart their home-climates to us. And indeed this one's redolent of the sunny Mediterranean, leagues from Hackensack—as if partaken of in a little Aegean port-town amid olive trees and with rough red wine, on the sun-splashed stone terrace of a little cafe overlooking the promenade of handsome barmaids, of sailors in their blue-and-white uniforms. . . . But to return home from a fantasy-trip, note that certain dishes are also "even better re-heated the next day" and that this is the case here too. So there.

HERE&THERE

Chicago, Il.—A new group for gay Jews has been formed in Chicago. Anyone interested in attending the meetings should telephone Tsvi Goodman at 541-0901 any evening. The group is open, of course, to both women and men.

—*Chicago Gay Crusader*

Los Angeles, Ca.—The University of Southern California will be offering a course this spring on the "Civil Liberties of Gay Persons." The course will be taught by Professor Donald C. Knutson. Approval of the course followed the University's official recognition of the Gay Students Union at USC.

—*The Advocate*

Bavaria, Germany—The U.S. Army had another officer who refuses to take his punishment lying down.

Parachutist Lieutenant Hathaway, stationed at the American Bad Toelz base in Bavaria, was caught in the act with a corporal and faced a military tribunal which could have sentenced him to five year's hard labor and a dishonorable discharge.

When the tribunal opened its hearing, the case was immediately adjourned. Hathaway's lawyers intend taking the case to Washington if necessary.

—*London's Gay News*

Amsterdam, Holland—Last year the Dutch Minister of Defense announced that a discriminatory article against homosexuals in the military has been deleted from Dutch military selection regulations. Now the ministry is being urged to foster a social climate in the armed forces where a homosexual can live openly and honestly. Positive information on homosexuality is currently being disseminated to both conscripts and recruits. COC, the Dutch Society for the Integration of Homosexuality, was responsible for both these recent policy changes.

One Letter

Chicago, Il.—Gender Services of Chicago, a social service agency for the "transvestite, transsexual, female impersonator and the drag queen community," has been reactivated.

Meetings of the group, which is directed by Ron Coleman and John Prowett are held at Coleman's home 546 W. Brompton Place on Wednesdays at 7 PM.

The group is involved in resource referrals to doctors, lawyers, paraprofessional counseling and plans call for job and housing placement as well as liaison with governmental and private agencies in behalf of transvestites and transsexuals. More information can be obtained at the following numbers in Chicago: 281-8337 or 549-9392.

—*Chicago Gay Crusader*

Quemado, New Mexico—Quemado High School's football program has been suspended for one year. The suspension will remain until 1977, the New Mexico Activities Association ruled.

Problems began when coach Dick Moore sent Sally Guttierrez in for a single play in a September game. The Association objected; Sally won the right to play in court and the Association has now ruled that she played before the ruling and was, therefore, in violation of the rules of the league at that time.

—*The Bugle American*

Chicago, Il.—Barbara Love, member of the Board of Directors of National Gay Task Force, in addressing this year's American Psychological Association convention seminar on homosexuality said that she feels lesbians have a psychological advantage in business over heterosexual women "because of a feeling of equality with men, not only because they do not seek masculine approval but because they have aspired to healthy personality characteristics" which the conventional confining "feminine" role does not allow.

—*NGTF Newsletter (It's Time)*

Ellicott City, Md.—The Howard County Council has passed a civil rights bill that protects gay people. The ordinance, which forbids discrimination based on race, creed, religion, personal appearance, sexual orientation and a host of other reasons was recently enacted. The county's Human Rights Commission will oversee the application of the law.

—*Gay Community News*

Cambridge, Mass.—The American Friends Service Committee, the social arm of the Society of Friends (Quakers) and a highly respected influential peace and civil rights organization, has begun to cope with the issue of gayness. Boston AFSC leaders Jan Beck and Richard Valdez stated that they "would like to get gays added to the organization's Positive Action Statement on Third World People. 'We'd like to 'monitor' gay people applying for positions here. And we'd like to get the Friends Committee on National legislation to support the Abzug bill."

Gay Community News

Boston, Mass.—Debbie Watson and Barbara Randolph, discharged in September from the Women's Army Corps because they are gay (See GPU NEWS July and October 1975) have filed complaints in the Massachusetts Federal District Court.

Their Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts attorney Jerry Cohen said, "The harassment of lesbian women is clearly violative of the rights of privacy and equal protection.

—*Press Release*

Washington, D.C.—The Big Brothers organization in the Washington area has adopted a policy that compels all prospective "big brothers" plus all staff to sign a statement that they "are not and never have been homosexuals." The D.C. Human Rights Commission will investigate the situation.

—*Gay Community News*

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(This ad prepared and donated by GPU NEWS)

HERE&THERE

Los Angeles, CA—A course on the "Civil Liberties of Gay Persons" will be offered at the Univ. of S. Calif.'s Law School in Spring 1976. The school has just officially recognized the Gay Students Union there.

—*Advocate*

London—"Old, ill, housebound homosexuals do need the caring hand and presence of others of their own kind." This is the view of the August Trust, a group of gays seeking to establish properties to be "havens for elderly homosexuals" here and eventually over all of England.

—*Gay Community News*

Fort Valley, GA—Manuscripts are sought for special Lesbian and Black issues of **Integrity: Gay Episcopal Forum**. Submit to Ms. Ellen Barrett, 6527 Morris St., El Cerrito, CA 94530.

—*Pittsburgh Gay News*

Kalamazoo, MI—Sydney J. Harris, the syndicated columnist, said, "Parents who are inordinately proud of having a young son who is 'all boy' ought to be made aware that any human being who is 'all boy' or 'all girl' is more of a monster than a human being, and that a small admixture of the opposite sex is essential for realizing our humanhood."

—*Lambda Newsletter*

Milwaukee, WI—Women have for the first time just now entered these activities or organizations: street patrolperson in Milwaukee; road trooper with the Wisconsin State Patrol; member of a National Collegiate Athletic Association men's varsity basketball team; and being eligible for Rhodes Scholarships for study at Oxford Univ., England.

—*Amazon*

San Francisco, CA—Grim is the situation of gays in Chile today, according to reports. Since the 1973 overthrow of Allende, the military junta there now pegs gays among the groups targeted for oppression. According to Michael Novich (in the S. F. Sentinel), gay life in the new regime "is brutally repressed. . . many Gays are beaten or simply disappear during the armor-enforced curfews." This moved Argentina's "Homosexual Liberation Front" to issue a call for support, which in turn sparked 350 gay women and men in San Francisco to gather in a festival of "Gay Solidarity with the Chilean Resistance."

—*Gay Community News*

Philadelphia, PA—Some 50 men from the National Gay Task Force baby-sat for some 75 children aged 2 months to 14 years during the recent N.O.W. convention here. President Karen DeCrow hailed the men for their child-care efforts.

—*Gay Community News*

Boston, MA—Sixteen legislators telegraphed Pres. Ford urging "the immediate necessity of changing provisions of the U.S. Military Code" that bar gay people from service. They argued sexual preferences had no bearing on military abilities. But an official spokesman replied that "the homosexual person is considered unacceptable for military services" because "the Department of the Army has an obligation to provide young men and women in the army with the most wholesome and healthful environment possible."

—*Pittsburgh Gay News*

Milwaukee, WI—Write your State Senators re Bill S-498, which would eliminate factors such as mental health treatment and sexual preference as automatic barriers to employment. It's been sent back to committee for more study.

—*Amazon*



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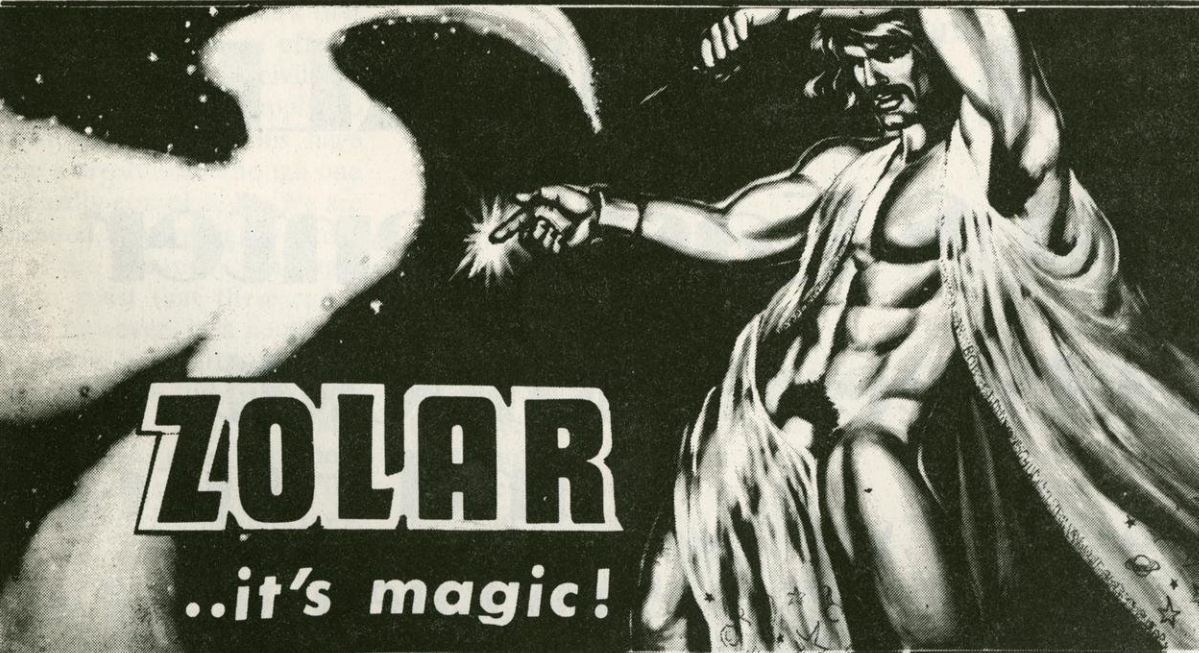
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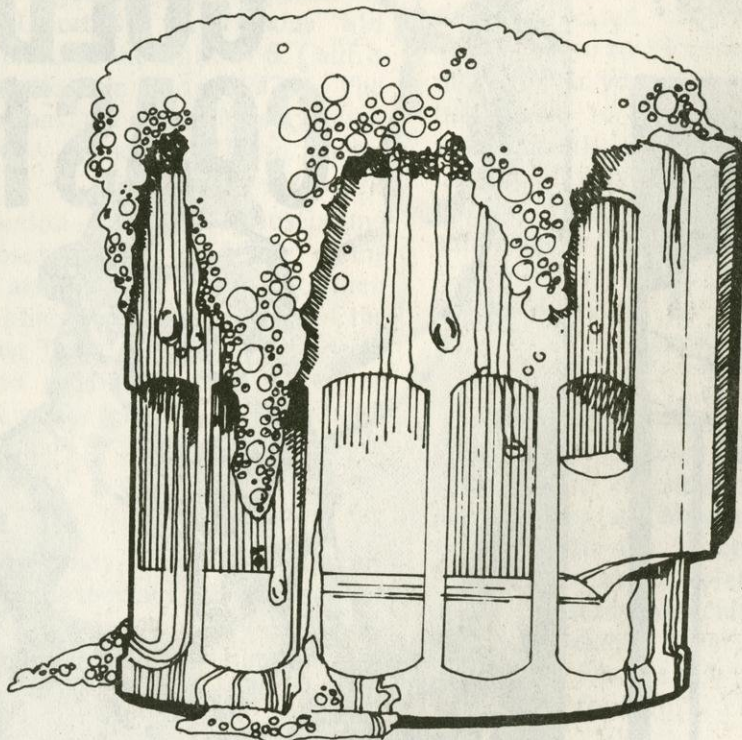
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REVIEW *(from page 13)*

everyone else), though precedent-setting court cases are cited liberally. Rather, the question-answer format has been adopted, and advice is couched in the second person. The cumulative effect of this is that the chapters reach a personal level of counsel, and the question format makes the book an ideal occasional reference as well—one can look up a particular question in a chapter without covering the entire chapter in a single reading, if needs be.

The chapter on the gay family should be **required** reading for any gay couple considering issues of joint tenancy. Covered in this insightful chapter are gay marriages, financial benefits and disabilities, property ownership (including community property and problems concerning estates and wills), government relations (taxes, food stamps, welfare), child custody and visitation rights, adoption and foster care situations, and the nature of joint debts.

It is a commonplace remark that through the past decade of efforts by gay organizations and civil libertarians, the laws which apply to the activities of gay persons have undergone a revolution (though one which is hardly completed). We are now conceded to have rights hardly dreamt of ten or twenty years ago. In order to insist that these rights be upheld, however, it is necessary for each of us to confront a still-hostile society with full knowledge of what they are. Here, and really for the first time, is a comprehensive guide to these rights, under the Constitution, the various state laws, and as interpreted by recent court decisions.

Two necessary qualifications should be entered, neither of which detracts from the monumental value of this book. This volume is a tool; and, like any tool, it is subject to misuse. It is in no way intended to supplant services of a qualified attorney in those many ar-

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eas where the law impinges concretely and directly upon the rights of the individual gay person (or couple). A full reading of the book before seeing an attorney may well save time and effort, and enable one to better assist his/her attorney to assist him/her. Further, no attorney is a specialist in every facet of the law, and no competent attorney is afraid of doing a little homework; so the authors even suggest that, in some cases, lending the volume to an attorney would not be out of order. The book, however, is intended in those cases to help you to help the attorney, never as a substitute for his/her services. The second qualification is that the law is a constantly changing fabric.

New cases will arise, new judicial precedents will be established, and doubtless new laws will be passed. Rights, in short, are a changing thing, and no less so than interpretations of them by courts and administrative officials; and, even for the gay aware of these rights, there is of course no assurance that they will be respected.

As noted, none of the above caveats are intended to diminish the importance and value of this book, which deserves to be owned by every American gay and by every person concerned with problems of gay rights. If you don't already own it, buy it now; and, having read it, keep it readily accessible for future reference.



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REVIEW (from page 19)

gay burglar end up running off to Mexico together. After reading that book, which affirms gay sexuality, I expected his next work to go even further in this direction. That is why **Some Kind of Hero** is a disappointing book; it is a step back into the closet for James Kirkwood.

The homosexuality which he represses can be seen seeping out not only in the sex scenes between Vin and Eddie but also in Kirkwood's implied critique of the American capitalist society. Eddie's biggest problem, as he sees it, is a lack of money. He needs money to get his mother well and to give himself time to deal with his situation. He has returned to a society filled with people who have no time for him and who can't deal with him. The only way he sees of dealing with this society is to attack it on its own terms—those of money. He robs a womens' dress shop and gets an erection while counting the money. He follows a Wall Street messenger

into a men's room, makes him strip, and robs him. While selling the stolen securities, his images are those of an adolescent circle-jerk. (I'll show you mine if you'll show me yours.) Kirkwood quite skillfully intertwines his themes of money and sex in American society to critique that society, but here again the sexuality he is talking about is a repressed one. If he would let it surface and deal with it on a conscious level instead of letting it slip out to the reader through actions of which the character is not aware, both the book and the author would be better off.

The novel does have many good points. The hero has a very positive approach to life, one from which we could all benefit. Eddie's philosophy of life is: even though life is rough, it's great to be alive. You have to take the good with the bad; but the good far outweighs the bad. Kirkwood is experienced in handling the theme of the individual versus society, and here he adds a

positive twist. His hero has everything dumped on him to the point where it seems he'll never be able to get out from under it all, but he does in the end triumph over society. He deals with it on the monetary terms it understands best, and he wins. In this respect, **Some Kind of Hero** is a well-written book which creatively deals with the problems of an individual out of synch with society. The problem with the book, and it is one which colors to a great extent any reading of it, is that Kirkwood denies his own gay feelings. Both the novel and, more importantly, its author, would benefit from larger doses of a more enlightened gay consciousness.

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For more information call 271-5273.

Milwaukee Health Department Social Hygiene Clinic

841 N. Broadway, Room 110
Phone: 278-3631

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Silver Star Motorcycle Club

Business meetings every 2nd Sunday of the month. Affiliated with W.B.C. Write PO Box 92281 Milwaukee, Wi 53202. Club night every 2nd Friday at The Wreck Room.

UWM Gay Community

Meetings Wednesdays at 7:30 PM in Union E260, Write c/o Student Union, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Milw. 53211.

WISCONSIN

Fox Valley Gay Alliance

Meets alternate Tuesday evenings in member's homes. Write for specific info and directions to PO Box 332, Menasha, Wi 54942.

Lesbian Switchboard

306 N. Brooks (UYMCA)
Madison, Wi 53715
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Madison Gay Center

1001 University Avenue
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Renaissance of Madison Inc.

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CHICAGO

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Daughters of Bilitis

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Dignity/Chicago

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Gay News and Events Line

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Happy Birthday J.C. Signed —Mary M.

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