



pointblank times

a lesbian/feminist publication houston, texas
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50¢



editorial:

On March 15, 1978, two representatives of Coors Beer were guests on a gay radio program hosted by Ray Hill. They were invited to celebrate and discuss the proposed *ending* of the Coors boycott.

The Gay Political Caucus endorsement of ending the boycott on Coors is not in keeping with my personal philosophy, therefore I will continue to honor the Coors boycott in Houston and other places.

We have tried to show the homophobic masses that we are everywhere, in large numbers, in hopes that we can gain rights which should be ours without question as citizens of this country.

The homophobic community has shown time and time again that they do not appreciate or care about human rights, but one area that does receive uninterrupted attention is economic power. We are a capitalistic country, and as the saying goes: "*Money talks!*"

In Houston as in other cities, the sale of Coors beer dropped drastically. So much so, that the Coors company not only increased advertising but sent out top executives on a campaign trail.

With votes in Eugene, Oregon and Wichita, Kansas scheduled and the recent defeat in St. Paul, Minnesota and Anita Bryant still on the warpath, we must not fall prey to lip service but continue to use our most effective means of showing strength (even if you're in the closet) - economic boycott.

I still do not drink Florida orange juice as a memoriam to the Dade County defeat nor will I drink Coors beer and I encourage all lesbians and gay men in Houston to continue to honor the Coors boycott!

-*Claire Noonan*

We publish *Pointblank Times* as often as possible. Under optimum conditions that is six times a year. We exist as a communications vehicle for lesbians and feminists, especially in Houston and Texas.

Send us your stuff, including letters, features, reviews, poetry, graphics, photographs, and listings for the calendar or Hot Flashes. Please tell us how you want your name to appear, and whether you want your material returned to you.

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editorial:

In May of 1976, the lesbian community of Houston had an opportunity to experience its first women's cultural event. This event, sponsored by the *Pointblank Times* collective, was a solo performance by Meg Christian. The audience of about 250 people found the performance a welcomed introduction to women's music, and delighted in the personal rapport that Meg created with them.

A complication that most people were not fully aware of came before and during the concert when the sponsors were forced to comply with Olivia politics. In this particular situation, a compromise was attempted to smooth over the separatist politics of which Olivia made such an issue. Instead of refusing to allow men to attend the concert, the few men that did attend (who were known supporters of lesbian and feminist issues) were asked to sit at the back of the room.

As it turned out, the issue was not that of separatism, but of Olivia forcing its politics on a small, unprepared community. Consequently, the *PBT* collective was the object of much criticism and anger from many lesbians and feminists. Because of this hostility, along with the threat of a lawsuit, and much conflict within the collective, the paper folded for six months.

In May of 1978, Meg Christian and Teresa Trull will be appearing in Houston for another women's concert. We hope that the politics of this community will be honored and that the concert will reflect "the commonality of women's struggles everywhere", taking into consideration regional and cultural differences.

-Claire and Sherry

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LETTERS

Dear Pointblank Times,

This is a goodbye letter to the Houston lesbian community. I have lived in Houston for five years; I began thinking of myself as a lesbian 2½ years ago.

When I came out the only lesbian community I knew of centered around the bars and sports activities; the word "feminist" was used mainly to distinguish those who were not into "role playing" from those who were. It was hard for me to relate that "feminism" to my previous impressions of upper middle class housewives doing C-R, but that was all right because I'd always been deliberately apolitical, an advocate of individualism over collective process, a seeker of personal solutions to what I now see as universal problems. I saw myself as one of the most free people I knew, and took that as evidence that individualism was the best way to freedom. Somehow I took the pain and frustration that led me to my own particular life.

I am currently attempting to come out politically. Sometime in the last year it began to dawn on me that my problems were not unique, that my individual solutions to them were not enough, and that my apathy about the state of our society was indeed contributing to the unsatisfactory state of our society. It continues to be a real struggle to raise my own political consciousness. I realized all along that thinking only about gay and women's issues is not enough, but it's hard to figure out what is enough. I'm defining my orientation as socialist/feminist (or: Overturn Capitalism and the Patriarchy). In the same way that I once needed to find other lesbians to define my identify as a lesbian, I now need to find other political lesbians.

My daughter Krista and I left Houston February 7th in search of a smaller town with a more political dyke community; we are now (end of March) in the process of settling into Fayetteville, Arkansas. I feel a lot of attachment to Houston, and am real interested in what's happening there with Lesberadas and the new National Lesbian Feminist Organization. I'm especially grateful for the support the lesbian community has shown me as a lesbian mother, and Kris as a (potentially) lesbian child. So, a belated good-bye, Houston.

In sisterhood,

Susan Woerner
P.O. Box 2894
Fayetteville, AR 72701

Dear Sisters of Pointblank Times,

I've most certainly enjoyed reading the last issue dealing with IWY. The photos on the cover have a real special meaning having been there.

Enclosed is a subscription-please include me on your regular mailings.

In Sisterhood,
Barbara

Dear *Pointblank Times*,

Your January-February 1978 issue contains an editorial and an address to the gay men of Houston. Each was critical of some image of Ray Hill as a kind of surrogate of gay men in general. I would appreciate an opportunity to reply.

I hope no one interprets my reply as an attempt to deny the existence of my own sexism or the existence of sexism among gay men in Houston. Constructive criticism is both welcome and encouraged in the hope that my sexism, once identified, may be worked on. I do not claim to be rid of all vestiges of sexism. I claim only that I try hard to overcome the sexism that I inherited from the cultural environment we all share. I am no stranger to criticism. Over the years I have received more criticism than support. I try to remain sensitive to criticism toward the goal of self-improvement. I do, however, view some of the approaches taken by each of the writers as being less than fair.

Kathy Fire makes the accusation that I personally hold "a lot of power in the gay community." My position in the community is not what Ms. Fire would have your readers believe. I do not view my position as one of "power." I do not have better access to a large number of gay men and lesbians than other persons active in the gay movement in Houston. I teach gay studies classes at the University of Houston Sundry School. This vehicle is available to anyone who wishes to structure class material and go to the University of Houston and teach a course. To date no one else has utilized Sundry School. I also produce a weekly radio show, but in spite of many efforts to include lesbians in the Wilde 'n' Stein Collective, not one has been enduringly successful. The last two women active in the program were criticized by the *Pointblank Times* Collective and others for appearing on the program without prior consent from the "lesbian activists." Repeated requests on the air and off have not produced any women's voices volunteering for work on the program. The other means of access to gay men and lesbians I utilize are natural results of my being a bar-going, meeting-attending gay man actively seeking communication within the community. My actively seeking and developing ongoing political relationships with public officials and the general media can also be done by anyone else willing to invest the time and effort to seek and develop the same channels of communication.

So the "power" I am supposed to hold is not some sinister force of machiavelian nature, but merely accessibility resulting from hard work and consistent effort. Anyone else can do the same thing. I have never been accused of interfering with anyone else wishing to develop the same ties that I have nurtured. I am not the power seeker and power holder inferred in your pages.

I am perhaps more sensitive to being misquoted in your staff editorial than to Ms. Fire's criticism. I did not say or imply that talking to Ray Hill assured any politician the gay vote. I said that the GPC endorsement is one endorsement that is still unified. In the mayor's race in 1977, Ray Hill, as a representative of the screening committee of the Gay Political Caucus, was the one person the candidates had to talk to in order to try and get the endorsement of the gay community, not Ray Hill in any other capacity. If the screening committee had selected anyone else to screen that race, then that person would have been the only person the candidates

continued on page 6

continued from page 5

needed to talk to. I would suggest that your staff familiarize themselves with GPC endorsement procedures to avoid similar mistaken impressions in the future.

The Gay Political Caucus is an organization with a broad constituency within the community of gay men and lesbians. The voting membership is traditionally less than 200 persons. I agree that participation by women is less than most of us would like, but I have found no reason why the organization could be considered closed to women to participate to optimize concern for feminist issued.

Respectfully yours,

Ray Hill

Dear Mr. Hill,

We are glad that you replied to the address and editorial. At least this opens up a line of communication. Our reaction to your letter is such that if you are aware of some of your personal biases such as sexism and are also aware of the lack of involvement by lesbian/feminists, then either you are part of the solution or part of the problem.

The issue of lesbian/feminist involvement in the gay movement is a very long and involved one. We will suffice it by noting that priorities is the key word. Lesbian/feminists and gay men have needed to resolve this question for a long time. Especially here in Houston. Hopefully, the renewed interest for interaction by both groups will bring some positive results.

We feel that it is the responsibility of the men in the community who have raised their own consciousness and are aware that there is a problem, to address it but to also carry it a step further and help to alleviate the situation. Again, we ask, are you part of the solution or part of the problem?

-The PBT staff

happy anniversary PBT

In March of this year, *Pointblank Times* celebrated its third year in existence. As many other lesbian/feminist publications we have had our share of staff and format changes. We feel that each crisis we have survived has been a stepping stone in our growth.

We are especially grateful for the submissions and feedback. We are continuing to add new features in the hopes that we can generate more interest. In the future we want to continue with Hot Flashes, Etc, Classifieds, Letters, Reviews, Last Laugh (new this issue) etc., and add some others such as PBT Flashback (oldies but Goodies) and Out and About (Coming Out stories).

As always, we need your input!

THE 'NLFO' IS FOUNDED

Los Angeles, March 17-19: the Founding Convention of the National Lesbian Feminist Organization. Lesbians from all reaches of the country gathered that weekend to form an organization committed to dealing, from a feminist platform, with the oppression of lesbians in all of its manifestations. These manifestations were seen as including, but not being limited to, discrimination based on sexual preference, sex, race, class, age, and physical disability. The organization also committed itself to education and the development of lesbian culture.

One of the more significant affirmative votes, from the South's viewpoint, was a motion amending the convention rules to allot an equal number of votes to each of the five regions present. Another important resolution opened membership to all lesbians and women identified women, reflecting consideration for lesbians who must remain closeted.

Race and class were strongly addressed in a resolution which calls for 50% representation by women of color and a balance of class backgrounds on state and national level planning and decision-making committees.

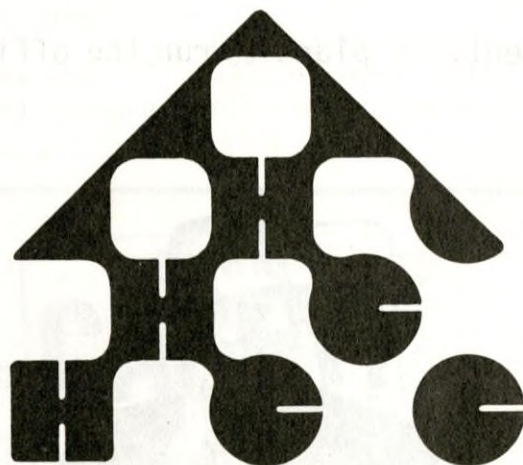
Delegates to the meeting voted to hold a national ratifying convention of the organization in Spring, 1979 in St. Paul-Minneapolis. State conventions of all NLFO members are to be held in the interim to encourage stronger grassroots participation and to provide a forum for discussion of issues. Delegates to the national conference will be elected at the state conferences on the basis of one delegate for each ten qualified participants.

Delegates to the founding conference and all other interested women who meet the membership requirements may also form local groups. Membership dues are determined on a sliding scale basis of \$1.00 per \$1,000 of gross yearly income and can be sent to the interim headquarters in Houston, Texas.

A 12-member interim steering committee was elected to serve between the founding and the ratifying conventions. The members are of various colors and class background and are located in all regions of the country.

The organization will publish a bimonthly newsletter with the first issue scheduled for April 30th. All local/state/regional news of national interest will be included. Financial donations are also encouraged.

For more information about the organization or newsletter contributions write to: NLFO, P.O. Box 14643, Houston, Texas 77021.



house' ov.
kol' man

n. 1. A woman-owned business specializing in quality graphics and printing. 2. A large red brick house in the heart of Montrose. – *adj.* Having many and varied features. – *v.* Producing design, illustration, camera work, printing and bindery. – *adv.* 1. To increase the client's business manifold. 2. To satisfy the client.

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ELECT!

EARL FARMER

YOUR FULL TIME COUNTY TREASURER

Earl Farmer, a Democrat, and formerly an administrative assistant with the county, has entered the race for the office of Harris County Treasurer. Earl has a solid background in money management from his experience in banking, city financing, and county government. He plans to run the office with honesty, dignity, and integrity.



Earl Farmer takes pride in the fact that he respects people as individuals, and judges them on ability alone, not sex, race, creed, or personal preference.

**CAMPAIGN
HEADQUARTERS**

**1816 Effie
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If you would like further information or just want to talk with us, please feel free to call our headquarters!

Paid for by Earl Farmer, Sharon G. Miller, Treasurer

PBT election endorsements

Pointblank Times Endorsements
Democratic Primary May 6, 1978

Traditionally, the only time any minority has achieved its goals and been assimilated into the mainstream of the American experience has been when the members of that minority realized the importance of delivering a large and united vote for local and regional candidates. American politicians are a pragmatic lot and can generally be expected to remember the interests of the groups to whom they owe their election OR which seem to control enough votes to effect the outcome of future elections.

Our endorsement list was comprised with the aid of the Gay Political Caucus Screening Committee and the past record of some candidates as pertaining to feminist issues.

Where a NO VOTE has been recommended, it is because there is no one in the race worthy of your support.

U.S. Senate- Joe Christie
U.S. Representative District 18-
Mickey Leland
Governor- No suitable candidate
Lt. Governor- No Vote
State Representative District 79-
Ron Waters
Attorney General- Price Daniel, Jr.
County Judge- Shawn Casey
County Clerk- Bill V. Williams
Chair Harris County Democratic Party-
Anne Green
Treasurer- Earl Farmer
Judge County Court at Law- #4
Charles Coussons (No Vote)

Precinct Judges

#32 Norma Lee
#33-Debra Danburg
#34-Lee Marsters
#38-Rosemary Scott
#123-Teague Cavness

District Judges

#185-George Walker (No Vote)
#228-Allen Stille
#245-Henry G. Schuble
#246-John W. Peavy
#247-Ben G. Levy
#248-Jimmie James
#263-Louis Moore
#312-Nell Holloway

Judge Criminal Court At Law

#2-Nick Barrera
#3-Ronald G. Weisenthal
#4-Jack Treadway (No Vote)
#5-Neil McKay (No Vote)
#6-Alice A. Bonner
#7-Shelley P. Hancock (No Vote)
#8-Neel Richardson



Dear Friends,

It's an election year and Feminism is once again immensely popular. You've surely noticed the large number of political candidates rushing to join our ranks, eager to proclaim their support for women's rights, vowing they've always cared. Unfortunately, when the political dust settles, too often the rhetoric disappears, the token gestures cease, and the concern evaporates.

Luckily, there is an exception this year in the race for County Judge. Shawn Casey is a candidate whose commitment preceded his campaign and whose present statements are backed by past actions. Shawn's involvement with feminist activities goes back four years. He has raised funds for and promoted issues that we all care about.

Shawn's support is not an election-year phenomenon. For that reason, those of us who support and work for women's rights, in every year and all seasons, urge your support for Shawn Casey for County Judge in the Democratic Primary, May 6.

Shawn Casey has earned that support.
Yours for equality,

Helen H. Cassidy

Marion E. Coleman

Poppy Northcutt

Nikki R. Van Hightower

Helen Cassidy
Marion Coleman
Poppy Northcutt
Dr. Nikki Van Hightower

Pol. adv. pd. for by Shawn Casey for County Judge, Bob Casey, Jr., Treasurer, P.O. Box 61171, Houston, Texas 77208, Labor Donated

Gay Pride Week . . .

On June 25th many cities across the country will be celebrating Gay Pride Day. In Houston, this will be the culmination of many other activities scheduled to make Gay Pride Week meaningful to the lesbian/gay community.

At this printing all of the events are not completely outlined. Some of the proposed activities are: June 20- National Day of Mourning for Gay Victims of homophobic violence.

June 25- Town Meeting I. An effort to set goals and priorities for the coming year in Houston.

River Oaks Cinema will be showing several midnight shows with films of interest to the lesbian/gay community.

For more current updates call Wilde 'N' Stein at 529-7014 or the GPC office at 526-2668, or check out UPFRONT, the new gay paper in town that publishes bi-weekly.

In the past, Houston has never had a visible and meaningful celebration. However, with our rights being taken away city by city, we must make an effort to show our strength in numbers. If you want to get involved with any of the activities call any of the numbers listed. If not, show your support by being in attendance.

TOWN MEETING I

The Issues and Dissemination Committee for Town Meeting I, scheduled for June 25th at the Astro arena, invites every person concerned with human rights issues which affect the Gay Community, to participate in the task this committee is coordinating. The goal of the Town Meeting is to focus the efforts of Gay activism upon those priorities established through democratic processes involving all Lesbians and Gay Men of Houston. The Town Meeting Coalition not only solicits the opinion of those persons aligned with a gay organization, but especially seeks input from individuals who heretofore have not found a means of voicing a position on relevant issues.

This opportunity to thrust an idea out of the closet and on to the podium is unparalleled in magnitude and power. Every point of view on every issue should be presented now, for the direction of the Gay Liberation Movement in the Southwest will be influenced by the resolutions adopted by those voting on the last day of Gay Pride Week 1978.

The Issues Committee will review all issues and positions identified through public response, group them into suitable categories, and formulate them into resolutions which will be resubmitted to the public for reflection, discussion, and amendment. This comment will then determine further revision prior to presentation and action on June 25th. Additional issues and resolutions are expected to be offered during the meeting, but the communication offered now might well form the nucleus of the political goals adopted.

Priorities will thus be established and specific responses will be pursued from those public and private agencies charged with public accountability. The entire effort is based upon the concept of participation by every individual with Gay concerns. One letter written now assures that your special concern receives the political attention it deserves. You may begin your participation in Town Meeting I with the investment of a little creative writing and a postage stamp on same, addressed to: Town Meeting Issues, c/o Up Front, P.O. Box 66844, Houston, Texas 77006.

... entertainment

Our legacy as minorities is replete with opposition and discrimination. In our relentless struggle to assert ourselves as equals, we spend enormous amounts of energy, yea even lifetimes, to establish our basic human rights. We have been labeled as the radicals, the liberals, the "*thorns in society's flesh*".

It is ironic that we are forced to make issue over criteria which should never have been issue in the first place. We are spending time battling for inalienable rights, rather than the process of developing individual expression and abilities. It is necessary, and it will continue to be necessary.

However, it is my personal feeling that we allocate inadequate time to individual expression and creative energies. It is common knowledge that our contributions to society stand as monuments to our evolvement as an intelligent civilization. Our forerunners have established our immeasurable credibility. Our heritage is *fact*, not fantasy.

It is my desire to identify and unify these diverse creative abilities and talents, and provide opportunity for displaying the abundant resources within each of us. Houston appears to have an exorbitant amount of exposed talent from members within our lesbian/gay community. It baffles me to realize how much unexposed talent there must be lying dormant.

It is time to recognize our strengths and our power available with these talents. My objective is to cultivate a talent bank of every form of expression encompassing professional, aspiring, and amateur levels of accomplishments and endeavors. Is it not true that we are responsible for a great deal of the advancement of society and culture with our commonly acknowledged artistic abilities and creative genius? Do we not have in our "who's who", some of the greatest minds of all times, both past and present? The spectrum of talent availability is astounding! What better contribution to the world than educating it and making it aware of the finest form of education itself; creativity and self awareness. What a powerful and beautiful concept, and a very real possibility to reverse the prejudice against us by validating just how *much* we contribute in today's world. You want to talk about "role models"? What better way to becoming a highly respected and viable community, than through showing our best, collectively?

Several opportunities exist in the immediate future to present our talents as a unified body of hearts and abilities. It will take much cooperation from every imaginable source within our masses. My thoughts are *not* political. I am appealing to the spirit of individual expression within each of our hearts, and the contributions we choose individually to offer society.

I have been given the privilege of being entertainment coordinator of the town meeting of June 25th, and would like to incorporate as many forms of talent and ideas as possible for this project and future projects to begin to exalt ourselves and challenge the level of achievement the city has ever begun to realize. We need your ideas in every possible form and manner imaginable. I can be reached at 523-9444.

With all of us working together, we can give the city of Houston a startling revelation of what we're made of. We need each other to do it.

-David

ONCE UPON A MIME...

the art of Suzanne Fox

A stripper peels under a spotlight. The audience chuckles in recognition. The false eyelashes go, the wig goes. The audience giggles. The breasts go, the head goes. The audience laughs gleefully, then quiets with the recognition of the language of mime-silence. The stripper has moved from a familiar act to one that is unsettling. This is the mime of Suzanne Fox.

Mime is trickery. Trickery which we are willing to accept-the stairs which do not exist, winds which do not blow, walls which we cannot see. The mime climbs the stairs, struggles against the wind, and breaks through the wall. The stairs, the wind, and the walls, invisible but present, are the mime's craft. Ms. Fox takes the craft, learned from Marcel Marceau and Jacques LeCoq, and moves it to a personal artistic form, stretching the limitations of classical mime.

Preferring the direct communication of her own face, she wears only a single teardrop as makeup. Through her mastery of mime and sensitivity as an actress she invests each character, human, animal or object, with convincing personality.

In addition to study with Marceau and LeCoq, Ms. Fox has studied theatre at Boston University and the H.B. Studio in New York. She has a B.A. in theatre from the University of Massachusetts in Boston. She has taught mime at Boston University, the University of Massachusetts and Emerson College.

Having discovered herself as a woman-identified-woman, she has appeared in women's coffeehouses throughout the United States, various women's colleges, the Weekend for Women in Oregon, and the IWY Conference in November 1977. In her performance, she tries to express the different kinds of oppression that women experience daily. This may take on a tone of comedy, or one of drama. "The Audition", which centers around a casting couch explores women's recognized role as sex objects. "The Master and the Puppet" illustrates women's internalization of oppression, and "The Rape" culminates the chapter on oppression as Suzanne portrays each character involved, to illustrate the woman's complete victimization and rejection.

Her program is a product of her experience and observation as a woman, yet her perceptions speak to the universality of the human condition-its strengths and its foibles. *"Most of the time, once women are aware of their oppression, their first reaction is a negative one, of lashing out. And rightfully so! Some women can't express it because we are socialized not to express anger. Some women remain stuck in the anger phase of one's personal evolution, and cannot go forward. In my work, I try to become a facilitator to help relieve some of that anger and frustration, and explore ways to take this energy and express it in a more positive and productive way."*



Her performance reaches out to further include such relevant lesbian pieces as "Coming Out" and "The Closet". A woman of evolution, Suzanne can transform a shared emotion of confusion into a positive facet of life. On this note, the Gay Community News congratulated her on her "courage to plunge into the struggle."

On her way to relocate in California, Suzanne is traveling through Texas and is including San Antonio, Galveston, Houston, Austin, and Dallas in her schedule of appearances. For those of you who missed her last performance in Houston at the IWY Conference, she will be appearing May 14, at Fitzgerald's (upstairs). Don't miss this chance to see creative expression at its finest.

-Information compiled from promotional material and personal interview by Sherry and Claire

MEG CHRISTIAN TERESA TRULL

a concert for *WOMEN*

"So there we were--1973, Clyde's American Bar, me singing, yawning, and belching to an audience of slightly bewildered straight couples and a pile of women friends trying to be on good behavior so I wouldn't get fired a fourth time for 'bringing in the wrong type of clientele...' and Ginny said, 'Meg, this is ridiculous. You should start singing for women's groups all the time.' And I took one last look around Clyde's and said, 'Hmmm...'"

Thus began one woman's exploration of a new genre of music. Meg Christian was one of the first to seek to define women's music from a feminist perspective. Five years ago she was one of five women who created a national women's recording company. Meg's first album (and Olivia Records' first), "*I Know You Know*" quickly became an underground classic. And Meg won even more hearts for women's music during her first concert tour of Texas two years ago.

Meg has finally arranged to return to Texas, much to the delight of those who saw her first concert, and those who only heard about it. She'll be bringing with her another Olivia Records artist, Teresa Trull.

Teresa comes from North Carolina, where she had been supporting herself driving a dump truck. Her friends sent Olivia a tape of her music, and Teresa ended up doing her first album, "*The Ways a Woman Can Be*", and moving to Olivia's Oakland, California base to join the collective.

Teresa's brand of women's music has elements of blues and country, sung with an incredibly strong and versatile voice and backed by her able acoustic guitar. Her songwriting reflects her belief that "music is a potential starting point for the meeting of wimmin's minds and souls - wimmin from all different culture's and backgrounds."

Similarly, Meg affirms her responsibility as a feminist musician "...to use my music and my concerts to make women more aware of political issues which are vital parts of our movement struggles -- especially lesbianism, class, race, and the commonality of women's struggles everywhere." Toward this same goal, Teresa's album notes and lyrics were printed in both English and Spanish.

All women are invited to hear women's music for themselves, as performed by Meg Christian and Teresa Trull at 8:00 p.m. Friday, May 19th at Agnes Arnold Hall on the University of Houston Main Campus (Entrance 6). The concert site is wheel chair accessible, and there will be sign language for the deaf. Tickets are a \$4.50 donation but if a woman can't afford that, she is invited to donate what she can. The local women who are coordinating the event, Out and Out Productions, will see that the proceeds go to establish a fund to help lesbians produce other cultural and educational events.

Advance tickets will be available at The Bookstore (1728 Bissonnet), Wilde 'N' Stein (819 Richmond), "Just" Marion and Lynn's (817 Fairview), and Women Rising Center (1737 Indiana). Mail orders or child care reservations may be sent to: Out and Out Productions, P. O. Box 66815, Houston, Texas 77006.

In addition to the concert, Meg and Teresa will be conducting an informal workshop on Saturday, May 20, at First Unitarian Church (5210 Fanning, upstairs) at 10:00 a.m. They are eager to meet with Houston women to discuss the politics of doing women's music, what Olivia Records is about, or anything women want to talk about.

-Out and Out Productions



off the wall productions

presents

AN AFTERNOON OF WOMEN'S ENTERTAINMENT

at Fitzgerald's

Because there is not yet a women's center or coffeehouse, women in Houston do not have much opportunity to interact except on a surface level.

We are exploring the possibilities of producing a regular forum for women's events. Our first production is an afternoon of women's entertainment at Fitzgerald's. A positive response will help to insure regular events of interest to women. Some of these events may include a regular talent night, lectures, dances, art shows, concerts, etc. The list will depend on your input.

Come and spend an afternoon at Fitzgerald's.

place: Fitzgerald's 2706 White Oak (upstairs)
time: May 14 3:00 to 7:00
entertainment: the mime of Suzanne Fox
lots of Texas Talent
donation: \$1.00 at door

for further information, call 523-2521

HAPPY THIRD ANNIVERSARY TO M.C.C.R.

That packed church at 1214 Joe Annie, the Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection, celebrated its third birthday April 22, 1978. It is the fastest growing church of the 105 that belong to the Universal Fellowship internationally. There are over 260 active members crowded with guests into a building that, with squeezing, holds 300. Therefore a building fund drive is underway. More community outreach can be accomplished when there's a place to seat new members. Perhaps they all come to hear the choir. They have an album out, *Because He Lives*. They practice every Thursday at 7:30 and perform beautifully every Sunday. Known to its members as *the hugging church*, MCCR is exceptionally warm. To promote closeness among members, Houston is divided geographically into ten parish families. April 22 also marked the transfer of MCCR's pastor Jeri Harvey (see below) but services continue each Sunday at 11 am and 7:30 pm.

The Universal Fellowship was founded nine years ago in Los Angeles by Rev. Troy Perry. The church is a leader in several areas: the battle for human rights, outreach to the gay community, and accepting and promoting women as ministers.

-Bonnie and Claire

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Roffler Hairstylist Dale Boyett

665-9512

clipper work & shaving
shear & razor styles for men & women
shampoo & blow dry



*Jeri Ann Harvey's new address:
M.C.C.-LA 1050 S. Hill
Los Angeles, CA. 90015*

A FAREWELL TO JERI

Jeri Ann Harvey was pastor of MCCR for a year and a half. She had a lot to do with its growth and vitality. Born January 3, 1934, in Oklahoma, she is part Cherokee, Creek, and Irish. Ms. Harvey was married for a year (to suit her family, not herself) and found it less entertaining than a good book. Eleven years ago she came out to her family and in her profession and found herself blackballed for six months. Today her family accepts her sexuality and she's found a new profession.

Before ordination, Ms. Harvey worked in Drug Abuse programs, as a medical advisor, and for a private physician. She attended seminary in Oklahoma and was ordained in 1977. She was transferred to Los Angeles in April. She is no stranger to California as she lived in San Francisco for 17 years. The MCCR has grown with Ms. Harvey's leadership, and the strong church she leaves is her legacy. California has just gained a lot and we wish Jeri very well as she continues her ministry in the gay community.

-Bonnie and Claire

TO MAKE A WHOLE BY BRINGING ALL PARTS TOGETHER

some thoughts on Holly Near

CULTURAL WORKER-ARTIST-MUSICIAN-WOMAN-PERFORMER-FEMINIST

Any or all of these words might describe Holly Near. Within the Feminist Movement there has always been (it seems to me) a lot of energy devoted to integrating as many aspects of our lives as possible; the personal, political, social and creative, the serious and the humorous. Holly Near's "wholeness" seems complete. As a performer she has achieved this "integration."

Holly grew up in Northern California and after one year at UCLA began working as an actress. In her earlier days she performed for and with a wide variety of people as a "cultural worker". In 1971 she joined the F.T.A. show (Free The Army), and traveled around the world to perform for G.I.'s and service women who were *against* the war in Vietnam. She also performed at benefits for political groups such as the United Farm Workers in California and the Non-Intervention in Chili campaign. She appeared in "Hair" in New York and has done concerts at colleges, nightclubs and rallies in the United States and abroad. She appeared in films such as "Slaughterhouse Five", "Minnie and Moskowitz", and "The Magic Garden of Stanley Sweetheart". In addition, Holly did guest appearances on television shows including "Room 222", "The Bold Ones", "Mod Squad", "All in the Family", and even "The Betsy Palmer Show". That's what I would call an integrated background.

All of this experience established Holly Near as a performer some time ago. Even if the films were bad, the reviews of Holly were good. It's not as if she hasn't gone through her changes. When I saw her at the IWY Concert she spoke briefly about how she had changed. The change gradually led her to focus on women and their lives. Her music had always been influenced by her social and political awareness and now that awareness was evolving into music that spoke to struggle and celebration familiar to women around the world. Holly had become woman-identified.

*"Sister-Woman-Sister
Can you still feel any pain
Or have they robbed you of your anger
by puttin' thorazine in your vein...
Sister-Woman-Sister
They won't let me come see you no more
But I still got the poem that you wrote me
It's hangin' on my apartment door".*

(From "Sister-Woman-Sister")

After the IWY Concert in Houston and a performance at the Gay Freedom Day March in San Francisco, it was obvious to me just how woman-identified she was. Both performances were excellent, and I found myself enjoying what she had to say as much as her music.

Several years ago when Olivia Records produced the "Women On Wheels" Concerts, Holly Near was a part of the tour. They travelled to various cities in the country to perform for women. At the concert in Oakland, California, the women were on their feet when she sang "You Got Me Flyin'", a song about her older sister. She brought her sister out of the audience to do a dance while she sang the song.

*"You got me flyin', I'm flyin'
You inspire the sister-song
All the pain you're feeling
I want to share with you, help you through..."*

Incorporated in the jubilant dance were the words to the song in American Sign Language. Deaf women in the audience laughed, clapped and watched with wide eyes the only thing they had heard all night. It was joyous and emotional for all of us. That's an example of how Holly Near performs.

At the IWY Conference appearance she spoke candidly and sensitively about "coming out". This strong, soft-spoken woman put everyone at ease and entertained us with good humor, good stories and good music. She reached out to everyone there.

*"You can know all I am
Share my life
Take my giving
I can't change how I'm living
But you can know all I am."*

(From "You Can Know All I Am")

Every time I have seen Holly Near I have been struck by her openness and her softness. Each time has been a good experience in terms of the relationship between the audience and the performer. Her repertoire is as varied as the lives of the women in her audiences. Holly de-mystifies being a "star" or an "artist". It's easy to say "that's me" in response to the words of her songs. She writes her own lyrics.

She has her own label, Redwood Records, and three albums with them so far.

Hang In There, a solo album she wrote and produced.
Holly Near, A Live Album
You Can Know All I Am, from which all the lyrics in this article come.

You can get in touch with them by writing to 565 Doolin Canyon, Ukiah, California 95482 or pick up one of the albums at Wilde 'N' Stein Bookstore or The Bookstore in Houston. You don't have to see her in person to get a lot from her music.

Photography by: Amy Horowitz

-- Marcy Fraser



WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

a film review on "GAY U.S.A."

-- SEEN AT THE RIVER OAKS THEATRE, APRIL 4, 1978

Billed as "A Feature Length Documentary to Seriously Examine the Gay Issue", this film came off as a semi-serious composite of every kind of gay person imaginable. While sitting in the theatre waiting for "show time" I wondered, "Where are all the older gay people?" There was hardly a face in the place over 35...and the pure white audience was 99 44/100% male. Oh well...

When the film started, we were transported to Gay Freedom Day (in June of '77) in San Francisco. The technique was "slice of life" interviews with gay men, lesbians, straights, drag queens, "Dykes on Bikes", children and older gay people. The Gay Freedom Day March in San Francisco is safe for everyone (held in broad daylight) Having participated in several of those parades, it was interesting to be an observer.

We heard from what seemed like hundreds. Voices dubbed in over unique scenes and hilarious one liners made the hour and one-half fly by. Reading various placards while listening to folksy sentimental music in the background was often humorous as well as poignant.

"Let Every Pansy Bloom"
"Don't Be A Closet Mother"
"We Are Your Children"

Many people interviewed had come to San Francisco from small towns in Kansas, Florida, New Jersey, even California to be free. The energy, spirit and power of the 100,000 plus parade was celebrated most strikingly by the gay woman who had been married for 15 years before she was finally able to come out in 1975; by the jubilant 60 year old gay man who was put in jail for 30 days merely "for being gay"; by the drag queens who were "expressing" themselves; by the Chicana who said "This day has changed my life."

The film's weak moments were heavy-handed inserts of old black and white clips of Nazis marching in perfect rows, and the sentimental music. Also the interviewers often interrupted their interviewees and cut them off mid-thought.

Af far as "Gay U.S.A." being representative of the U.S.A. - that's stretching it. We briefly visited parades in New York, Chicago, San Diego and supposedly Houston, but the vast majority of film was shot in San Francisco where the collective that put it together is based.

I enjoyed it and was refreshed hearing lesbians expressing anger and love and solidarity, but (so the story goes) wanted more women in the film. The issue of "drag" being a mockery of women was opened up, but not dealt with very completely.

It was fun (and validating) to see the thousands of lesbians and gay men on the bigger than life silver screen and most left energized.

-- Marcy Frazer

NO PLACE BUT TEXAS

news from 'round the state

austin

FEMINISTS MEET TO COORDINATE ENERGIES

Feminists met in Austin, Texas to organize against recent attacks on women's organizations in Austin. Travis County is withholding funds and threatening to permanently do away with funding for twelve social service agencies in Austin. A few of them are: The Center for Battered Women, the Rape Crisis Center, Womenspace (a counseling service that is free for women and a sponsor of various activities for and by women) and the Child Guidance Center.

The newly formed Austin Women's Cultural and Community Center in view of the state of emergency, set up various task forces to work on different issues and concerns brought out.

The taking away of funds for women's organizations followed a precedent set in Dallas, Texas under an old legislative statute that declares that county funds may only be used to aid "paupers, lunatics, and idiots." In Austin, this statute is being used to disallow funds for women's services. It seems the County Attorney, James McMurtry, is using this law to stop funding for 12 social service agencies. Austin women are asking for support from women everywhere to condemn this action by public officials. Write-in support is welcome to The Women's Cultural and Community Center as well as letters to the County Attorney condemning his actions.

Representatives from NOW, Womenspace, Austin Lesbian-Feminist Organization, the New American Movement, and the Texas Women's Political Caucus emphasized the need to hold our officials responsible for their actions. Presently, there are strong lobbies, anti-feminist in nature, strongly influencing public officials in the areas of *anti-child abuse* legislation and asking for *repeal* of abortion laws sanctioning abortion.

-Mae Rensberger

dallas

SETTING SITES ON HUMAN RIGHTS TEXAS GAY CONFERENCE FIVE

Each year the Texas Gay Task Force sponsors the Texas Gay Conference. This year the fifth of these annual Conferences will be held in Dallas at the Royal Coach Inn on June 10 and 11, with a pre-registration and get-aquainted party at 8:00 pm, on Friday June 9.

The workshops will be practical and informative. Each covers a different aspect of the Gay and Lesbian lifestyles and how they apply to the Human Rights issues we are working for. There will be many devoted to working in the movement behind the scenes. Not everyone involved in these activities is "out of the closet". YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BELONG TO OR JOIN ANY ORGANIZATION TO ATTEND.

The Conference will begin at 8:30 am, Saturday June 10th.

For more information and forms write to Lee Knapp, P.O. Box 20254, Dallas, Texas 75220 or call 214/4233.

houston

LESBERADAS SPONSOR JUBILEE DANCE

On Friday, April 14th, the Lesberadas sponsored a woman's dance at the First Unitarian Church.

This marked the third appearance in Houston by JUBILEE, a six woman band from Austin. With a wide variety of tunes and beats, the band entertained the exhausted (but delighted) audience until 1:00 a.m.

If you missed Jubilee they will be performing at the White Rock Lake House in Dallas May 13th and on May 21st they will be playing at Zilker Club House to raise funds to help themselves get to Champaign-Urbana, Illinois. They have been invited to appear at the fifth National Women's Music Festival June 13-18. If you're in the area stop in and help get some Texas women and music to Illinois.

Last Laugh

Each year in this country about 50,000 women develop cervical cancer. The curious thing is that virgins, lesbians, and nuns rarely develop it. Some studies show that women's risk of getting cervical cancer increases with the frequency with which they have intercourse. One theory says that all sperm cells contain an enzyme whose job it is to pierce through and enter the cell wall of the egg (conception) and start growth and pregnancy. The trouble is that the sperm cannot distinguish between cells that are eggs and the cells of the cervix. During certain phases of a woman's hormonal cycle, a regeneration of cervical cells occurs and the new cell walls are thin. At this time the sperm enzymes can more easily penetrate the cells, causing some to start dividing, resulting in abnormal cell growth and possibly cancer.

-Taken from Lesbian Connection

Send us
your stuff!

This "Dade County Drama" came from the April issue of HUSTLER, and was submitted by a PBT reader who received it quietly in the mail. Needless to say, he didn't think it was very funny.



DADE COUNTY DRAMAS

"ANITA'S KID LOSES A TOOTH"



The above cartoon is an ad for Neenah Paper which we transformed into bored-housewife-missing-her-girlfriend-comedy by removing three little question marks after the names of Nina.

PBT can be found in Houston at:
 The Bookstore
 Wilde 'N' Stein
 Big City News
 Feminist Credit Union
 "Just" Marion & Lynn's

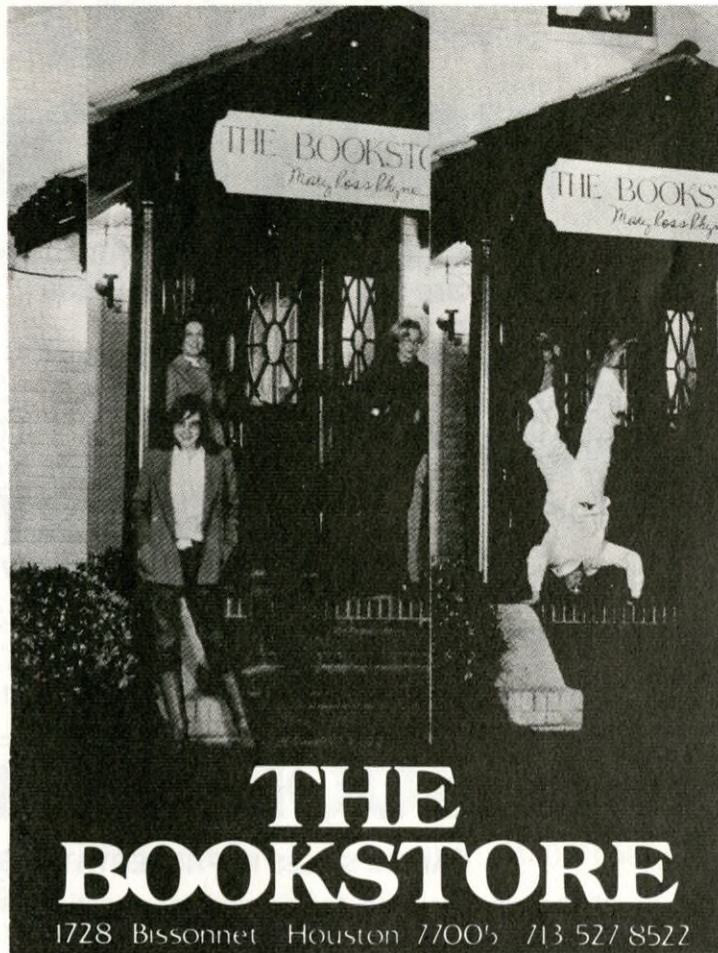
In Galveston at: My Sisters

The staff would like to give a special thanks to Sheila for helping on the last issue and a special thanks to Pam and Marion for this issue.



MY SISTERS

2414 39th Street
 Galveston, Texas 77550
 (713)763-9504 • B.Y.O.B.
 3:00 P.M.-12:00 • Closed Tuesday



THE BOOKSTORE

1728 Bissonnet Houston 77005 713 527 8522

lesbian library

The new *Pointblank Times* lesbian library is open and we encourage all lesbians to drop by and browse through the many publications that we have acquired through our exchange program.

Next issue we will run a current listing of the periodicals and books.

If you know of any other publications that we do not have, please drop us a note and we will try and set up an exchange with them.

The library is located in Wilde 'N' Stein bookstore, 819 Richmond and is available for your use Tuesday through Sunday from noon to 9pm.

BANNED IN BOSTON!

Madge Reinhardt (Ritter) has been a frequent writer in the Christian Science religious periodicals published in Boston, but her novel, *You've Got To Ride The Subway!*, which deals with gay experience, has gotten a *hold* put on her religious writings. (By her church's governing board!) Well, we think *Subway* is a spiritual statement! And a feeling story, too!

It's \$6.95 paper, or
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PLEASE CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT

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off the wall productions, a new women's production company, is pleased to announce its exclusive Houston distribution of Pleiades Records.

future releases and women's cultural events soon to be announced, but now you can buy Margie Adam records at these local places:

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ARIES (March 21-April 20)

You are favored for beginning long-term matters. It's a good time to buy a home or big-ticket home items. Your social life is active. Enjoy romance.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21)

You are likely to be cranky and frustrated for at least part of this period. Use your excess energy to move to a nicer place or re-decorate. You may be making big decisions in your personal life. Those of you born from May 10 on are likely to be making an important new start. Don't be impatient if things are developing slowly.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21)

Those of you born in early June continue to be under some rather confusing pressures best used for spiritual growth. Watch for fanaticism. Late June Gemini's can be more practical than is their habit and are looking quite attractive, too.

CANCER (June 22-July 23)

Opportunity is at your door. You're charming and should have a fine time. Watch overdoing it. Have fun but don't miss your opportunities through excess in some other areas.

LEO (July 24-August 23)

Things are really moving, and have been. Overwork and temperament could be hard on your health so use some discretion.

Such pizzaz! Those of you born from August 15 on are in the last stages of a long and difficult re-evaluation and change of direction in your life. You have matured a great deal.

VIRGO (August 24-September 23)

This is a time to consolidate opportunities you've had over the last six months. Make sure you're doing your best to benefit from them. Don't let arrogance snag you.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23)

For those of you born in September or early October, it is time to expand horizons. That doesn't mean go out on a limb. October 5-7; You're changing profoundly. No matter how tricky this period is, it can transform you. For the rest of the sign it is a moderately positive period marked by sensible use of resources and good contacts with old friends.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22)

Your energies are high as are your opportunities. Compromise, even if you don't feel like it. You're accomplishing a lot. Make sure you rest.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21)

Communication with people important to you is clear, though it may not all be sweetness. Control your egotism and use your energy for projects with friends.

continued from page 23



continued on page 24

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 19)

It's a good time for making plans with those closest to you. It's not a good time to push your limits with those in authority. Fiscal conservatism is favored.

AQUARIUS (January 20-February 20)

You may be involved in some interpersonal conflict. You and those around you may be on the cranky side. You're pretty hot stuff, so if you remember to be cooperative, this should be fun.

PISCES (February 21-March 20)

You're likely to be both busy and responsible in your work. You could meet a new lover who would be a very positive influence on you. Social life in general should be nice.

*Cosmic Cue is written by Bonnie Moore.
This issue covers May and June.*

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SUNDAY AFTERNOON LITERARY GROUP

The Sunday Afternoon Literary Group meets the first and third Sunday of every month at 2:30 p.m. at Wilde 'N' Stein Bookstore, 819 Richmond. For more information call 529-7014.

WOMEN'S GROUP

The Women's Group of The First Unitarian Church meets every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. in Room 12. (5210 Fannin) The following is a program schedule for May:

- May 7 : "Working with Troubled Youth and Their Families"-Peter Durkin with Juvenile Probation
- May 14: "Games Your Mother Never Taught You (corporate gamesmanship for women)". Karen Lee will discuss why women's salaries are lower than men's and what to do about it and why women don't succeed in business.
- May 21: "My Job as a Manager in Heavy Industry or-What's a Nice Girl Doing in a Job Like This?". Jan burke, the training director for WKM valve division will speak.

LESBERADAS

Lesberadas, the local lesbian/feminist group meets every Tuesday at 7:30 pm in Room 8 of the First Unitarian Church, 5210 Fannin.

On May 9, the Lesberadas will have an open meeting and encourage all lesbians and gay men in the community who want to discuss areas of mutual concern to attend.



VOLLEYBALL

On May 26th, The Summit will present a Volleyball Doubleheader.

The first game at 7 p.m. will feature the United States Women's National Team against the Houston Superstars.

The second game at 9 p.m. will pair the El Paso/Juarez Sol-IVA finalist last year against the International Volleyball Association American Pros.

Tickets are on sale at The Summit and other ticket locations.

Part of the gate will be turned over to the United States Olympic Fund to aid the women's Volleyball program.

WOMEN'S SLOW PITCH

The following is a schedule for THE DUCKS:

- May 10- vs Great Danes 10:15
- May 17- vs Mustang Kittens 9:30
- May 24- vs Dresser Drawers 9:30
- May 31- vs Zapata 9:30
- June 7- vs Arendaly Young 8:45

All games are played at Murrelle (Moody) field in the Heights.

WOMEN'S FAST PITCH TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

- May 20-21: San Antonio
- May 26-28: Galveston
- June 24-25: Fort Worth TAAF
- July 1-4 : Oklahoma City
- July 8-9 : Fort Worth
- July 14-16: Houston Invitational
- July 21-23: Freeport
- August 4-6: Austin-regionals

April/May 1978

MCCR to HOST DISTRICT CONFERENCE

The MCCR in Houston will host the South-Central District Conference from May 23-27. All activities of the Conference will be held at the church, 1214 Joe Annie.

FRIDAY May 26: Worship Services-9:00 a.m.
 Workshops-12:00-4:30 p.m.
 Worship Services-7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY May 27: Worship Services-9:00 a.m.
 Workshop-11:30 a.m.
 Worship Services-7:30 p.m.

There will be guests from Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma.

Saturday evening's sermon, May 27th, will be given by Reverend Elder Carol Cureton.

For more information call 526-8233.



WOMEN'S FAST PITCH SOFTBALL

The Greater Houston Women's Fast Pitch League will begin on May 8, 1978. Games on Tuesday and Wednesday night will be played on Brock Field. Games on Thursday night will be played on Memorial #3 at 3:00 and 9:30.

The following is a schedule for THE FAMILY CONNECTION:

- May 11- vs Snuffridge, 8:00 M
- May 17- vs Lamp Lighters 7:30 B
- May 24- vs United Eagles 7:30 B
- June 1- vs Stealers 9:30 M
- June 6- vs Comets 9:00 B
- June 13- vs L & L Ice 9:00 B
- June 22- vs Patriots 8:00 M
- June 29- vs Orioles 8:00 M
- July 5- vs Brewers 7:30 B

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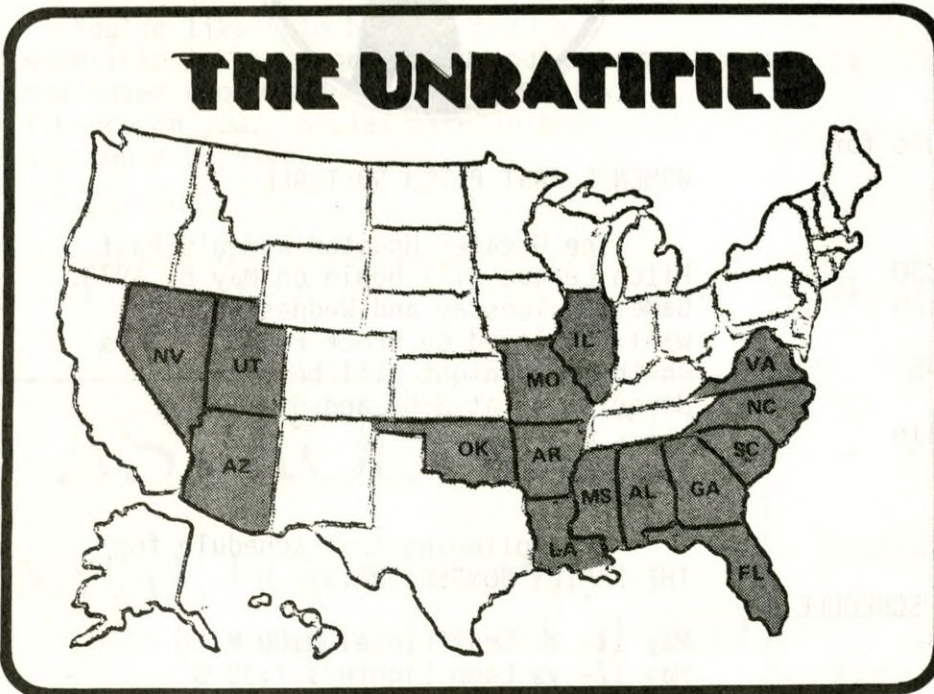
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FRIDAY, MAY 19, 8:00p.m.

ACTION ALERT



The map shows the 15 states which have not ratified the ERA. Keep the list of organizations boycotting unratified states growing! Ask every organization and association you belong to to pass a resolution stating they will not hold any future meetings in the 15 states that are blocking equality for all.

Because of the large response, Congress has begun to concede that it just might be true that the women and men of America don't want the expiration of time on the ERA to jeopardize their chance to achieve equality in the law of the land.

The situation, however, remains critical. With Congress set to adjourn on September 28th, the only time for consideration of H.J. Res. 638-the Extension- is in the remainder of this session.

Keep your letters and postcards going to Washington. Each one of them brings us closer to winning the Extension and closer to winning ratification on the ERA. We CAN do it!

-National NOW Times

Tri-City National Defense Fund

The Tri-City National Defense Fund was established to raise funds for the human rights campaigns in 3 cities, St. Paul, Minnesota; Wichita, Kansas; and Eugene, Oregon.

Each city is threatened by campaigns to repeal sections of their Human Rights Ordinances that protect Lesbians and Gay Men from discrimination in such areas as employment and housing.

To avoid national publicity-and certain defeat-the campaign organization in each city is attempting to keep the issue a local one.

Help is desperately needed to help turn the tide. Since their victory in Dade County, the right-wing, conservative, fundamentalist forces have organized nationally. Their effective fund-raising machine is targeting money into the cities now facing elections to repeal human rights ordinances. If they win in these three cities, repeal efforts will be encouraged elsewhere. Already battles loom in Seattle, Washington; Hartford, Connecticut and statewide in California.

Send checks to:

Tri-City National Defense Fund
P.O. Box 3949
Hollywood, CA 90028

We must all join together. We cannot allow our rights to be taken away city by city.

Thanks to this publication for donating advertising space.



These women wouldn't be laughing if they knew what is happening in Eugene, Oregon.

An anti-gay referendum threatens the lesbian and gay community of Eugene. Right wing groups, angered by the progressive civil rights legislation passed this fall, organized a petition drive to force a public vote this May 23.

We're tired of discrimination in housing and jobs and harrassment that hits the lesbian community especially hard. This legislation could help, not only us but every gay person in this country.

We need support from lesbians and feminists. Send ideas, inspiration and especially money to Eugene Citizens for Human Rights, PO Box 402, Eugene, OR 97440.

Paid political advertisement, ECHR, PO Box 402 Eugene, OR 97440, Phil George, Treasurer 3/1/78. Oregon laws require all donations over \$25 to include employer and occupation.

DEFEAT IN ST. PAUL

On Tuesday, April 25, 1978, voters in St. Paul, Minnesota overwhelmingly voted to rescind the ordinance which protects the rights of lesbians and gay men.

The law was enacted in 1974 as part of the city's human rights ordinance and bars discrimination in housing, employment, and other fields because of "sexual and affectional preference."

The heavy vote as well as the results came as a surprise for both Gay and anti-Gay forces. Although well organized campaigns were conducted by both camps, defeat by such wide margins had not been expected.

Jean O'Leary and Bruce Voeller, co-executive directors of the National Gay Task Force, said they were "outraged that a majority of misinformed voters have once again denied the civil rights to a group of American citizens.

It was the first major challenge of a homosexual rights ordinance since Anita Bryant successfully promoted repeal of a similar law in the Miami, Florida area last year by a vote of about 3-1.

A homosexual and Vietnam veteran, Tom Burke, was defeated in a bid for one of seven City Council seats.

Mayor George Latimer, who won reelection against only a third-party opposition, favored keeping the gay rights ordinance and had expected a close vote.

-The Houston Post
-Houston Upfront

etc.

LESBIAN LOVE LETTERS

Two women from New York are compiling a book of Lesbian Love letters. They want to include letters that reflect the nature and quality of all facets of relationships—the beginning, the middle, the end, the struggles and changes, the new beginning, and continuing friendships. Some brief autobiographical note as well as what was happening in the relationships at the time the letters were written will help the women reading it to better identify.

A release is needed from the WRITER of the letter, who will be tactfully contacted. Please send photocopied letters by July 1, 1978 to Joan Gorman and Diane G. Edington, c/o The Women's Coffeehouse, 54 7th Ave. So., New York, NY 10014.

GAY DEBATE ON THE DICK CAVETT SHOW

The Dick Cavett Show will feature a debate on gay rights on segments to be aired May 9 and 10 at 11 p.m. EST on PBS stations around the country.

Guests include NGTF Co-Executive Director Jean O'Leary, gay Episcopal priest Malcolm Boyd, homophobic psychiatrist Dr. Charles Socarides, and Anita Bryant representative Mike Thompson.

Everyone is urged to monitor this program and respond with your comments to: Chris Porterfield, Producer
The Dick Cavett Show
Daphne Productions
1790 Broadway, Suite 1309
New York, NY 10019

Also send copies of correspondence to NGTF.

NOTE: In some areas of the country the air dates for the program may vary. Consult your local listings and/or local PBS station for information.

-NGTF Media Alert

FIRST NATIONAL GAY HEALTH CONFERENCE

The National Gay Health Coalition has announced that the first national gay health conference will be held in Washington, D.C., Friday through Sunday May 19-21. There will be speakers from member organizations and from the federal health establishment as well as a full day of workshops addressing the concerns of lesbians and gay men as providers and recipients of health care. On Monday, May 22, many of those attending the conference will meet with government officials and leaders in relevant agencies to present the facts and ideas developed during the weekend.

Topics covered at the conference will include a national overview of gay counseling and health services; the situation of gay workers in straight health care systems; the relationships of gay health groups to larger organizations, to each other and to the community; needs of adolescent and geriatric gay men and lesbians; sexually transmitted diseases and treatment settings as they affect gay people; and the federal impact on gay health needs and services. Registration fee is \$20. \$5. for students, and some free local housing will be available. Further information and registration forms can be obtained from the Conference Committee at 501 S. 44th St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19104.

WOMEN'S SCHOOL OF PLANNING & ARCHITECTURE

The Women's School of Planning and Architecture—the first such school to be completely founded, funded and run by women—is receiving applications for its third session, to be held at a campus in Bristol, Rhode Island near Newport, August 13-26, 1978. Applications may be obtained by sending a self-addressed stamped (24¢) envelope to WSPA, Box 311, Shaftsbury, VT. 05262.

WSPA-3 will explore the topic, "WORKPLACES AND DWELLINGS: IMPLICATIONS FOR WOMEN", through four consecutive workshop categories: Exploring the Past, Examining Cultural and Political Contexts, Assessing the Present, and Planning for the Future.

etc.

NATIONAL SEXUAL MINORITIES SWITCHBOARD

David Palmer, founder and former administrator of the National Runaway Switchboard in Chicago, has been hired as a special consultant to work full-time on the development of a National Sexual Minorities Switchboard (NSMS).

The NSMS will be modeled after the Chicago project but will focus on reaching those people of all ages who are struggling with sexual identity or "coming out" issues and are either geographically or socially isolated from existing resources. The phone service will operate a toll-free "800" number 24 hours a day, seven days a week and will be staffed by a highly trained group of more than 75 volunteers.

Palmer is targeting this Fall (1978) for the opening of the NSMS and is anticipating a level of about 100,000 calls each year.

Along with its primary objective of providing services the NSMS will serve as the first national vehicle for providing ongoing data on the incidence and distribution of sexual minorities throughout the country. The switchboard will also be able to document the problems which sexual minorities face in an often hostile social climate.

Because of the high cost of WATS lines, the NSMS will operate with an annual budget of around \$200,000. Palmer expects that most of the initial money will come from gay individuals and businesses. Donations will be solicited and benefits held in the coming months to raise the needed funds.

For further information write:

NSMS

Box 14561

San Francisco, CA 94115

Or call: 415/621-0536

April/May 1978

HELP US SPREAD THE WORD...

New York Dykes & Tykes and the Seattle-based Lesbian Mothers National Defense Fund are jointly calling on women throughout the country to hold demonstrations around Mother's Day, May 14, 1978, demanding an end to the judicial attacks on lesbian mothers. The demonstrations will focus on custody battles and on the difficulties lesbian mothers face in supporting their families.

These actions will mark the first time the issue of lesbian mothers is addressed nationally. We want to expose the blatant prejudice of the courts and to build public and vocal support for lesbian mothers.

If you are east of Chicago, contact Dykes & Tykes, for Chicago and points west contact LMNDF. Lesbian Mothers' National Defense Fund, 2446 Lorentz Pl. No., Seattle, Washington 98109; Dykes & Tykes, P. O. Box 621 Old Chelsea Station, NYC, NY 10011.

Lesbian mothers fighting through the courts alone for custody of their children have only the slimmest chance of winning. It's up to us in the lesbian, gay, and women's community to organize around the issue of lesbian mothers and to put pressure and scrutiny on the institutions which are attacking us.

BUILD LESBIAN MOTHERS DAY
DEMONSTRATIONS IN YOUR CITY.

WOMEN'S HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER, INC.

"Collections of the Women's History Library (now dispersed) have been published on microfilm by the Women's History Research Center of Berkeley, Ca. *WOMEN & HEALTH/MENTAL HEALTH* (14 reels, \$32/reel), *WOMEN & LAW* (40 reels, \$32/reel), and *HERSTORY* (women's periodicals, 90 reels, \$28/reel) Urge your library to order these extraordinary resources! Contact the Center for more information: Women's History Research Center, 2325 Oak Street, Berkeley, Ca. 94708 or call 415-548-1770.

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MOVING-to Houston in August, 1978. Would like to correspond-later meet-with gay woman 37 and over. I am a sincere, honest and gentle person-age 40. Send replys to: Route 4, Box 278, West Monroe, LA. 71291.

NEED-One bedroom apartment, would consider sharing larger. Call Hally at 522-5385 or 522-8818.

PART-TIME-person needed for small retail art shop. 20 hours a week, 10-5 Saturday and other hours set up at mutual convenience. \$3.50/hour. Galleria area. Phone 965-9316 and ask for Sherry.

WHY BE LONELY? Meet other bi-feminists. Local or nationwide. Discreet or Open. Sally, POB 617, Milpitas, CA. 95035.

PAT 'N' LADDIE VENTURES, INC.-offer two fantastic group travel tours planned exclusively for gay women in 1978: "The Breckenridge Experience", (Breckenridge, Colo.) August 5-12 and "A Holiday in Mexico", (Puerto Vallarta and Guadalajara), December 26-January 2. Brochures: P.O. Box 664, Novato, CA. 94947.

POCKET BILLIARDS lessons: dazzle your friends with your skill! Lessons in private home by a professional. Call for appointment: Ms. R. Anne Mayes, days: 529-3551, evenings: 668-6654.

GAY WOMEN-for a change in your life try: The Wishing Well, Box 664, Novato, CA. 94947. The only magazine featuring current self-descriptions (by code number) of hundreds of currently subscribing members who wish to safely write and meet one another. Offering many original features not found elsewhere, Including: group travel tours exclusively for gay women.

April/May 1978



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This flyer was sent in by Mae Rensberger of Austin urging everyone in Texas to join our Austin sisters and brothers in this statement for human rights.

Breakfast Festival for Human Rights

A gathering of all the people of Austin who – by our presence – wish to affirm human rights and communicate to

ANITA BRYANT

an unmistakable sense of

UNWELCOME.

"We deplore the efforts of Anita Bryant to erode the growth of human rights in Austin, in Texas, and in America through her continued opposition to ERA; to lesbian and gay rights in employment, housing, and affectional preference; and to women's rights to choose abortion.

We affirm the human rights of *all* people, regardless of sex, sexual preference, age, race, belief or economic condition."

Austin Human Rights Coalition

9 AM **MAY 7th 9 AM**

Town Lake Park – next to Municipal Aud.

bring food, music & t-shirts (for silkscreen)

