

EMPTY CLOSET



New York's oldest gay newspaper

As Bryant sings to a near empty Dome...

Over 800 rally for everyone's rights

By DEBBIE DRECHSLER

Over 800 people gathered at Genesee Crossroads Park on Saturday, September 23, to participate in the Rally for Rights. Originally conceived as an answer to Anita Bryant's visit to Rochester, the rally marked the "beginning of a community through the enlargement of our understanding of oppression" according to Kate Millet, noted feminist author and one of the speakers at the rally.

Dr. Kenneth Lee Smith, instructor at Colgate Divinity School and noted social action leader, asked where the issue of human rights ends, pointing out that "early recipients of civil rights legislation are still discriminated against because the laws on the books are still not in practice. Eternal vigilance is the price we must pay," he said, and added that each person must "make a firm commitment to the rights of all persons."

National gay lobbyist, Adam DeBaugh, agreed and described legislative action as "only one tool in the ongoing educational process," to be used hand-in-hand with other tactics. DeBaugh cited Rochester area representatives Barber Conable and Frank Horton as two members of the House of Representatives who were not co-sponsors of the gay civil rights bill which would add the phrase "sexual or affectional preference" to the Civil Rights Code of 1964. He also stated that the ERA is not presently considered "must do legislation," and urged members of the audience to contact their representatives and tell them that they consider both of these measures urgent.

DeBaugh told of attending a benefit in Dallas, Texas, where there were at least 500 lesbians and gay men, and talking later to the local legislative representative, who told DeBaugh that he didn't have any gay constituents.

Leonard Matlovich, also speaking at the rally, acknowledged that lesbians and gay men have, by hiding their homosexuality, deprived the rest of the world of the knowledge that they have always been among the most respected and productive members of society. DeBaugh added that we "allow our own oppression" and that lesbians and gay men must be "willing to speak out" in order to end our oppression. Matlovich stressed the point by leading the crowd in a chant of, "Say it loud, Gay is Proud!"

Karen DeCrow, a practicing attorney from Syracuse and former NOW president, reminded us that we are indebted to Anita Bryant and the right wing for their questions about gay teachers. The resulting research uncovered the fact that 98% of all child molestation is by heterosexual males with young girls as victims.

Pointing out that federal funds are currently being used to change "feminine" boys between the ages of five and eight into "masculine" prototypes, DeCrow wondered what a "masculine five year old would behave like."

DeCrow stated that both the feminist and gay movements were most threatening in that they challenge the whole concept of gender identification. She said that by challenging the definitions of what it means to be male or female, lesbians and gay men have "become the witches of the '70s," and are punished more than any other group for becoming autonomous women and gentle men.

Kate Millet added to one of Anita Bryant's favorite phrases to day, "Save our children... for the Revolution." "We are the future and we know what we want" she stated, adding that, although we have not yet penetrated the super-structure we have thrown it into a state of panic and fear. Explaining that Bryant is "one of the last symptoms of the struggle for a super-structure to live," she pointed out that the absurdity of Anita Bryant is apparent because the struggle has already been lost. She asked us to remember that "when we

are the majority let us never be the pigs that they were."

Although Bryant and other right wing forces claim that the bible proves that homosexuality is a sin and therefore not to be sanctioned by either the church or the state, Dr. Smith maintained that there is indeed a christian concern for social justice, but that concern is "bounded only by the territory of being human" and encompasses all differences between human beings. He also pointed out that if we are to take the bible literally, it would have

to be noted that St. Paul said that Bryant shouldn't speak at the Dome because she is a woman.

Perhaps Leonard Matlovich said it best when he said, "If Anita Bryant is a born again christian she should try... try... try and try again until she gets it right."

George Daley, co-coordinator of the Rally for Rights said that the rally served two specific functions. One of those was to begin to reach out to the non-gay community and establish a firm base of

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Despite technical illegality court says...

Briggs initiative OK until voted in

LOS ANGELES—A Superior Court here has apparently refused to uphold a court injunction filed by groups opposed to the anti-gay school workers Briggs Initiative, Proposition 6.

According to San Francisco's *Sentinel*, Judge Charles Phillips determined that state registrars had complied with the law in accepting signatures on the petitions filed by State Senator John Briggs last May. The judge also ruled that even if the 4,000 contested names were invalid, Briggs still had presented more than the necessary 312,404 signatures on his petitions.

A temporary restraining order had been issued by another Superior Court judge disallowing the Secretary of State from printing the November ballots until after the present ruling.

The anti-initiative forces contended in a lawsuit that there was massive fraud, forgery, perjury and misrepresentation in

the circulation of the petition. The suit also alleged that the method of counting signatures was defective, and that new and untrained persons did part of the counting.

The plaintiffs, Los Angeles gay activist Morris Knight, the National Organization for Women, California Federation of Teachers and the Gay Teachers of Los Angeles, charged that the typeface on the ballot question was technically too small.

Peter Scott, a spokesperson for the No On Proposition 6 Committee told the *Sentinel* that Judge Phillips dismissed the printing question as irrelevant.

Scott reported that Judge Phillips ruled that the "initiative is unclear and that is not the fault of the Attorney General or the Secretary of State's office." According to Scott, "The court felt that the unconstitutionality or ambiguity of the Briggs Initiative will have to be decided after the people have voted it into law in November."

According to the report in the *Sentinel*, Judge Phillips was aware that there is an ongoing investigation into the charge of forgery in the gathering of the signatures in San Diego county. Scott concluded, "Phillips indicated that if that is the case and there is a forgery conviction, then the Supreme Court will deal with that and the constitutionality of the ballot measure if it is voted after November."

Meanwhile, California Attorney General Evelle Younger, who has said he would remain neutral on Proposition 6, indicated that sections of the initiative may have constitutional problems. Younger believes that the measure would merely write into the state Constitution "case law" or court decisions. He added that if the measure goes beyond case law permitting the firing of teachers solely for being gay, then that section might be declared unconstitutional.

—from *The Body Politic*



Sue Cowell, co-coordinator of the Rally for Rights gives blood while Joel Loy of Channel 13 (WOKR) interviews her about the Feminist Blood Drive. The Blood Drive took place during the week of September 11 and was sponsored by feminist organizations, in the Rochester area, and was organized by Rally for Rights coordinators.

ROCHESTER ROUNDUP

Position left vacant in August filled as...

GAGV hires director of volunteer services

Early in September the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley, Inc. hired Bill Rider as Director of Volunteer Services, filling the position left empty by the resignation of Daryl Clemens. Although Clemens had focused on the development of the counseling program at the Alliance, Rider sees an immediate need for qualified volunteers to take on the responsibilities of the paid staff when CETA funds run out in December of this year. Rider intends to launch an aggressive campaign to recruit volunteers for the Alliance, beginning with information and sign-up booths at the Rally for Rights. This will be followed with booths at area campuses, gay bars and possibly at shopping centers in the Rochester area. Rider stated that his goal is to "see the Gay Alliance become self-sufficient as a volunteer organization," and stated that many

positions are presently open. They include day staffers for the office at 715 Monroe, volunteers for the Empty Closet (editor, advertising manager, ad reps, artists, writers and photographers) as well as volunteers to serve the other affiliate groups, Rochester Gay Task Force, Lesbian Resource Center, and Gay Brotherhood.

Although seeking qualified volunteers is Rider's priority, he will also be responsible for writing an office procedures manual for the Alliance and rewriting the peer-counselors training manual.

Rider received a Bachelors Degree in Social Work from Rochester Institute of

Technology in 1975, and has served various social service agencies as a volunteer since 1971. He has organized a tenant's association, provided reading services for the blind, and worked with disabled persons at Monroe Community Hospital.

Rider, 36, is blind himself, and feels that his handicap helps to make him more sensitive to the problems of lesbians and gay men. He feels that those problems are quite similar to those of the handicapped in that both groups are victims of a society unwilling to grant them the independence and support that they need.

Since becoming blind, Rider has been

unable to find employment and feels that he has been discriminated against by the social service agencies that he would like to work for. He stated that "social service agencies take a patronizing stance toward the handicapped but are unwilling to hire us." He feels that this attitude is peculiar to the east coast where social services are an old established institution and follow a "white male dominated pattern of paternalism." He cited the programs that provide full services for the handicapped on the west coast as examples of what he would like to see in this area.

Word is out that film will be aired

By TIM MAINS

WXXI (Channel 21) plans to air the acclaimed documentary *Word Is Out* sometime in November, according to station manager, David Dial. Dial's commitment to show the movie about lesbian and gay lifestyles appears to be a change from the station's original intent.

Described by *Newsweek* as "a remarkably coherent chronicle of what it is like to be 'different' in America", the film was produced by the Mariposa Film Group with a \$50,000 starting grant from WNET/THIRTEEN in New York City.

When Debbie Drechsler, Media Specialist for the Gay Alliance, received a media

alert from National Gay Task Force announcing that the Public Broadcasting System was airing the show nationwide on October 10th, she called WXXI to confirm the date. She was informed by program director William Haley that *Word Is Out* would not be shown in Rochester because it wasn't "of general interest".

"I was shocked," said Drechsler. "Thousands of people in WXXI's viewing area will want to see this film. When I tried to explain this to Haley he accused me of threatening to use pressure tactics."

Drechsler and others decided to act on Haley's idea. A media alert was circulated among members of the gay community and their supporters. WXXI began to get phone calls (many from subscribers to WXXI)

requesting information about the show date for the film. Haley went on vacation and questions were then directed to Dial.

Dial told this reporter that the film would be video-taped and aired "sometime in November". He explained that PBS only sends one page descriptions of its releases which are often inadequate to determine whether a new show or unique item is worthy of air time. Dial said November's schedule would be firm early in October, giving the Empty Closet time to alert lesbians and gay men and their supporters of the exact time and date.

Lambda offers legal aid

After five years of functioning with volunteer help, the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, this winter, established the position of Executive Director and in February, retained an attorney, Ms. Barbara Levy, to fill the post part-time. Now, seven months later, Lambda has just received grants from the Aetna Foundation, the Playboy Foundation and the Eastman Family Fund, in addition to CETA funding for a full-time staff position.

Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund is a not-for-profit, tax-exempt corporation authorized to practice law under New York State law. The organization provides legal representation or assistance in cases which have the potential for developing positive law on gay rights issues.

The increase in funds and the addition of a second staff person, Ms. Linda Barr, will enable Lambda to begin expanding its services to the gay community. Ms. Levy commented, "The funding will first be used to meet office expenses and litigation costs in our major cases. We then hope to initiate several projects, including a series of educational pamphlets on aspects of the law which are of particular concern to gay people."

For further information about Lambda's work, or if you wish to contribute time or money, please contact Ms. Levy at Lambda, 22 East 40th Street, New York, NY 10016. Phone: (212) 532-8197.



Members of the Mariposa Film Group who produced *WORD IS OUT* (from left to right): Veronica Selver, Lucy Manolo Phouks, Nancy Adair, Andrew Brown, Robert Epstein and Peter Adair.

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EMPIRE STATE ROUNDUP

Bryant virtually ignored in Utica while...

Gays & supporters march

By Susan Cowell

Utica, New York was the site of a successful Rally for Human Rights on September 16, 1978. The rally was organized by a coalition of human rights advocates. Kate Osher, coordinator of the rally said the rally was "planned to offer an opportunity for the public expression by those opposed to the beliefs of Anita Bryant and those who favor freedom of choice on the abortion issue." While the Rally for Human Rights was in progress, so was a Northeast Regional Right to Life Congress with Anita Bryant as the featured performer.

Early morning grey skies threatened the success of the outdoor rally, but as the skies cleared, over 300 people came out to listen to pro-rights speakers. Among the more lively speakers was Earl Colvin, editor of the *Syracuse Gay Light*. Mr. Colvin spoke of churches that will not allow openly gay individuals to be clergy, but do allow hypocrites and liars. He added, that "in many churches apparently the only requirement for the ministry is a penis, but you're not allowed to use it." He was very impressed with the turnout of people in Utica, which is generally thought of as a conservative small city. "A crowd of this size is considerable," he said. These are very brave people."

Other speakers included Diane Piche, who urged students to get involved in the political issues of human rights. The platform of speakers was diverse and included a gay minister, college professor, a Planned Parenthood worker, and Rev. Dr. John Regier, Executive Director of the N.Y.S. Council of Churches.

At the Right to Life Congress, Anita Bryant spoke to an audience of 175 in a 6,000 seat auditorium. The Rally for

Human Rights ended with a march past the auditorium while the Congress was still in progress. The march grew from 300 to over 500 by the time it completed an one hour course through the streets of Utica. Women, men and children marched peacefully for one hour singing and chanting, "The People United Will Never Be Defeated."

In a press conference in Utica, Anita Bryant and her husband, Bob Green shared their thoughts with the media. Bryant's recent *Playboy* article was described as a "set-up by a free lance writer" who misrepresented the purpose of the interview. She also charged *Playboy* with selectively editing her to distort the truth.

In Dade County, she described her fight as a concerned mother who stood up for "Life, America, and God." She denounced the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) for not defending her rights as an

American, yet stated that they will defend the rights of a "out-of-the-closet flaunting homosexual to teach in private and religious schools." She described the gay movement as a "gay underground" that is well organized and well funded by the American government and many private foundations.

Bryant has recently accused "militant homosexuals" of violating her right to free speech and threatening her life. Despite these charges, her stay in Utica was a peaceful one. Her religious and moral beliefs have changed her personal life drastically, but in spite of the changes she still enjoys travelling and meeting "wonderful people who are pro-life, and care about the American flag and children." She ended with, "It's amazing what one little old girl can do." Even if it is in front of 6,000 empty seats, Anita.

Want to stop gay oppression?

Register & cast your ballot

By James R. Ide

Every generation has many tasks facing them. Our generation has a task which must be faced, the task of confronting homophobia. Like the tasks of other generations, confronting homophobia will take a lot of guts, and some up front—out of the closet—articulate lesbians and gay men willing to lay it on the line. Those who can not yet come out, must support those of us who have. We need them. We need the support of their money. We need the support of their votes. As long as the election booth is still private, they can support us in the privacy of that election booth.

We have a great past, hidden though it usually is. We must now assure ourselves of a great future. It is not going to happen unless we make it happen. We have to constantly remind government that we are human beings; sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, parishioners, taxpayers, constituents; we are people. We have given, individually and collectively, much more to society than we have ever taken from it. Well it is now time not just to ask government for our rightful share, but to demand it.

Government will not be too anxious to treat us as human beings; they have too often found us a convenient scapegoat. Government has contributed to our sense of self concept by making our most

intimate and private acts illegal even when these acts are between consenting adults in the privacy of our own bedrooms. The United States and New York State Governments have some of the harshest legal punishments against homosexuality in the "free" world. The only progress they have made thus far is that they no longer provide for sterilization or asexualization of "deviates;" laws which were prominent in the first half of this century. To those who argue that homosexuality occurs only in permissive societies, we can point to those societies where it is permitted, we can also point to those societies where even the death penalty has failed to stamp it out. Homosexuality has existed in all cultures at all times, and will continue always to exist. Laws against homosexuality have never proven to be effective; it is no more common in France, the Netherlands, Sweden, or Great Britain, where it is not a crime, than in New York, where it is a crime. Behavioral scientists theorize that if, somehow, all existing homosexuals were to disappear from the world today, the next generation would produce a similar percentage of homosexuals—even without any role models, recruitment, or proselytizing. Homosexuality is taboo and illegal in spite of, not because of, people's increasing knowledge.

What can you do to help?

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THE EMPTY CLOSET

Help prevent "gay hunt"

Dear Friends:

Gay America is at war, war against bigotry and the demagogues who seek to destroy us because of our sexual orientation. If Proposition 6 passes in California on November 7, a vicious tide of political and legislative persecution will sweep America.

It's the McCarthyism of this era.

The passage of Proposition 6 means we, by law, will start losing our jobs. Every American should realize the immediate threat.

Polls show we are ahead and we can win. However, to run a successful campaign requires \$1.3 to \$1.5 million.

As an individual, group, or business, we solicit your maximum support. Please review the following timetable and participate as you can:

- Join the "Committee of 100,000" now. If 100,000 people each contributed \$10.00, that would pay for the full television media costs of \$1,000,000.
- Get friends and others to also join.
- Organize to help us. We need fundraising and educational events going on throughout the country, informing Americans of the threat, and raising funds to run the campaign. Laws govern such activities, so call us before planning too much. We also



appreciate just knowing what is going on.

- Participate in "National Fundraising Week", October 8th through October 14th. During this week, we ask every group, business, bath, and bar to do something to help: Picnics, cocktail parties, \$1.00 NIGHT at the bars... the list goes on. To participate, fill out the poster request card and return.
- Halloween Help-Out. Bars, discos and other businesses make substantial profits on that night. We ask you to send, by October 15th, five to ten percent of your estimated Halloween Night profit.
- Anything else you can do or think of.

We appreciate your efforts. This is a national issue and requires help from all gay people and every American who believes in basic human rights for all.

Sincerely,
Troy Perry

Contact: Bruce Goranson
213-930-2520

Use clout to clobber ARCO

Dear Editor,

The September Empty Closet included an article which stated that the Atlantic Richfield Company (ARCO) had contributed \$2,000 to John Briggs' gubernatorial campaign. I was very upset by the fact that this advocate of the destruction of human rights was being backed by this big firm, and who knows how many other large companies.

I was also upset by the fact that as an ARCO credit card user, I have spent \$600 on ARCO gasoline and services within the last two years.

To express my concern over ARCO's actions, I sent them my credit card, cut neatly into six pieces, with a letter expressing my refusal to contribute to the profitability of a firm with no regard for my human rights. I also stated my hope that mine would be but one of an avalanche of credit cards returned to ARCO due to their Briggs support.

This is where the Empty Closet comes in. In recent months, Bob Hope had been cracking anti Anita Bryant jokes. Hope has long been sponsored by the Texaco Corp. Anita's supporters tore up their Texaco credit cards denouncing Hope's statements. Their economic boycott caused Texaco to pressure Hope to cease his anti-Bryant jokes.

It has been said that "Economic sanctions are the most powerful weapon the gay community has." and this is true. Lesbians and gay men represent 10% of the buying power of this country. This force should be used to achieve freedoms for gays, not to be funnelled into anti-gay contributions.

To start using their dollars wisely, gay people and their supporters who have ARCO credit cards should return them to ARCO, citing the Briggs contribution as the reason. If you don't have an ARCO card, write and tell them you won't

patronize ARCO. If you don't have time to write a letter, clip this one. Your actions are needed to let ARCO, and other companies know that the gay population is a powerful economic force which will be used against them if they respond to our patronage by attempting to take away our rights.

Write to ARCO and spend discriminately! Use the economic clout of all gays to help achieve what is rightfully ours—human rights.

Sincerely,
Cathy L.

Review

New sounds from women

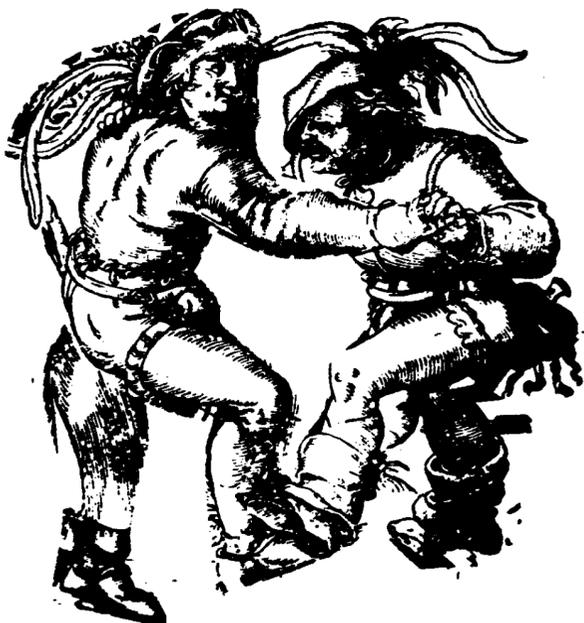
By CINDY WILDER

Since so many new recordings have been released in the area of women's music lately, it was suggested that a short review of the latest releases might be helpful. The following records have all been released this summer, and should be in the stores by the beginning of October.

Baba Yaga — "On the Edge". Bloodleaf Records; distributed by Olivia Records. Baba Yaga is a 5-piece women's band from Portland, Oregon; the sound is jazz/blues, heavily influenced from Black and Latin music. The individual band members are skilled in more than one musical area and on more than one instrument; this versatility is reflected in the good jazz heard here. Their lyrics are strong, but since strong feminist statements are not usually made in a jazz setting, I'm tempted either to just listen to the music or to just read the words. The vocals are perhaps the weakest feature of the album. An interesting record for the new dimension it gives to the field of women's music.

Therese Edell — "From Women's Faces". Sea Friends Records. That Therese Edell has managed to produce a strong feminist record in Cincinnati, Ohio is reason enough to support her, but luckily for us there are much better reasons. Most of her songs—of a lover, of a mentally ill friend, of an old woman, of family members—are sensitively drawn portraits; her husky voice easily expresses the varied emotions of her lyrics. Edell appeared at the Michigan Women's Music Festival in August. Since that is where I first heard her, I would have preferred more of just Therese and her guitar, rather than the more complex arrangements on her album. This is a minor point; I'm personally grateful that she worked so hard to get this album to us.

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COLLECTIVE THINKING

Cris Williamson — "Live Dream". Dream Machine Records; distributed by Olivia Records. In this long awaited new release, Cris is backed by Jackie Robbins and June Millington, both of whom appeared on her first album. The album was recorded at various concerts, so don't expect the high quality of recording found on studio albums. I think the album is more uneven than her first—some songs are definitely more inspired (and inspiring) than others. But Cris is still Cris—what can I say?

"Side by Side — Reenactments of Scenes from Women's History, 1848 to 1920". Galaxia Records. This is a very ambitious double album from a new and energetic women's recording company. The liner notes offer a crash course in women's history, with each paragraph serving to introduce a particular reading. Some of the readings, such as Sojourner Truth's "Ain't I a Woman" are well known, but others were new to me; quite a bit of research has gone into this presentation. I expected to be bored by a "talking record", and was surprised at how interesting it is to listen to. It's appeal and general play ability are understandably limited to particular people and occasions.

Lilith — "Boston Ride". Galaxia Records. Galaxia released this and the above record simultaneously, perhaps to show that they are interested in promoting many aspects of women's culture. Here is the first real women's rock band (with jazz influence); they are quite popular in the Boston area and have gotten good reviews, which speak highly of their energy and talents. The seven member group has been together for 6 years, which no doubt contributes to their tight arrangements, both instrumental and vocal, and their general sense of "togetherness." The first real danceable album to emerge from the women's music field.

Sweet Honey in the Rock — "B'lieve I'll Run On ... See What the End's Gonna Be". Redwood Records. Sweet Honey has one of the most distinctive and exciting sounds around; the four women sing a capella a wide range of black sounds—jazz, gospel, rhythm and blues—but their roots are in the music of the black church and people. They each can sing strong lead vocals as well as supporting harmonies; their songs are songs of social commentary, protest, and of their identity as Black women. All of the songs are exciting, but when I think of seeing them in Michigan, I remember the title song in particular, which is the best explanation I've heard of what it means to "keep on keepin' on". That they have chosen to record their second album on a lesbian-feminist label tells me that they are ready to openly share with us the self-knowledge and strength

that Black women have traditionally had.

Kay Gardner — "Emerging". Urana-Wise Women Enterprises. Kay is definitely going for the classical market with this album. The pieces range in style from baroque to romantic to extremely free form and improvisational; there are few vocals, and in these the voices are used to add harmonies—there are no words. The album arrived as I was writing this article—I've heard it only once and can say nothing about how it will age. Kay shows more of her compositional and arranging talents here than were evident on "Moon-circles". She's grown and changed, but I'm not sure who her audience will be now.

Besides the new releases, there will be some oldies available where women's music is sold. Among these are Sweet Honey's first album, "Sweet Honey in the Rock", plus several albums by the late and very talented Malvina Reynolds. More on these next time.

Review

Bryant really a threat?

By STELL

My dears, I began this column as humorous reportage and called it the Disco Hotline. Then it became Dagnet, and for many people stopped being all that funny. So in keeping with the general trend of events, I'M reviewing someone who should have been funny and wasn't for my last column.

There being all the fuss of a rally, I decided to take my photographer in tow and have a peek at the opposition... Not wishing to attract undue attention, we dressed simply in polyester. I added a small ankle corsage of roses made from trading stamps for a bit of contrast. Right away I knew we were out of step: general trends for the evening were leisure suits, oversprayed curls, and crocheted shawls. Attendance was sparse, considering the size of the Dome, so we got front row seats right up by the flags and flowers. The gladiolas were bearable, but the blue dyed carnations were strictly from hunger. So was the warmup band, or are white Gospel singers all supposed to sing through their noses?

Anyway, after a few plugs for albums, Jesus, and Fletcher Brothers, the real show began. I spotted a viridian cape when Anita came out of the dressing room, but she went onstage in a white gown with a poppy print. Those dangle earrings were

enough, but I couldn't help but wonder what fish she wanted to catch with that diamond-encrusted fishhook. Her first number was 'Old Fashioned Prayin,' which sort of set the tone for the rest of the evening. I'd first thought I was seeing Patti Page with a bad henna job, but that element of good humor was missing. One would think that a woman who smiles so often could crack a joke. But I guess martyrs aren't supposed to set a frivolous tone, and she is playing herself to be a modern-day victim of the maneaters.

Despite all the outcry there has been, I have to agree with Anita when she says she isn't conducting a pogrom against gays. Honeys, we're only number 10 on her list of evil forces rampant in the U.S.A. Abortions rate a six. She's not even running the movement against us. Not to discount Dade County, but she no more changed that law than Nixon created Watergate. The poor woman has tried repeatedly to abdicate her new role, but her husband and pastor keep her convinced. How nice to see men supportive of women for a change. Anyone who can afford to pay her can get Anita to come to his town, wave her Bible, and extol the virtues of the Nuclear Family (cue the strings). Any thing that threatens The Family (cue the organ) gets a Scripture passage thrown at it.

Anita Bryant is not the demonic power we have played her up to be. And do we really need a scapegoat these days? Personifications of Good and Evil are helpful if one doesn't wish to take the time to think for oneself. So are philosophies that can be quoted on a bumper sticker. So also is the practice of delegating responsibility to an authority figure, which brings



Photo by Jan

up this column.

If I took this column seriously, I would never have started it. Two sentences in the Summer Fun issue were bigger news than the real tragedy of Big Billy. It all flew in the face of one of my best friends, the very hairs of whose head were being threatened. So for the next show I gave a review of unrelenting praise, and everyone was thrilled. At no time did anyone note that this was merely one person's opinion, albeit a published one. I refuse to write about the bleaching of one's hair for the Diana Dors look or the wearing of plastic trowels for nails as life-and-death matters. And since only one person in the city had the wit to figure out my secret identity without being told, any criticism I write threatens Maxine's frosted locks. Therefore I have no choice but to discontinue the column. Adieu.

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The Rally for Rights 1978



Musical entertainment was provided by Madeline Davis (right) of Buffalo. Davis is well known to upstate lesbians and gay men for her strong voice and hard-hitting lyrics. She came out of retirement to perform at the rally and led a sing-a-long at the end of the day's events. Leah Warrick (left) and Helen Hooke both sang and accompanied themselves on the guitar. Both are Rochester natives, although Hooke gained national recognition while she was a member of JADE & SAS-PARILLA, an early feminist duo. Warrick has performed locally at women's concerts.



Dobbie Messmer, rally co-coordinator (above) was caught addressing the audience with a grimace. We were hard put to figure out why she would be displeased and were forced to assume that the look related to one of her own jokes.

Reps from religious and political organizations came from as far away as Michigan and Long Island, as well as cities in upstate New York, bearing banners and leaflets. Rochester's own Black Rose Collective (below) and the Syracuse Chapter of Metropolitan Community Church (far right) were just two of those groups.



Gay activist Leonard Matlovich (far right) encouraged lesbians and gay men to "Say it loud, Gay and Proud" while Kate Millet, noted feminist author and sculptor (right) called Rochester the "spiritual capital of the gay movement."



photo by Warren Ortland



photo by Warren Ortland



photo by Holly

Appearing to lead a chorus, the man pictured above is actually one of the people who interpreted for the hearing impaired. About ten men and women took turns interpreting, one on the platform and one closer to the audience. No the dog is not Radnor. In fact, he is not a spirit dog at all.



photo by Warren Ortland

George Daley, one of the coordinators of the rally read a statement of support from Midge Costanza. Costanza was unable to attend the rally but expressed her desire to share spiritually in the joy of the day's events and voiced hope that the rally marked the beginning of a trend towards solidarity between all groups working for human rights.

How the Media saw the Rally

By DEBORAH MESSMER

As one who looks to the electronic and print media to provide comprehensive coverage of local and national events and issues, I have often been disappointed in the way in which information pertaining to lesbians and gay men is reported.

Over the past year I have closely scrutinized the media in both entertainment and news in order to analyze just where the gay community can direct its input and use the media to further the cause of human rights.

The RALLY FOR RIGHTS was one occasion where local and state-wide media had the opportunity to focus on an historic event in Rochester. For the first time, a large (nearly 1000) group of gay and non-gay people joined to support human rights. The energy the rally generated in the Rochester community would have been impossible for the media to ignore. The social, moral and religious atmosphere created at the rally and in the events leading up to it (The Auction for Human Rights, the Feminist Blood Drive) showed support for all the ideals that we are struggling for in our fight for human rights.

The media did not ignore us. Local television, radio and print media gave coverage to almost every event that surrounded the rally. Channel 13's (WOKR) coverage included interviews with George Mohr and Marjory David, and a segment of Saturday Magazine dealt with gay lifestyles, as well as a news conference with Leonard Matlovich. Radio stations WCMF, WSAY, WVOR and WMJQ aired interviews with rally coordinators prior to the rally. Other television stations (WROC and WHEC) also covered the rally giving us headline status in the first 15 minutes of their evening news on Saturday night.

We received front page coverage in the local section of the Democrat & Chronicle on Sunday, September 24, which reached approximately 65% of the local adult population, as it is the only paper published on Sunday. The Times-Union gave coverage of the rally on the back page of the local section on Monday, September 25.

This may seem to be a small amount of media exposure until one considers that there is normally no news coverage of gay issues in Rochester unless there is a controversy (such as the CETA issue last fall). There are a few exceptions. Linda Randall at WXXI (Channel 21) produced a news special on gay lifestyles early in the summer, and more recently, WXXI produced the first of their Great Debate series

featuring Ginny Vida of The National Gay Task Force and Michael Macaluso, of Citizens for a Decent Community, debating whether openly homosexual teachers should be allowed in the schools.

One local newspaper, the New Women's Times, did very little in communicating to its readers the enthusiasm and success of the RALLY FOR RIGHTS. When asked for a statement to explain the lack of coverage in the paper, Maxine Sobel, a member of the collective that produces the paper, said, "The rally did not address feminist issues, and those issues that were addressed told us nothing new. The rally was not news, it was an event and we cover issues not events because they are 'fluff'." Sobel also stated that the "New Women's Times has been a leader in publishing lesbian and gay news." She went on to explain that the New Women's Times is a national paper now and local events just don't have national appeal. When asked why Anita Bryant's Rochester appearance received front page coverage in the "national paper," Sobel replied that "Ms. Bryant addressed feminist issues."

Media coverage of events does not necessarily guarantee coverage that is entirely accurate. The Democrat & Chronicle reported that Anita Bryant's concert at the Dome Arena on September 23 had approximately 3,000 people in attendance. According to the New Women's Times, box office figures indicated that only 1,000 tickets were sold. Local radio and television reports on RALLY FOR RIGHTS ATTENDANCE fluctuated between 800 and 1200.

In any case, the lesbian and gay community and its supporters must write letters of support and/or criticism to local newspapers, television and radio stations to encourage continued coverage of lesbian and gay issues and to expand upon that coverage when possible. The only way to make these issues known to the general public is to have it available. Public information and education will make or break this movement. We must continue to "make news"; invent programs and events that will call attention to our cause and see to it that the media covers us accurately.

National issues must be addressed by local activists in order to keep the issues in the local newspapers and electronic media. If we don't ensure that issues such as the upcoming Briggs initiative in California get local coverage, public misinformation may cause us to lose the battle if and when it reaches New York State.

I encourage all people who are concerned about our human and gay rights to contact the media with comment about local coverage and to encourage accurate coverage.



photo by Holly

Among the notables at the Rally for Rights was Michael Macaluso (above) founder of Citizens for a Decent Community. He was welcomed by emcee Dobbie Messmer who hoped "that he had learned something" at the rally.



photo by Jan

Adam DeBongh (left) national gay lobbyist from Washington, D.C. spoke of the need to write to representatives informing them that their constituents are gay or gay supporters. However, he stressed the fact that legislative politics was only one avenue of change and encouraged everyone to continue to come out for events such as the rally as well as on a more personal level with friends and family. He also stated that Anita Bryant isn't really the threat that we think she is and referred to her Boston concert, cancelled because of a bomb threat, saying, "Bryant should not fear outraged homosexuals as much as outraged music lovers."

Dues paid to women profs

PROVIDENCE, RI—More than a third of the 137 female faculty members at the University of Rhode Island will be getting retroactive pay raises averaging \$350 a year to close a salary gap with their male colleagues. The raises were recommended by a five-member committee that compared the pay levels of male and female teachers. Douglas Rosie, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs, said the review made allowance for education, experience and quality of work.

—from GCN

Bake bread earn it too

WASHINGTON, D.C.—After 1980, the US Bureau of Census will no longer be employing its "head of household" category. A report from Chief Demographer David Kaplan stated that the Bureau was attacked in 1970 for its policy that the husband was always the "head of household". The Bureau's computers automatically assigned the husband to the head of household even if people answered differently in a census report. The Bureau now concedes that since sex roles are changing so drastically it will no longer stick by its archaic policy but will ask instead for the "household member in whose name the home is rented or owned". If there is no such person, the Bureau will list the adult members without any particular designation. Additionally, the Bureau reported that it has recently included a new category of "partner, roommate" for gay or heterosexual couples living out of wedlock.

MOHR Info

NEWSFRONTS

Gay doctors form group

Gay physicians and medical students may be interested in an organization, now almost two years old, called Gay People in Medicine. A national group with local support activities, GPIM was organized as a task force of the American Medical Students Association. This past summer GPIM sponsored a booth at the AMA convention in St. Louis. Annual dues are \$10. For information, write GPIM at P.O. Box 131, 14650 Lee Road, Chantilly, Va. 22021 or call (703) 968-7920. Other contacts are Janet Yardley, 23 Dover Street, Worcester, Mass. 01609, telephone (617) 756-9385, and John White, 1934 Delancy Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19103, telephone (215) 545-5110.

—from GCN

Is Bob gay?

TORONTO—North York Controller Robert "Bob" Yuill says he plans to start a class action against the US makers of an "anatomically correct" homosexual doll called "Gay Bob."

Yuill said he wants all Canadians named Bob to get in touch with him and together they will start the action against what he says is the misuse of a respectable name. If he is successful, the case would likely have to be heard at The Hague.

When asked by *thp* how many "Bobs"

had replied to his call, he refused to reveal the number.

Yuill claims that he has been the butt of many homosexual jibes since the existence of the doll was made public. "I'm proud of my name," he told *TBP*, and says he does not want the dolls sold in Canada.

"I've nothing against the gay movement if it's all done quietly among adults," he said, "but I don't want to see it promoted among children."

Yuill is felt to be partly responsible for North York Mayor Mel Lastman's attempt to award Anita Bryant a medal for her stand against "homosexual activists."

—from *The Body Politic*

Gay runs for senate

An openly gay candidate is running for U.S. Senator from Minnesota. Brian J. Coyle, 34, has filed for the office as a public-interest independent who favors legal abortions, affirmative action, gay rights, alternative energy programs and continuing Federal support for community-based enterprises.

Coyle, a political activist since Vietnam War days, favors decentralization of government and will conduct a largely grassroots campaign throughout the state. Coyle is up against 11 other candidates, including incumbent Democrat Wendell Anderson.

—from *The Advocate*

Gays march in Mexico

MEXICO CITY, MEXICO—For the first time in Mexican history, a gay organization marched as a contingent in a mass demonstration.

The *Frente Homosexual de Accion Revolucionaria* (FHAR), the Homosexual Front for Revolutionary Action, marched recently in Mexico City in a demonstration "against police repression" and for a general amnesty. The demonstration was called by the Committee to Defend Political Prisoners, the university workers union, the Communist Party and the *Partido Revolucionario de los Trabajadores* (PRT) Revolutionary Workers Party).

About ten members of FHAR marched in front of the PRT contingent with a banner and leaflets. About 30 feminists and members of the PRT joined in the contingent along the march route.

The FHAR leaflet called for a fight against police repression, a linking of the gay, women's and workers movements and the building of "class consciousness" among gay people. The leaflet also noted that the group joined the march knowing that "anti-homosexual attitudes are not solely the province of the dominant class."

While the demonstration as a whole involved 30,000 people, media coverage was light and the FHAR contingent was only briefly mentioned in one daily newspaper, according to Rivas. The PRT newspaper, *Bandera Socialista*, carried a large article on the FHAR and its contingent in the issue following the demonstration.

Asked why this first gay group in Mexico would be openly socialist as well as gay, Rivas said that in Mexico "any organization that fights for its own rights becomes socialist."

Rivas said that a lesbian group has formed within the last few months and it is involved with the National Coalition of Feminist Women.

—from GCN

LESBIAN LINES

By DEBBIE DRECHSLER

In the August issue of the *Alternative*, a gay newspaper from Syracuse, Donald Cameron Scot formulated a new theory concerning Anita Bryant. Scot maintains that the real reason to condemn Bryant is that her husband, Bob Green has not fulfilled his duties as a husband. Apparently Green is to be criticized for allowing his wife to enter territory designated only for men. What exactly is this territory? Scot would have us believe that it is not a woman's place to make money, speak in public, or dress herself in the way that she chooses. Furthermore, he bolsters his argument with numerous quotations from Bryant's own book of rules, the bible. In his efforts to disqualify Bryant and to prove that Green is no more than a "glorified pimp" Scot chose these excerpts:

"Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law." (I COR 14:34)

"But I suffer not a woman to teach nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence." (I TIM 2:12)

"In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with braided hair, or gold or pearls, or costly array." (I TIM 2:9)

In other words what Scot is trying to say is that women, and specifically Bryant, should make themselves as little noticed as possible UNLESS they are given permission by men. What is important to note is that Scot is attacking Bryant on the basis of her womanhood, or on the basis of her wifehood. He is attempting to prove that because she doesn't subscribe to certain rules governing proper feminine behavior, she is not to be taken seriously.

Women keep your place. Or more exactly, men be sure that your women keep their places. The question is; what is a woman's place? The answer, from Scot's point of view, might be found on a pen given away by one of the local gay bars which bore the inscription, "Squeeze Anita's tits and watch the O.J. flow". A woman's place is, literally, to be manhandled. She has no business speaking her views, and was created simply to serve as an amusement for men. But what interest would a gay man have in squeezing Bryant's breasts? Perhaps Scot and his kind seek the best of all possible worlds. Perhaps what they are trying to say is that although they are not interested in women sexually they are interested in the benefits of having women around. Those benefits are well known to all women; keeping house, ministering to the sick in body and heart, unconditional support, nurturing, and performance of any general dirty work that might have to be done. The message on the give away pen seems to suggest that it might also be pleasant to have some

whether they are gay or not. During the late sixties and early seventies the women's movement resurfaced in the national media, and specifically in the popular news magazines of the time. It is interesting to note the similarity between Scot's description of Bryant and the early coverage of the women who led the new feminist movement.

Norman Mailer on Kate Millet: "...nothing if not a pug-nosed wit." (Time, 1971)

A colleague on Bella Abzug: "...but sometimes when she has that hat off and she is talking about the things she cares about, her face is really pretty." "She's just a big baby who wants to be loved insatiably." (Time, 1971)

Life magazine on Germaine Greer: "Sensuous and attractive to men."

In 1971 Life magazine ran an article by Barry Farrell about the new Men's Lib Movement. He interviewed Mike, one of

women around to vent one's anger upon, in the form of physical violence. However, if Scot and other gay men seek men as partners and for companionship, where do they intend to find the women to serve them? Bryant and other married women would be out of the question for they already belong to other men, but what about lesbians? Lesbians are no man's property and would consequently be the perfect victims.

These gay men are claiming what has traditionally been their right as men,

the leaders of the group and Wendy, the women he lived with. Here are his descriptions of both of them:

"...and when she dresses for the street, she puts on dungarees, hiking boots and a black leather jacket so that no pig-errant will mistake her for a sex object. She is, however, a remarkably beautiful woman, small and fine, and while sitting across the floor from her... it is impossible to avoid noticing that the zipper on her dungarees is broken."

No doubt Farrell presented what he considered an adequate view of both Wendy and Mike. Introducing Wendy was merely a way of showing that Mike was indeed a new breed of man, for women are only reflections of their men.

Seven years after Farrell wrote his article, women are (in some quarters anyway) still being criticized for their refusal to please men. Even the most enlightened of men can be heard calling a woman a bitch or ballbreaker when she has made herself particularly unattractive.

Yet the basis for those condemnations is always an action by the woman which is entirely unrelated to what those names describe.

Women are judged on the basis of their attractiveness. If a woman is not physically attractive she still has a chance for sanction if she behaves attractively. Behaving attractively means keeping silence, nurturing (and in fact continuing to fulfill) the established feminine roles. Each man has his own idea of what is attractive and (to confuse issues) an attack will come entirely unexpectedly. Women have been well-conditioned to respond to judgements upon their attractiveness. Although Bella Abzug received abuse for her behavior in 1971, she remained unaffected until someone "unwittingly" commented upon her wide girth, whereupon she burst into tears. None of her male colleagues were judged by their appearance, no matter how obnoxious their behavior, because men's actions speak for themselves. Although women's actions are criticized, the criticism is often accompanied by a qualifier. Scot gave Bryant an "F" or a poor rating, if only by way of criticizing her husband. Wendy received an "A" or fine rating for her appearance and an implied "F" for her refusal to capitalize on that attractiveness (in other words, an "F" for her behavior.)

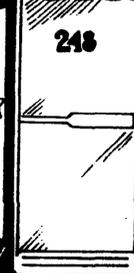
Women in the work forces are told that they must look good as well as do their work well and women working with men find that their behavior is expected to follow a set of laws laid down by those men. If a woman does her work well but is either physically or behaviorally unattractive she is subject to the same penalties as a man who merely does a bad job. Men can always find a way to criticize women for anything that we endeavor. Men can always rationalize that women are unthreatening because, even if our actions speak clearly, there is always that other avenue of criticism: judgement of attractiveness. Thus men have an easy way to increase their own sense of value.

Anita Bryant has done a bad job by many people's way of thinking. However, to criticize her relationship with her husband or the way she dresses or even her behavior is an injustice to Anita Bryant, a woman. She is entitled to the credit for her choice of action. If her actions are disagreeable then they are the issue, not she.



FRIAR'S INN

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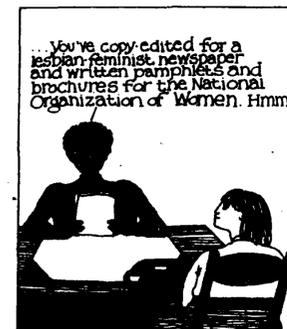
NOW SERVING DINNER FROM 6 UNTIL 10, & BRUNCH ON SUNDAYS FROM 1 UNTIL 3:30

Winging It

by Debbie Drechsler



Now then, Ms Riva, you are interested in the job of editing manuscripts...



...You've copy-edited for a lesbian feminist newspaper and written pamphlets and brochures for the National Organization of Women. Hmm.



There seems to be a slight conflict of interest here...



...You see, Lawyer's Corp has a rather notorious policy regarding women...

Monday - 25c draft beer
Tuesday - 2nd drink for 25c
Wednesday - 'Two for One'
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when you wear a Jim's T-shirt

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Classified Ads for our "Bulletin Board" cost \$3.00 for 25 words or less, and .10 for each additional word. Payment should accompany your order. Our office is not presently able to receive mail replies or telephone responses to these advertisements, so please include your mail address or telephone number in your ad if response is wanted. Contact our ad manager for rates for display ads. The Empty Closet reserves the right to refuse any ad which does not comply with our policy. Submit ads to the Empty Closet, 248 Monroe Ave., Rochester, N.Y. 14607

A new edition of the Rochester People's Yellow Pages came out this summer. The book has 128 pages and is full of information and resources for people wishing to take control of their own lives in the meeting of their day to day needs. About 70 people worked on this edition by contributing drawings, writing articles and poems, and tracking down information for listings. Work was co-ordinated by the people at Vocations for Social Change in the Genesee Coop.

Of interest to the gay community are listings in the section on GAYS including resources on counseling, politics, support groups, resource centers. But don't stop looking there—the rest of the book has information on alternative healing and health, feminism, consumer concerns, housing etc. etc. plus other hard to find information on Rochester.

The People's Yellow Pages is for sale at the Genesee Co-op and area book stores: Park Ave., Parkleigh, Scrantom for \$2.75.

Look for information in next month's issue of the Empty Closet concerning a COOKING *CONTEST to be sponsored by Vocations for Social Change.

POST RALLY BLUES? NEVER! The Gay Alliance is planning a big WINTER WEEKEND with a dance and dinner. Interested? Come to the next development meeting on Oct. 24 at 713 Monroe Ave., 8:30 pm. Get involved now!

ROOM FOR GAY BROTHER OR SISTER, single or couple in ultra modern home with everything furnished and full privileges. Private bath and garage with automatic opener. One hour from Roch. in Clyde, NY. Call Bud Scott (315) 923-2021.

ROOMMATE WANTED TO SHARE HOUSE on Canandaigua Lake year round. Only \$125 incl. utilities. Please call (716) 394-5831 and ask for Dave.

MEN interested in actively questioning male roles and sexism, and joining planning a future ROCHESTER MEN'S CONFERENCE are asked to meet at 8:00pm Oct. 11, 25 (future times to be arranged). For more info contact Matthew 637-4865/Rick-244-6250/Ron-473-8422/Guruseva-473-8092.

ROCHESTER WOMEN'S HEALTH COLLECTIVE open meeting on Oct. 9, 7:30pm. The evening will feature a potluck dessert and a program on new methods of birth control. Call 461-2567 for more information.

NYSGO CONFERENCE—October 21-22 in Buffalo. People interested in supporting and attending the conference call 244-8640 244-9030 for car-pool info.

LAST MINUTE NEWS FLASH!

Ward Is Out will show at the Coronet Theater on Thurston Rd. October 25 and 30. If you buy tickets in advance from the Gay Alliance, you will help benefit the Alliance. Tickets may be bought at the door, too. For more info call 244-8640/244-9030

<p>Gay Brotherhood (please note new times) all meetings at Gay Alliance, 713 Monroe Ave., 7:30pm unless otherwise noted</p> <p>Oct. 11(Wednesday) "Bring your buffet" 21(Saturday) Coffee house 10-2pm 25(Wednesday) Halloween costume party</p>	<p>Rochester Gay Task Force (Meets every Monday night at the Gay Alliance, 713 Monroe Ave., 8:00pm)</p>
<p>Empty Closet Oct. 9 Planning meeting for November issue, 248 Monroe Ave., 7:30pm. Call 232-6358 for info.</p>	<p>Lesbian Resource Center (all meetings on Wednesday at the Gay Alliance, 713 Monroe Ave., 8:00 pm unless otherwise noted)</p> <p>Oct. 4 Lesbian mothers-video-tape of dramatized court case. 8 Potluck dinner-all women children welcome. 5:00 pm. Place to be announced. Call 244-9030 for info. 18 Open poetry reading 27 Halloween dance-all women and children welcome. Wear a costume 9:00 pm. Place to be announced. Call 244-9030 for info. Nov. 1 Coming out</p>
<p>Misc. Oct. 24(Tuesday) Development meeting to plan Thanksgiving and Christmas Events. 8:00pm at the Gay Alliance, 713 Monroe Ave.</p>	

THANKS!
to everyone who planned
and worked to make the
**Rally a successful, thrilling
happening! — a brother**

The More News Page

At convention in Minnesota

Integrity chooses national priorities

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN—The Fourth International Integrity Convention, which had as its laudable theme "A Community of Prophets: Moving from Vision to Task," fulfilled the expectations of many. More than 125 participants in the convention had the opportunity to worship together, to choose from 25 different workshops, to listen to speakers, to work and to socialize together the weekend of August 17 to 20, in Minneapolis, meeting at Gethsemane Church.

Three major speakers each addressed the convention helping to give substance to the theme. James E. Nelson, professor of Christian Ethics at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, New Brighton, Minnesota, spoke as the "token straight." He said, in part, "The remaining paramount instance of double vision

[within the Church], however, is in the matter of sexual orientation... My own position is that sexuality is God's great and good gift to all of us, the psychological and physiological grounding of our capacity for love. It is an intrinsically important dimension of our humanness to be integrated fully, joyously, and responsibly into our personal identities. There is only one sexual ethic for us all."

The Rev. Ellen Barrett, Oakland, California, addressing the topic of faith and its manifestations in relation to Integrity as a gay Christian community, said, "But service inside and edification of the gay community alone is, while praiseworthy enough, not much more than beautifying our ghetto. And the inclusivity of Christianity, that we want to include us, means we need to go out and include them (all

sorts and conditions of theme) as well." Barbara Gittings, lesbian activist from Philadelphia, spoke on the topic "Gay Liberation is for Children Too," addressing her concern about the attitudes of children as they grow into adults towards gays and lesbians. There is a total lack of non-stereotypically tragic portrayals of lesbians and gays in children's and young-adult literature, both fiction and non-fiction.

The Rev. Malcolm Boyd, most recently author of *Take Off the Masks*, was the recipient of the 1978 Integrity Award, given for outstanding service to the gay community. His remarks touched on gays and lesbians as a people, and his gayness as his ethnicity. The thoughts expressed by speakers, including Integrity President John Lawrence of Boston, served as a backdrop for the other activities of the convention.

At the business session Kevin Seahill, Rochester, New York, was elected Vice-President. His duties include heading up the 1979 Episcopal General Convention committee, and he is relocating to Denver to aid in that task. Two women were

elected as Regional Representatives on Integrity's Executive Committee, Margaret Putnam for the New England and Martha Winslow for the Midwest. The Colorado General Convention of the Episcopal Church, were gays and lesbians in the Church is expected to be a major issue, continues to be a great concern of Integrity for the upcoming year. Other issues for the organization include strengthening the close to 50 local chapters of Integrity, making Integrity Inc. more financially viable, and ministering among and with the general gay community.

The number of tasks for this next year are large, but if the spirit of this convention is any indication there is a good amount of energy from a variety of persons ready to be put into useful service. Convention Deans Michael Suhr and Martha Winslow, along with the entire Integrity/Twin Cities chapter, can be rightly praised for providing fertile ground for people and issues to come together for a productive weekend.

Library adds gay headings

MINNEAPOLIS—Under the direction of head librarian Sanford Berman, the Hennepin County Library has developed a new cataloging system that includes subject headings such as "gay" and "lesbian."

Readers will now find it easier to locate information on any gay topic by referring to various new subject listings. Unfair and offensive terminologies describing gays have been eliminated.

Berman explains, "This new format makes the terminology more familiar to people. For example, the term 'gay' is used in the catalogue because the group

referred to is addressed as such."

Berman's system includes titles such as Gay Bars, Restaurants and Baths, Lesbian-Fiction, Lesbian-Periodicals and Lesbians-Personal Narratives. References to other minority groups have also been changed. Afro-American has replaced Negro, and Inuit replaces the slang term Eskimo.

This cataloging method represents a gradual shift away from the archaic practices employed by the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.

—from Philadelphia Gay News

Homosexuality linked to drug use

Chemist can't get clearance

The Department of Energy (DOE) is withholding the security clearance of Oak Ridge National Laboratories radiochemist Alvin Ray Crook pending the outcome of a Sept. 7 hearing examining Crook's attitudes and convictions regarding drug use and homosexuality.

Crook requested the hearing after he was informed by DOE that the department had evidence he was "a homosexual and was susceptible to coercion that would make him act against the best interests of the United States."

Much of the evidence gathered by the DOE was provided by Crooks himself; on his record of past employment he had listed his work as a bartender at an Atlanta gay bar, and he had instructed his friends to be honest if questioned about his homosexuality. During his subsequent interview with DOE investigators, Crook confirmed his friends' testimony and reaffirmed his homosexuality.

The DOE has stated in communication with Crook that his active homosexuality makes him unreliable and subject to blackmail. They also contend that because fellatio and sodomy are felonies in Tennessee, Crook is therefore an admitted felon.

Crook denies the first charge and points out the discriminatory nature of the second. "I have not tried to hide the fact that I am gay," said Crook. "They could

take out a full-page ad in *The New York Times* saying that Alvin Ray Crook is queer, and it would be fine with me. We've insisted on complete openness at the hearing, and we will invite the press—all in an effort to show that I would not be subject to blackmail."

Crooks further maintains that in Tennessee it is fellatio and sodomy that are illegal, regardless of the sexual preference of the person performing the act. "Therefore it's very likely that a good portion of the straight people working at ORNL have also engaged in felonious sexual activities," Crook said. "Yet straight people are not asked about their sex lives."

The hearing board's receptiveness to Crook's argument is a matter of speculation. The three board members were appointed by R.J. Hart, manager of DOE operations in Oakridge. Crook and his representative, Dr. Franklin Kameny of Washington, D.C., were refused permission to examine the board members for possible prejudice. If the hearing board decides against Crook, he will take his case to an appeals board, the final step in the DOE administrative procedure. The American Civil Liberties Union is also keeping a close watch on the case for possible legal action.

—from The Advocate

...register to vote

continued from page 3

- You must register to vote. You can do this in a few minutes at the Board of Elections, 39 W. Main St. (and Fitzhugh) or you can register by mail. Forms can be obtained from the Alliance Office at 713 Monroe Ave. or you can call the Board of Elections and they will send you the forms (428-4550). When you register to vote you should enroll at the same time on the same form in a political party. Since the Republican and Democratic Parties are the dominant parties, we can be more effective by working within one of these parties. We should hook into the power structure to get the power to work for us.
- Contact the Board of Elections (428-4550), or the Democratic Party (232-2410), or the Republican Party (546-8040) and find out who your party's District and Ward leaders are. Let both of these individuals

know that you exist and that you are willing to work for candidates or issues in which you believe.

• Drop in at the campaign headquarters of either the party or the candidate of your choice. You can offer them a campaign contribution of even more important, you can offer them some of your time. They always need volunteers to make phone calls, stuff envelopes, hand out pins, etc. They need people to attend their speaking engagements and ask leading questions of them and/or embarrassing questions of their opponents. Depending on where you are, you can do this as a concerned citizen or as a gay concerned citizen.

• Read next month's Empty Closet for the Seventh Annual Political Survey Results. It is an honest attempt to offer the gay community voting guidelines and evaluations.

know that you exist and that you are willing to work for candidates or issues in which you believe.

...rally for everyone's rights

continued from page 1

mutual agreement. Both he and Patti Evans, another co-coordinator, feel that although the ground was broken there is still a great deal remaining to be worked out between various groups before that base can be reached. Both felt hopeful that this could happen in the near future.

The other goal of the rally was to establish more communication between the diverse members of the gay community. It had been hoped that closeted lesbians and gay men would "come out" for the rally and organizers felt that this happened to some extent. Future plans to encourage this include a Thanksgiving Dinner on November and a Christmas dance on December 16. For the first time in years lesbians and gay men worked together to organize something meaningful to both

groups with little friction. Daley stated that this in itself was an achievement. Both Daley and Evans felt that the rally has created a new spirit in the lesbian/gay community that will continue on into the year.

Many civil rights groups from Rochester as well as other cities throughout the northeast attended the rally. Some of the local groups included Black Rose Collective, American Civil Liberties Union, Women's Jail Project, Dignity/Integrity, Youth Against War and Fascism, and Vocations for Social Change. There were groups from Long Island, Vermont, Michigan, and Toronto, as well as a CARavan from Syracuse and representatives from the Mattachine Society in Buffalo.

Mike Macaluso, founder of Citizens for a Decent Community, attended the Rally

for Rights and was given a warm welcome by Debbie Messmer, an emcee, who "hoped that he has learned something today."

Described by Matlovich as one of the best that he has seen anywhere, the rally was followed by an inter-denominational prayer service at Rosedale Community Center and a candlelight march from there to Cobbs Hill Park. Later that evening a dance was held at the Triangle Community Center, and the following morning a brunch was prepared by the Regular Restaurant for participants in the rally.

Dignity/Integrity celebrated its third anniversary on Sunday evening with a non-sexist Mass, and also bid farewell to Kevin Seahill, founder of the group, who is moving to Denver, Colorado, to serve as the national Vice President of Integrity.

Voters Have Pull Register and Vote

Please be aware of the following deadlines:

October 10: Deadline for Voter Registration by mail.

October 13 and 14: Local Registration Days—NOON to 9 PM (At Town Halls and Rochester Public Library branches).

Deadline to enroll in a party for the 1978 Primary Elections.

October 31: Deadline to Apply by Mail for an Absentee Ballot.

For information call the Board of Elections at 428-4550.

Presented as a public service by this newspaper and the Monroe County Board of Elections.

Tired of winter before its begun?

If you are one of the millions of people in northern parts of the country who suffer a sort of depression when summer ends, you will be delighted to hear that the Empty Closet has made a break-through discovery that may well change your life.

We have developed a simple and painless cure for those victims of the cold and dreary feeling that often accompanies the onset of winter. If you have an aversion to wool sweaters, mittens, thermostats and galoshes **READ ON!**

Our patented cure is **FREE** to you, and involves very little time or energy. Yet it is guaranteed to work. Sound impossible? Its not. All you have to do is fill out the handy clip-and-send coupon below. Send it to: the Empty Closet, 713 Monroe Ave., Rochester, NY 14607. If your misery has gone so far that a walk to the mailbox becomes an impossibility you need only reach for the telephone and call 232-6358. Eventually someone will answer. (It could take a few days. Be patient.) Tell her/him that you would like to volunteer to work on the Empty Closet. She/he will ask you some necessary questions (nothing personal, of course) and inform you of the next meeting date.

How does it work? Of course we can't tell you all of our secrets but the EC method works this way. We adhere to the "Idle hands are the devil's helpers" theory that God formulated. There is a direct connection between your hands and the part of your brain which stores misery. If the hands are moving, the connection is broken and the miseries disperse and leave (usually thru the left ear).

Certainly there are **OTHER** ways to keep one's hands busy, but look at it this way. If you keep your hands busy at the Empty Closet for, say two hours a week, you not only have plenty of time to busy them elsewhere, but you do us a great service. This then is our payment. We need no more.

This method is guaranteed and has been endorsed by specialists in the mental health field. Here's what some of our clients say:

"I used to be miserable all the time. I tried the Empty Closet method and now I don't have time to think of anything else."

Debbie Drechsler

"I used to moon about town, then I tried the EC method and I've got so much energy that I can't sit still."

Tim Mains

"I was a shy quiet fellow. Couldn't make friends and now that I've tried the EC method, I just can't stop talking."

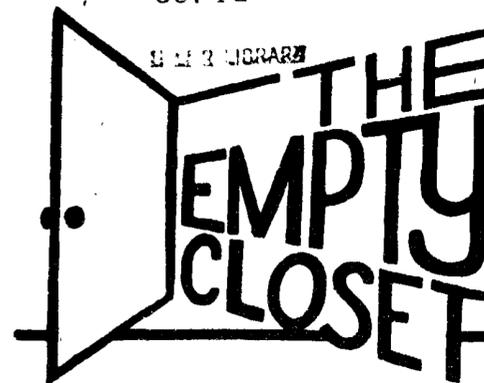
Jas

I'd love to work on The Empty Closet!		I'm interested in helping with:	
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Home Phone _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Feature writing	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
Work Phone _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Editing		
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• Briggs Initiative to go on ballot despite technical illegality

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• Lots of pictures of the RALLY FOR RIGHTS

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• Stell reviews Anita Bryant's concert

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