THE EMPTY CLOSET

FEBRUARY 1975

NUMBER 47



(photo: R. Sherwood)
GAY BROTHERHOOD OFFICERS ELECTED, (Left to right)
Lamont Downs, Secretary; Rick Caves and Tim Mains,
members-at-large; Seated: Wayne Alber, Vice Pres;
Robert Crystal, President; Howard Cullen, Treasurer.

GAGY BOARD OF DIRECTORS HOLDS FIRST MEETING

Touthe casual onlooker, the small group of people'assembled in Tim Mains' living room (three on the sofa, and 5 or 6 more sitting on the floor) might have appeared to be just a chance get-together of friends, but in actuality the Jan. 8 assemblage was the first preliminary organizational meeting of the "new" Gay Alliance of the Genessee Valley Board of Directors. GAGV, in its new role as an incorporated umbrella organization for Rochester gay groups, must fulfill certain legal requirements, and those requirements were the main topic of the relatively informal meeting. The incorporation papers were the primary center of interest as various objectives and priorities were discus-

sed for future meetings. As might be expected, no specific business was transacted; however, it was agreed that a new constitution would be drawn up for consideration at the next meeting. Also placed on the agenda were such matters as election of officers, discussions of funding sources, and consideration of just how best to utilize the "umbrella" nature of the new GAGV. It was also agreed that an annual report would be requested from each of the three groups presently making up the Gay Alliance - the Lesbian Resource Center, the Gay Brotherhood and the Gay Task Force. The board will be meeting approximately every two weeks until the most important matters are settled.

OSBORN, JEWELL REPORT ON WORLD GAY CONFERENCE

Homosexual behavior of any kind is illegal in ScotlAnd.

A member of the Edinburgh city council, expressing the prevailing view in Scotland, declares that a woman's place is in the home, and there is no place in the home for homosexuality.

The first World Gay
Rights Congress was held
from December 18 to 22
in Edinburgh, Scotland.
Why Edinburgh?

With a rapt audience of about twenty, Rochester delegates Bruce Jewell and Bob Osborn held forth at the first 1975 meeting of the Gay Brotherhood of Rochester for over two hours, presenting a comprehensive, occasionally amusing, and at times challenging view of the largest meeting ever held of an international organization devoted SOLELY to the subject of homosexual rights. Being passed around were the usual mementos of any conference: the official guidebook presented to each (unconventional) conventioneer, some Scottish currency, a pen bearing the gold legend "FIRST INTERNATIONAL GAY RIGHTS
CONGRESS 1974," and a copy
of a London gay publica-

tion, GAY NEWS.

But to return to the subject - why Edinburgh? According to Bob Osborn, the reason was quite simple - two people, aided by members of an organiza-

tion (the S.M.G.); decided that 1) a conterence was needed, and 2) they were willing to work for it. The choice also served to dramatize the plight of many gays living in countries hostile to the concept of sexual freedom. In spite of all this, however, the city as a whole gave the Congress no trouble, one normally straight dance bar even agreeing to rent itself to the convention for one evening. There was admittedly a certain amount of incomprehension by some as to the exact nature of the participants occasionally people would he seen parked in front of the discotheque (with doors locked) just plain gawking (imagine that in L.A.). And a protest march, involving some 150 of the delegates, certainly rais-

(See page 3)

GAY BROTHERHOOD ELECTS OFFICERS FOR 1975

Gay Brotherhood membership elected Robert Crystal as President at their annual election of Officers held Jan. 19th. He succeeds Michael Robertson who held the post for the past year.

Other Officers elected were: Vice-President. Waymalber; Secretary, Lamont Downs; Treasurer, Howard Cullen.

President Crystal, 25 is a native of Michigan and has lived most of his life in New York State. A graduate of Cornell, he was active in that University's Gay Liberation Front. He Came to Rochester in 1971, was active in its Gay Liberation, and

founded the Gays for Political Action. Crystal has been a member of the Coordinating Council of the Gay Brotherhood of Rochester, a former vice-president for a portion of a term and is a member of the Rochester Gay Task Force. Several months ago, Bob succeeded Bruce Jewell as producer of the Gay radio program "Green Thursday" on WCMF-FM.

Among the many challenges Bob sees as President, his foremost objective is "... Seeing the Gay Liberation Movement take its rightful place among other respected Community service civil rights groups

WHAT'S NEW AT THE GAY BROTHERHOOD

The Gay Brotherhood of Rochester's Co-ordin- ating Council held its monthly meeting at Michael Robertson's home on January 14. Besides the outgoing officers, most of the candidates for the 1975 election were present, including Robert Crystal, Lamont Downs, Tim Mains, Mark Schork, and Rick Caves (for the election results, see our special election article). The meeting was much less formal than most, with no motions presented and no votes ta-

The main issue for the evening was the budget, including a discussion of last years' and a general consideration of specific items therein. Whitey LeBlanc suggested that the committe chairpersons present individual budgets for their departments, which would then be boiled down by the finance committee into a unified budget to be presented to the co-ordinating council at its next meeting and then presented to the total membership for approval. A major item was this month's phone bill, which was horrendous.

A letter from Ted Aldrich was read to the coordinating council which presented various ways in which Rochester gays could contribute to his efforts as legislative consultant in Albany. Ted would like to receive letters from gay people detailing any abuse or

harassment they have suffered on account of their sexual preference. Also suggested by Ted were a telephone tree and let-

CREDIT FOR JAN. COVER

The cover of the January EMPTY CLOSET was
taken from the FIFTH
FREEDOM. We inadvertently
omitted the
cover credit. Our apologies to Buffalo's FIFTH

RREEDOM, and to artist

Portions of our article on the world gay conference (Jan 75) were also taken from a FIFTH FREEDOM article by David A, who credited Gay Community News, Boston. We Failed to credit the Fifth Freedom, although author and original source were credited.

ter writing campaign (the tree is currently being organized by Rick Caves), the establishment of contact with local prisoners' rights groups, and the appointment of a liasen man between Ted and the organization.

The Gay Brotherhood's monthly business meeting (held on January 19) was primarily devoted to discussion of the co-ordinating council minutes and the budget. Before the election voting took place, Michael Robertson, outgoing GBR president, was accorded a prolonged ovation by the members present.

The Gay Brotherhood office has acquired two more pieces of furniture, thanks to the AM/PM Cluba chair and couch, both quite attractive and VERY comfortable (personally tested by your everpresent CLOSET reporter). Thanks, AM/PM - and apologies for the marks left on your doorway during



ROBERT CRYSTAL, newly elected President of Gay Brotherhood

ALBANY POLITICAL EFBORTS

Exerpts from a letter from Ted Aldrich, lobbying consultant for the NY State Gay Coalition in Albany.

"Dear Sisters & Brothers "This is more a hasty
note to send my affection
to each of you and my gratitude for your trust and
confidence than it is a
report formally on my activities.

"A week's activity, settling into an office, finding my way through the halls of the Capitol and the streets of Albany, has dispelled the insecur-

(See page 3)

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13

Gays plan lobby for equality

By LOIS UTTLEY

In the first few days of the legislative session. Gov. Hugh Carey and members of the legislature will be urged to repeal the consensual sodomy section of the state penal code and enact a variety of laws banning discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

Ted Aldrich of Rochester, the newly hired fulltime lobbyist for the State Coalition of Gay Organizations, is compiling a legislative package to be presented to Carey and legislators next week.

While several of the proposals have been defeated in previous sessions, Aldrich is encouraged by portions of Carey's "state of the state"

He cites Carey's pledge "to end every vestige of discrimi- by the limits imposed on their nation, whether racial, reli- lives by our laws. As long as gious, sexual or ethnic, in the the penal code tells us we are operation of government it- criminals, our moral charac-

and other studies, we can conservatively estimate that in the community." about 10 per cent of the state Aldrich. 34, arrived in Alpopulation, or 1.8 million peo- bany on Monday. He will stay ple, have homosexual experiational homes and receive a ences for a least a substantial minimal salary donated by block of time during their individuals across the state. lives," Aldrich says.

neonle is seriously damaged hanning discrir



New York State Coalition of Gay Organizations lobbyist Ted Aldrich displays gay rights bills that have been defeated in previous sessions of the legislature. (Staff photo by Bob

will include:

ter is subject to question, we "Based on Kinsey reports fear for our jobs and we hold

He will press to have the The self-worth of all these Human Rights Law amended.

hasis of sexual orientation. Other legislative priorities

-Reform of laws dealing with solicitation. -Reform of prison prac-

tices of isolating known homosexual prisoners. -Prohibiting state and local agencies from compiling and

disseminating information concerning the sexual preferences of employes, welfare recipients or persons accused

-Repealing laws making it a crime for men to wear women's clothing.

-Reforming court practices of denying child custody to parents who have engaged in homosexual activities.

Section 130.3a of the state penal code prohibits "deviate sexual intercourse." The definition of "deviate sexual intercourse" under the law "would make criminals of all heterosexual or homosexual persons who favor anything but one standard position." Aldrich

He cites the penal code section as a source of corruption within law enforcement agen-A really GAY Musical Revue cies, which have a long history of demanding payoffs from

"A great amount of time Major Credit Cards accepted. and money is spent on round-For Reservations Phone AL 4-5076 Tues, thru Fri. 8 P.M. Sat. 7 & 10 P.M. ing up homosexuals and clos-Sun 5 & 8 PM ing gay bars," he says. "That \$7.90/\$6.50/\$5.50 is a misplaced expenditure

that New York State can't af- PLAYERS THEATRE H5 Macdougal St. ford right now." Knickerbocker News New York, N.Y.

The Times-Union

gay bars."



Elaine Noble of Boston won election to the Massachusetts house as a lesbian unning on a gay liberation rights ticket.

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Remember the Specials

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EXERCISE SAUNA LOUNGE

92 NORTH ST. ROCHESTER, N.Y.

World Conference from p. 1 ed some eyebrows, including those of some of the marchers themselves, to whom the event was the highlight of the Congress.

Bob and Bruce headed first for London, where they were hosted by one of London's two main'gay organizations, Gay Switch. board, and met with representatives of the other, CHE (Committee for Homosexual Equality). According to Bruce, London has much less of a gay subculture with its attendar organizations than does New Yorksor San Francis: co. A cause (or result) of this may be found in the fact that the vast majority of gay pubs (and straight ones) close at 10 p.m., the exceptions being gay private clubs.

Early Wednesday (Dec. 18) morning the two delegates entrained for Edinburgh, in cars carefully stickered "National Gray (so soon?) Task Force." In Edinburgh they were lodged in converted Victorian stone houses minus central heating, a common situation. About two hundred of the delegates arrived Wednesday, with another hundred appearing as soon as school release dates permitted. Representation of various countries was, not surprisingly, quite uneven. There were no delegates from the Iron Curtain nations, and virtually none from South America, Africa or Asia. Most Western European countries, the U.S., and to a lesser degree Canada were well represented (though Gore Vidal's expected appearance failed to materialize), with a large portion of the U.S. people being from the New York/Boston area, with some from Chicago, Buffalo, Indianapolis and Los Angeles among

The Congress featured two main sessions each day, as well as various workshops. Subjects of the sessions were: Thursday - International Laws, Status of Gay Women; Friday - Persecution of Gays, Counseling and Befriending; and Saturday - Youth and Aging, International Action. Among the workshops featured were Gay Attitudes Toward Feminism, Social/ Psychiatric Research, Gays and Religion, Unusual Sexuality (sadomasochism, bestiality, etc.) and Gay Scholarship.

But why bother? What's the point of all this? What did the conference do anyway?

Plenty, that's what. Aside from the obvious publicity value, a number of concrete resolutions did emerge from the conference. Among others:

The Lambda symbol, o-riginated by the Gay Acti-vists Alliance of New York City, is now officially recognized as the international symbol of gay liberation.

Feminism was recognized as a central theme of the congress.

There would be an International Lesbian Rights conference to be held sometime in 1975, probably

Incidentally, the In-ternational Action Workshop - responsible for getting main resolution

to the floor of the conference - was composed of about twenty delegates, among them Rochester's own Bob Osborn, and Bruce Jewell are proud to say that Rochester did contribute many of the ideas and goals acted upon by the Congress. And the main creation of the conference, incidentally drawn up by Bob Osborn and adopted by the Congress with only two amendments, was a proposal for the 1975-1976 operating plan.

The main items: The next conference to be held in April of 1976, probably in Puerto Rico.

Establishment of various Task Forces on: 1) 1976 Gay Rights Congress - to do the necessary groundwork.

2) Organizations to communicate with such international organizations as the United Nations, UNESCO, Amnesty International, etc.

3) Communications to develop an international gay news service, and prepare lists of gay news publications. 4) Opression - to es-

ound the world of antigay opression. Each of the above task forces is to be composed of at least 10 people. with a maximum of two from

tablish the status ar-

any one country. Bruce Jewell's evaluation of the Congress' overall success was that it suffered from a lack of cohesion, not surprising · in such a varied group, particularly in its first meeting. For the most part cut out for them.

there were few internstional declarations, and a certain amount of disruption was created by the large number of "hangerson" present - persons determined to rehash old issues long agreed upon (a sexist film was immediately denounced as such at length by one delegate, while the rest of the Congress tried to gently explain that that was why it was being shown in the first place).

Although the Congress voted on the first day to make feminism the central issue of the convention, there was nevertheless considerable dissatisfaction from the women present, a not surprising situation in a basically maledominated conference (of the delegates, only about 30-40 were women). Bruce felt that the situation was inevitable in a conference where the women were basically invited by the men, rather than the other way around. The resolution establishing an International Lesbian

Rights Congress was the

logical result, and helped calm down all concerned (somewhat). And the challenge? U.S. immigration laws prohibit the entry, for any reason, of homosexual persons into the United States. And, as we all know, Puerto Rico is currently busy harassing gays with a brand extortion, blackmail, denew gaggle of persecutory laws. With a little under two years available to make the necessary changes happen, U.S. gays

clearly have their work

Albany Efforts from p. 1 ities and doubts that were dragging on me during late December.

"The whole thing is real and our goals are possible. Some this year.

Others next year. "The process of govern ment may be slow & flawed but it is responsive.... "Now, for the means and the material to substantiate our arguments on issues....

"I will report next week specifically on the standing of our bills, the direct efforts and proceedures I will be asking of gay people in Rochester & elsewhere, and any developments of concern to our issues...

"Here (see Gays plan lobby for equality P2) is an interview from "Knick" news & an issue arising the same day (see State agency probing Albany County Jail) - I am uncertain how I will proceed to respond to this best - it could be leverage for investigation & change to more human conditions in our prisons....

"Letters to me outlining any experiences of abuse: discrimination. mental anguish, theft, nials of custody or employment & promotion.

"I will keep all names absolutely confidential.... "With deep love and faith found in yours,

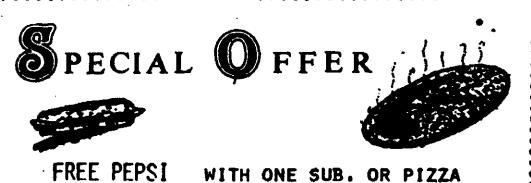
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SUN. FEBRUARY 23, 1975

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	(ACT OR SONG TITLE, IF KNOWN)
AT:	
	(BAR OR OTHER LOCATION, IF KNOWN)
YOUR NAME	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

DANCING



NIGHTLY

RATHSKELLER

89 ELM STREET ROCHESTER



10 AM TILL CLOSING

Be an Early Bird!

I have been asked many times what it is like being gay and in the military. I guess the only way I could answer was to reply to that question by describing what it is like to be in the military. Why should it be Service. any different just because I'm gay?

I have never really changed my life that much for the military. My parents allowed me to be what I am and so I have become fairly comfortable with my life and the idea of is just about impossible for me. I am me and I have to face life as it relates to me. not to someone else. Actually, I think that in some ways it is a little bit easier being gay in the military. Of course, you always have to worry about your clearance for classified material. but I have found that being in the military makes you part of the group and you really have to push things before people will go against you. Navy, Air Force, Army, Marine it's all the same. You are part of the same family and one way or another you belong.

It seems to me that

straight alike, believe

that the homosexual is

many people, gay and

looking for something different than the average heterosexual is. Perhaps I'm living under some awful misconception, but I don't think I'm doing any more or expecting any more than any other man or woman who is in the

I originally enlisted for a variety of reasons. because of my age, I was in a patriotic mood, I wanted to do something different, etc. I was a little uncomfortable when I checked the box saying that I didn't have any being something I'm not homosexual tendencies but it was the only way I could get in. I went through recruit training with a company of fiftynine other men and eventually I wound up being stationed overseas.

I was assigned a job based on my merits and abilities and I've done my best with that job. I've experienced the same successes and disappointments as any other person holding that particular assignment. No one I work need help. with knows I'm gay; they just know me for the job Itigate the military laws do and the person I am.

I've had a few good friend who know that I am gay. I have also had some very beautiful sexual experiences here which would be difficult but they still survive. I might go. Of course I within the military bet cannot go out into the streets and say. "Look

at me. I'm gay!" I don't think many people can do that in the States either. What does it matter? The important thing is that I'm being judged on my merits, not on my sexual preferences. For me that is what liberation is all about.

A few straights have learned about my homo-I was stalemated in my jot sexuality after they have known me. At first they didn't believe it because *that is such a horrible thing to happen to anyone." But since we talked about it they have come to understand it and accept it as an everyday normality. The women know that I am not out to put the "make" on their husbands or to try to threaten their femininity The men, with the understanding that there is more to homosexuality than just sex, have become fairly comfortable with i portant lesson. It is and no longer fear it. we are much closer friends no now that my act has ended and I know that I can always go to them if I

I'm starting to invesconcerning homosexuality. Many of them are pretty and sound as if you could be prosecuted for waking up with a hard on. laws are pretty archaic to equal no matter where There is a debate going on straight; I don't want to between the medical authorities and the lawyers. being me. Military doctors insist

that homosexuality is a medical problem to be handled by them and the military lawyers insist that it is a legal which they should handle. They concur on one point - that it is a problem. I tend to agree with the lawyers that it is a legal problem only for different reasons. Our government is too narrow-minded to let people live as human beings. It seems that the gay movement is at least making some progress, so hopefully we'll see the day when being gay is no longer classified as a "problem".

So. I'm not totally liberated. I still have to fear discovery of my homosexuality by the military authorities and the type of discharge that can result. Yet I have learned an extremely immuch more important being myself and having people accept me for that than having people accept because 1'm gay.. I've found that it's impossible to live in a closet any longer. have found out how much more important it is to be myself and find acceptance through that than to go on acting out what I think others will accept. I don't want to be known as being be known as being gay. I only want to be known as



THE EMPTY CLOSET ADVERTISING POLICY

From time to time we of the EMPTY CLOSET wind up on the receiving end of various comments/criticisms/harangues devoted to this or that ad which is variously sexist, or agist, or a just plain ripoff (according to our informants). The promotion of all these ghastly sins is not our intention, but neither is that of censorship. In order to maintain a fine balance between the two extremes, the The gist of our policy (which you may recognize as being closely patterned after that of Boston's GAY COMMUNITY NEWS) is that the quality of our ads is basically up to you, the reader, and we hope that you will, in judging our advertisers, also credit them with their willingness to spend great sums of money to keep this paper alive (Closet adverti-

sing is not free).

Be merciful - and DO support our advertisers they help make this paper possible. Lamont Downs

Associate Editor

as follows: the EMPTY

CLOSET will not refuse

any personal or display

advertising (except for

Mail) although our adver-

will make it clear to ad-

vertisers that our reader:

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are very discerning and

will be offended by ma-

racist, etc., nature;

and such material would

hurt rather than benefit

the advertiser. You, our

to critically review such

readers, are encouraged

material in each issue

and if you find material

objectionable: 1) write

the EMPTY CLOSET and we

will print representative

comments and forward all

letters to the advertis-

ers; 2) write the adver-

tiser showing how the ad

is offensive and how it

they refuse to change it,

use your power not to pa-

tronize them and to in-

SHEILA'S TALK OF THE TOWN

For well over a year,

Sheila (Don Fidenger) has

covered the Rochester so-

Sheila has decided to

it impossible. Our thanks

home of Whitey LeBlanc

Sat, 25 Jan. The party

was a special surprise

for Michael Robertson.

the outgoing President

of the Gay Brotherhood.

Michael intends to re-

as Gay Beotherhood Li-

brarian.

kicked.

RELATIONS"

hood.

turn to his earlier post

Whitey described the

going to be a shitkicker."

Several awards, written

party in this way: "Its

By the time the guest of

on parchment, were award-

his excellent service as

President of the Gay Bro-

"MOBELLE PRIZE FOR HUMAN

Bill Glave was awarded

IMPORMATION" as secretary

Phil Garbus was given

manager of the Gay Seother-

A special award is due

WHITEY LeBlanc for his

throwing of the present

party.
The party was a huge

success, enjoyed by one

and all. It met WHITEY

description to the

last letter.

past services and his

therhood was given the

the "MOTORY PRIZE FOR

of the Gay Brotherhood.

the "CHAMBER OF HUMAN

RELATIONS" award for his

service as staff office

CONTINUING RECORDING

ed to the following people.

The Editor-in-cheif of

honor arrived, most of

the guests were well

BY DAVID KLAUS

cial scene with wit and

no longer write the

the press on personal

column, explaining that

time and finances makes

incisiveness.

can be changed; 3) if

legalities of the U.S.

tising representatives

The official EMPTY CLOS-

ET advertising policy is

MICHAEL ROBERTSON: THANKS

As he nears the end of a successful term as president of Gay Brotherhood, Michael Robertson looks forward to continued service doing the things he likes most such as improving the GBR library. working with the Gay Task Force and still other projects now that he is no longer in the vortex of activity as president of the organization.

Michael wore the mantle of leadership well. A stickler for principle, he won: the admiration of many who worked with him for his straight forward approach in dealing with fellow work-

The Gay Brotherhood (known as Gay Alliance in the beginning of his term) forged solidly ahead during Michaels term of office. He had a way of keeping well imformed of the many gay rights activities going on at one time among the several active groups and leading many

of us into them. Rochester's outstanding support for the State coalition's lobbying effort in Albany was largely a result of his enthasiasm and leadership. The Empty Closet staff

THE ROCHESTER SOCIAL SCENE

salutes Michael Robertson.

NEW YEARS EVE AT JIM'S

New Years at Jim's was a gala celebration, with much drinking, merriment, and dancing to records spun by Pat Burns' expert hadd in the sound booth. At 11 pm, a drag show was presented by JEAN & COMPANY, featuring GLADYS KNIGHT AND THE PIPS as their guests. Jean & Company , consisting of MISS JEAN, MISS DIAÑA, and MISS CINDY, is a takeoff on the Supremes. The show was called "Taking Care of Business". Guests Knight & the Pips did two songs in the

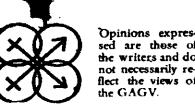
At midnight, the management provided free champaigne. JIM W., one of the three owners of . JIM'S said they popped the cork on 84 bottles of champaigne. Jim estimmated that the size of the crowd was about "500 people in and out" a record crowd at Jim's for New Years. At about 2AM, Jean and company presented an another show, and as a grand finale, joined with

their guest in the song "River Deep, Mountain High" by the Four Tops and the Supremes. The 3AM breakfast

consisted of some 25 dozen donuts served withcoffee. The celebration continued through the night. When the bar closed at 7AM there were stall about 70 partiers carrying on.

PARTY SALUTES GAY WORKERS

In tribute t the outgoing officers of the Gay Brotherhood of Lochester, a party was held at the



Talk of the Town c/o Empty Closet

Dear Sheila: Curt Gerling is the fellow who wrote among other things "Sumgtown U.S.A." which set Rochester on its prissy ear. He has a new book out -- Never a Dull Moment and devotes several stories to the gays which are amusing as well as enlightening. The latter because it indicates how an intelligent "straight" can assess

our viewpoints. I suggest you recom mend it to your readers. It's available at Scrantoms, McCurdys, and wherever books are

Very truly yours, Robert V. Author Gerling has donated an autographed copy to the GAGV library.

For as long as I have been involved with the local gay scene, I have been exposed to the community's newspaper, "The Empty Closet". And I have not thought much of it, nor the community's quality nor quantity of action. However the Jan.1974 issue struck a note of guilt within myself: As with anything, it's as good as you yourself make it or are willing to be involved. I have not been

involved; now I wish to

Brothers & Sisters:

Your plea(and the Editorial next to it) has made me realize that the Gay community is really no different than the straight in its apathetic involvement with community needs. Most Rochesterians would rather let someone else "do it" (witness the demise of local theater or the lack of vocal outrage vis-a-vis the Park problems).

Iam writing to you to offer whatever services you may be in need of. Kindly contact me if you feel I can be of any help at all. At least I feel it's time some of us got off our collective have the American hangass and did someting.... positive.

Robert E. Bragg

BOOK REVIEW: AN ANTHOLOGY OF HOMOSEXUAL SHORT STORIES.

Stephen Wright has edited a remarkable basket of plums called Different: An Anthology of Homosexual Short Stories (Bantam Books, \$1.95, 394 pages). All of the stories are good, some of them are classics, and they represent an interesting and fairly comprehensive cross-section of gay lifestyles set in several historical periods. The list of authors is very impressive. It includes, for example, D.H. Lawrence, a hands off policy with James, and Sherwood An-

derson. In "Paul's Mistress, the summer revels of the Parisian demimonde of the last century are described by Guy de Maupassant. The story ends in tragedy when Paul discovers that his girlfriend, Madeleine, is also involved with a woman of some notoriety whose name is Pauline (Paul and Pauline: rather a nice touch, I thought). "Snowfall," another tragic and very frightening story, by Josphe Hansen, concerns an aging professor of our time, who is just coming out and finds himself entangled with a motorcycle thug. On the lighter side

by Lonnie Coleman which is one of the most delight-**NEW LIBRARY BOOKS** Books Received as of 12/31/74 McCaffrey, The Homosexual Dialectic. Schur, Crimes Without McFadden, Bachelor Father- ged my eyeballs in the

the Empty Closet was awarded the "PULLET-ZER PRIZE FOR GAY JOURNALISM".

Stein, Fernhurst, Q.E.D. and Other Early Writings.

Birkley, Harris, et al, Amazon Expedition . Rosen, Lesbianism-A Study of Female Homo-

Sager, Kaplan, Progress in Group and Family Thera-Garde, Jonathan to Gide. Money, Transsexualism Sex Reassignment.
Remault, The Persian Boy. Willis, Understanding and Counseling the Male Homosexual. Westwood, A Minority. Freedman, Homosexuality and Psychological Functioning.
Ackerly, My Father and Myself: Bell and Weinberg, Homosexuality -- An Anno-Schofield, Sociological Aspects of Homosexuality. Symonds, A Problem in

Modern Ethics. Oberholtzer, Is Gay Good?

Kinsey, Sexual Behavior in the Human Male.

ful stories I have read in a long time. This piece of poignant whim* sy is about an outrageous young man called Montgomery who flames aboard a battleship reporting for duty, and right away he makes no bones of the fact that he is gay.
Montgomery is definitely an amusing camp, but he also has a rugged and nicely hirsute body, he works out every day, and he's an excellent boxer. Anyway, he establishes the crew, who seem to be an uninteresting bunch of heterosexual braggadocios, and then he sets his sights on the most genuine and also very straight man aboard (who happens to be the narrator of the story). And

does Montgomery get his man? He certainly does. Also in this volumne are stories by old favorites such as Gore Vidal and Christopher Isherwood. "Three Stratagems," by Mr. Vidal, is a good example of his early work taken from A Thirsty Evil, his own collection of homosexual short stories published in 1950. "On Ruegen Island," by Mr. Isherwood, is a classic homosexual tale, taken from his classic work is "The Theban Warriors" of 20th Century literature The Berlin Stories. But you most sample

this book for yourselves. Different: An Anthology of Homosexual Short Stories can be gotten from the library of the GAGV. and if you do get it, don't overlook "Excerpts from Teleny." This is very hot, erotic literature. I pracitcally sinreading of it. Its authorship is attributed to Oscar Wilde.

SAN JUAN: FUNSPOT OF THE CARIBBEAN

An understanding of Puerto Rican culture assumes you that Puerto Rico is a great spot for a make-out-cation. Puerto Rican males are sexually old-fashioned and cling to a "double stand-They don't want to marry a "used" woman, To bed one-si, but for marriage she must be a virgin. Girls and women are therefore sheltered. Masturbation is a no-no, so what is left for him to do? You as a make-out-cationer can come to his rescue. "Our way" is not preferred". but by maintaining outward appearances, his society says to have a ball (or maybe two) a-long with the thing between them. Some say that all

Puerto Ricans are commercial. Some are, but not the majority. Americans have a fetish about age. When a bit older swinger (say up to 65) finds a Puerto Rican interested in him, right away he thinks he is money oriented. Puerto Ricans really like mature people and don't up about age. Being younger doesn't hurt, but it isn't the advantage it is in the states youth-prone culture. Puerto Rico is culturally a Latin country, even though it flies the U.S.

flag. The rum to order is Don Q, not Bacardi. Bacardi is the product of American advertising and not nearly as good as Don Q. Everyone knows enough English so that you won't have trouble getting what you want. Unlike Acapulco, the taxis are fairly honest, but be sure the cabby pushes the lever or meter to the right. (To the left doubles the

Wisdom for the unwise: Don't flaunt money, as many people are poor. Leave your jewels at home (the diamond kind, not the "family." Be on the alert while walking on the darker streets in old San Juan. Don't ask for a rip-off. The police are not interfering, and most polite. but if drugs are your scene WATCH OUT. This is the one thing that really upsets the handsome men in blue. Leave drugs home.

Speaking of home-bring some liquor from home, as the cost is double in San Juan. Except for rum and vodka, you cannot buy liquor for less than \$8 to \$10 per bottle. Bar drinks are also double. so you might want to prime yourself in your room before doing the town. The two best bars in San Juan are also the lowest priced ones. Yes my dears, gays are still being ripped off, even by gay owners. I know = of no place where it is more prevalent than San Juan. The busiest and best bar in old San Juan is the Main Street, at Tetuan and San Jose. Bobby Bibliophile continued, next page

ABOUTTHE EMPTY CLOSET...

EMPTY CLOSET PUBLICATION & DISTRIBUTION INFORMATION Publication Information: The Empty Closet is published monthly by the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley. Approximately 4000 copies of each issue are distributed on the first weekend of the month by mail and carrier. Policy: This newsletter reports both good and bad news of the gay community. The reporting of events or opinions in this newsletter is not meant to imply endorsement or disapproval by the Gay Alliance. Disclaimer: Publication of the name or photograph of any person or organization in articles or advertising in this newsletter is not an indication of the sexual orientation of such person or organization. Subscriptions: On your written request, The Empty Closet will be mailed to you, free, in a plain, sealed envelope. An optional \$3.00 contribution will offset printing and mailing costs for one year. Distribution: in addition to distribution by mail, The Empty Closet is available in libraries, on college campuses, at some newsstands, in gay bars, and the baths. Exact locations are listed elsewhere in this paper, or are available at 244-8640. Submissions: Submit news items, letters, stories, poems, art, or opinions by mail, or in person at the GAGV office. News items may be phoned to (716) 244-8640. Advertising: Our low-cost commercial rates are available on request. Housing, employment, or other individual ads are free. GAGV office number 244-8640 may be used for replies if desired.

Edward at the keyboard has both an exciting voice and body, a truly great entertainer. Number one in Condados is

Don's Upstairs, 1102 Ashford Ave., across from the Hyatt Hotel. Owner Tom shows a genuine southern hospitality that really pleased ole Minnie. Don's also has a piano bar with a sexy atmosphere and reasonable prices. I would recommend staying in the Condados beach area. Old San Juan is very hot and noisy at night. I stayed at the Elmar Guest House at #1 Calle Clemenceau and recommend it highly. With a rooftop bar and SEMI-RESTAUrant, it offers everything you could ask for at reasonable prices. Your hosts Bob and John will make you feel at home, and even the maid

is a sweetheart. Don't miss La Buena Mesa restaurant on Calle Tetuan in old San Juan. It is excellent. If the beach and streets have left you frustrated by evening--try the Lyons Den on Calle Luna. It's an action bar with porno slides and movies, nude go-go boys and a wild back room.

Don't be concerned with rumors you hear about a "crackdown" in Puerto Rico. It is expected that San Juan will remain the wideopen funspot of the Cari-

If you would like anymore details see Arnie at the Forum and be sure to call Herbie at Benham Travel-872-6330 for your travel arrangements. (It costs no more you know, and Minnie wouldn't go any other way.) by Minnie Puryl

This Month in Past Years...

The following items were published in the EMPTY CLOSET during this month in previous years.

FEB 1974: GAGV elects Michael Robertson President; other officers include Bob Crystal, Bill Glave, and Vince Dischino. GAGV receives incorporation papers from New York state. Rochester Gay Task Force formed. Rathskeller's 1950's Sadie Hawkins party. FEB 1973: Gay sex is legalized in Ohio.

Rochester's weekly radio

program GREEN THURSDAY first broadcast 14 Feb 1973 on WCMF-FM. GLF holds Valentine's Day dance on U of R campus featuring a live band. New Albany gay group selects name "Capitol District Gay Community Council". The EMPTY CLOSET, issued on an irregularbasis until this date, begins pub-

lication on a regular schedule. The ACLU wins a dismissal for three men arrested in December police raids on EL ECHO, and JIM's. Two arrested for female impersonation. LIFE magazine, and SATURDAY REVIEW publish articles on gays. 275 attend GLF Valentine's Day Dance on U of R campus. FEB 1971: Assemblyman Stephen Solarz notifies GLF that legislation to repeal the consensual sodomy statute, and to extend civil rights to gays will be introduced

in the NY State Assembly

10 Feb.



LESBIAN MOTHER LOSES CUSTODY OF THREE CHILDREN

Ms. M. (Name withheld to protect her privacy), a western New York mother, was denied custody of her three small children, aged 8, 5, and 3 as the result of court action initiated by her ex-hus-band out of anger over her love relationship with Ms. P., a close friend of hers who often babysat for the children.

The allegation used by Mr. M. to claim Ms. M. unfit as a mother was that she was a lesbian and therefore would exercise an "unhealthy influence) on their children. In his testimony he brought forth no evidence that implied Ms. M. was an unfit mother, except for the fact that she was alleged to be a lesbian. His only witness was a psychiatrist who testified to Mr. M.'s stability and went on to make genermal, derogatory statements about homosexuals. The only other witness called by Mr. M. was his fiance, who was inexperienced in dealing with

children. The information brought out during the hearing highlighted the discretion used by Ms. M. in separating her sexual and family life. There were no incidents of overt sexual activity in front of the children. The only factor which was expressed in court was that the children had seen the two women in bed. However, two experts testified (a psychologist and an anthropologist) that seeing women in the same bed is a common occurence which would have no traumatic effects on children.

The testimony to support Ms. M. as a fit and loving mother was overwhelming. Her mother. an ex-employer, and a male friend of the family testified to the warmth of Ms. M.'s household and of her responsibility to the children. Clergy from the Catholic Church, United Church of Christ, Lutheran, Unitarian and Jewish faiths testified to the changing attitudes of their congregations and to their religion's acceptance of homosexuals into their specific faiths. Superb testimony was given by a psychologist, a specialist in sexual and gender identification. to the fact that Ms. M. is an extermely fit mother who is able to handle both her love and familial relationships without harm to her children. The psychologist stressed that Ms. P. (Ms. M.'s lover) was a very positive influence in the children's lives, and in no way presented any harmful influence. The anthropologist supported his statements with many sutdies, all clearly implying that Ms. M.'s re-lationship with her lover did not hinder her role as a loving mother. Despite two days of such testimony, the judge, in a one page opinion, granted custody of all three children to the father, with visitation for the mother on weekends--if her lover is

not present. The amount of weight given to any testimony by the judge is questionable since his opinion does not reflect any matter upon which his judgement was made, nor does he list acts that imply unfitness as a mother. His opinion is more of a punitive measure, criticizing Ms. M. for her Lesbian relationship. What it is really saying to all gay parents is: It doesn't matter how fine a parent you are, you have no right to

raise your children. The change of permanent residence to the father's home meant that both school age children will be forced to change schools and all three children will be miles away from their friends.

Ms. M. does not have much money and any help Empty Closet readers can give is urgently needed: to pay for the appeal. We are appealing to the NY Appellate Division, 4th Dept., located in Rochester. There is no New York appellate case regarding the custody rights of gay parents. Achieving a victory on the appellate level in this case could set a precedent protecting the right of a fit and loving parent not to lose custody of his or her children solely because of his or her sexual preference.

Please send contributions, ideas, and correspondence to: SOS Mother's Defense

Fund Box 975 Fllicot Sq. Station Buffalo, NY 14205 Checks should be made out to "SOS Mother's Defense Fund."

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- news & views for the rochester woman -

		
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41FT SUB.

Rochester, n.y. 14603

Dear Aunt Bertha, You being an organ lover, I thought I'd let, you know MISS MERRY NOTES will be entertaining at the FORUM every Saturday Night. She has wowed 'em from Miami Beach to NYC.

So ya all come and listen, ya hear? Every night is FUN .NIGHT at the FORUM. Monday is WESTERN NIGHT. Tuesday is TWO-FOR-ONE. My Dear, there is always something going on at the FORUM day and night. Stop in this Sunday for the usual

dee-licious BUFFET. We can do a little dancing and swinging with the in-crowd. Ya all cum now---ya hear?



AT GOODMAN

232-9440 1065 EAST MAIN

PS: Don't miss VALENTINE WEEKEND beginning Friday night with a MASQUERADE BALL, and ending Sudday with a MINNIE PURYL BUFFET--everything from Southern Fried Chicken to Black Byed Peas \all prepared by Orrin, the chicken expert.

Deadlines: The deadline for the Empty Closet is the last Sunday of the month.

Mail or phone items to COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE, GAGV 713 Manual Ave., Rochester, N.Y., 14607, or phone 244-8640. Permission to Reprint: Unless otherwise specified, permission is granted to reprint any original items appearing in The Empty Closet; for other items, contact original sources. If possible, please let us know what you've used by letter, or copy of your

IIM'S

MON.

SPECIAL SPEAK EASY 15 cent draft! REQUEST NIGHT

WEEKLY:

Go-Go Boy Try Outs (All Welcome)

WED.

TWO-FOR-ONE



DOOR PRIZES & TROPHIES FOR BEST COSTUME 9PM



TROPHIES FOR

BEST COUPLE!

FEB 16

SPECIAL HOURS VALENTINE MEEKEND OPEN 12 NOON FRI. & SAT.

TICKETS AND APPLICATIONS FOR GALA VALENTINE WEEKEND ARE AVAILABLE AT JIM'S .

123 NORTH

What do Dial-A-Prayer and TWA Flight Information have in common? Any inner-city dweller knows the answer to that one if you're lonely and need someone to talk to, they're often all you've got. But if you've got a gay-related problem, there's also the Cay Protherband of the Gay Brotherhood of Rochester's counseling service, available when-ever the GBR office is open (and if you're really desperate, the telephone answering service will give you an emergency number to call when the office is closed). Callers from
Batavia, Syracuse and even
Canada have on occasion
made use of the Gay Brotherhood office staff's collective experience, seeking advice on topics covering every aspect of gay life. Who are the counselors?

To begin with, all members of the office staff (overseen by office staff chairman Vince DiSchino) are given a certain amount of professional training donated by the Genessee Mental Health Clinic. In addition, the office staff holds regular meetings, in which almost any imaginable type of situation may be acted out by two. counselors playing the roles of counselor/counselee, with the remaining staff providing critical comments and suggestions. Occasional training may also be donated from time to time by professional counselors from other organizations. And, of course, all counselors receive briefing in the fine art of refer-

The office staff pro-vides both phone and faceto-face counseling, with a total of about eighteen real counseling phone/office calls each week. Not surprisingly, more people (10-12) phone each week than drop in (6-8 a week), and that's not including the crank calls. Occasionally callers will ask to meet with a counselor someplace other than the office (such as a bar or bath), a request which is invariably declined to their great disappointment. The ethics of counseling, of course, don't permit a counselor to become emotionally (or physically) involved with

their counselees. The various calls received in the course of a day's shift fall into several neatly distinguishable categories. First, and of least importance, are the crank calls, whose ingeniousness is usually limited by the low mental ity of their perpetrators. Next are the callers simply asking for informa-tion - when do the gay groups meet, where are the bars, and so on. To provide this information the Gay Brotherhood subscribes to a publication called
The Gay Yellow Pages, published four times a year,
which lists organizations, publications, bars and baths for every major city in the U.S. Unlike some gay information centers, the office staff generally does not provide informa-tion on "cruising areas" parks, popular street cor-

ners, etc.
The office staff receives about three calls each week, at any time of the day or night, which are quite justifiably considered Most Serious. These

are the threatened suicides, or carry implications of difficulties call elsewher same, and are treated with although one member of all the respect they de-serve. Like the other above referral list for alcoholtypes of calls, these are usually phone, not office

Understandably, the ma-jority of phone calls and almost all office calls are made by ordinary people
(who happen to be gay)
with ordinary (gay-related) problems. Although
an occasional problem may an occasional problem may actually be solved by a counselor's ingenious solution, in most cases people ultimately talk out their own problems, with the counselor doing the listening and sometimes gently leading the conversation around to what may be a relevant but overlooked point. Men with lovers who find themselves attracted to someone else, married men trying to face the realization of their gayness, young people confused about transvestism and transsexualism - al-most any problem that be-ing gay in a straight society can cause ends up sooner or later in front of the counselors.

As mentioned before, the office staff is kept informed on referral pos-sibilities. Most gay women are referred to the Lesbian Resource Center. The Gay Brotherhood does counsel youth, but young people with serious problems are generally refer-red to Walt Szymanski, as are most religious matters. And, of course, transsexual and transvestite problems can be re- lot more friendly than ferred to the Wilder Foun- TWA..... dation. Surprisingly, most gays with alcohol or drug

related problems and helped set up a gay AA chap.

Understandably, many potential callers are concerned about the confidentiality of their coun-seling. The Gay Brother-hood never asks a caller for an address and usually not a name (though most volunteer it), and does not call back. Generally, one caller in five will call again, and for this reason the staff does keep a record (open only to the staff) giving the time of the call, a very brief des cription of its nature (deliberately kept vague enough to insure that no caller's identity could be ascertained by an out sider) and the name of the counselor. In this way, if a person calls a second time the counselor can determine whom he spoke to before. This also helps weed out the very occasional caller who tries to play "games" with the staff, claiming that a previous counselor, for example, agreed to meet him at the baths, and would you do likewise,

The Gay Brotherhood office staff is composed of human beings with a sincere desire to help anyone with a gay-related problem. Don't hesitate to call us (244-8640) if you need someone to talk



GREEN THURSDAYS. Wednesday midnight. WCMF-FM, 96.5 MHz. Alternates with LESBIAN NATION. LESBIAN NATION. Wednesday midnight. WCMF-FM, 96.5 MHz. Alternates with GREEN THURSDAYS. GAY WAVES. Thursday 5:30-6 p.m. WRUR-FM,

SISTERS OF SAPPHO. Thursday, 9:30-10pm, WBFO-FM 88.7 MHz. (Buffalo) STONEWALL NATION. Thursday, 9-9:30 pm. WBFO-FM 88.7 MIZ. (Buffalo)



BEGINNERS TO HOT-DOGGERS SHARE RIDES TO THE SLOPES Leave name, address, phone,

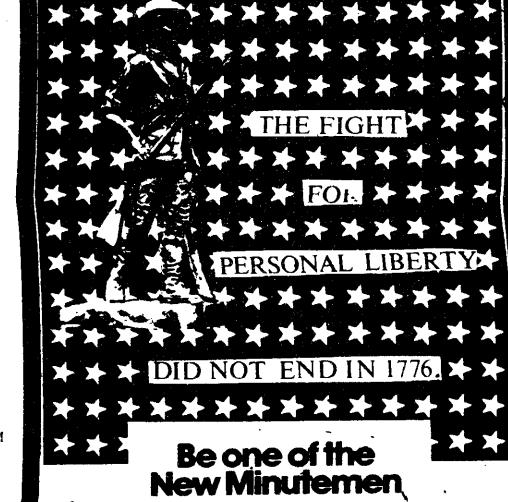
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selection of rings in rochester CASA ARTESANIA 251 PARK AVE

PASTOR TO BE INSTALLED

On Febr. 16, the Rev. Charles Jeanotte will be installed as Chief Pastor of the Rochester Community Church. The event will take 'place at 11:00 AM, in the Co-Op Building, 713 Monroe Avenue. You are invited to attend the service, as well as a small get-together after-



SUPPORT YOUR NYSCGO LEGISLATIVE CONSULTANT

The N.Y. State Coalition of Gay Organizations annually sponsors a legislative consultant to keep the organization informed of matters of interest, and to enable gays to work for the legislation which will ensure our civilrights.

red Aldrich of Rochester, NY has been selected Ted Aldrich of Rochester, NY has been selected as this year's consultant. He works part time from October to December at \$50.00 a week, and full time during the legislative session at \$100.00 per week, working principally in Albany Total cost for the legislative year is about \$2500.00, raised entirely from individual and organizational contributions, Please help.

J P	ledg e	dollars	for th	e suppor	t c
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Leg	islature for above pledge	the 1975	year.	I will	pas
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PLEASE MAKE CHECK OR MONEY-ORDER PAYABLE TO: NYSCGO. Mail to: John Ferra, P.O. Box 69C Saratoga Springs NY 12866

















Photos Of
New Years
1975

THE EMPTY CLOSET PHOTOGRAPHER VISITED SEVERAL ROCHESTER BARS NEW YEAR'S EVE 1975. HERE'S WHAT WAS HAPPENING.

- 1. FRIENDS FROM CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES RENEW OLD ACQUAINTANCES AT THE TREEHOUSE.
- 2. SHOWTIME AT THE RED CARPET. 3. PATTI AND BOYFRIEND JIM ENTERTAINING AT THE TREEHOUSE
- 4. SEVERAL BACHELOR FORUM CANDIDATES FOR "BEST TIME & WORST HANGOVER OF 1975"
- 5. ALWAYS ROOM FOR ONE MORE---BUT WHERE??? 6. A HAPPY CREW ENTERTAINING AT THE BACHELOR FORUM.
- 7. Miss Vicki and Sheila toast the New Year as friends look on. 8-10. Maurice Lee, Shirley Bassi, and Vallery Simpson entertain at the RED CARPET's New Year's Eve cflebration.

VALENTINE WEEKEND '75

The stated purpose of Pisces & Libra Corporation is to bring the best in professionally performed, provocative entertainment to all elements of the Rochester community, demonstrating that female impersonation can be an art, providing the best in pleasurable, tasteful showmanship. The Valentine Weekend at the Rochester War Memorial on Friday and Saturday nights, 14 and 15 February, should create a more lively theatrical atmosphere

theatrical atmosphere in the Rochester area. The Valentine Weekend show will include many of Rochester's most famous theater personalities whose names will conjur up in the minds of many, electrifying performances from past productions. Following are just a few examples: Sean Michael, who does a vibrant impersona-tion of Gladys Knight; Brandy DeFay, whose breathtaking impersonation of Shirley Bassey rivets the audience's attention. Maurice Lee performs his audience grabber version of Kaye Stevens, and last, but not least, Jae Gordon electrifies the audience with his talented and sensuous interpretation of Valerie Simpson. These and many more tal-ented people will display their creative abilities at the Rochester War Memorial, producing a delightful melange of talent, color, beauty, and

Friday night, February
14, will have a Follie's
Review with various scenes
from the well known Broadway show "Funny Girl."
The review will be performed in a modern format with an all-male cast.
The dancers, costumes,
brides, and excellent
choreography, combined
with Maurice Lee's comic
rendition of the "Funny
Girl" lead will make this
a memorable entertainment
experience.

Saturday night, February 15, will be the Miss Cosmos Contest extravaganza, including such well known variety acts as The Supremes, Kaye Stevens, Gladys Knight and the Pips, Shirley Bassey, Valerie Simpson, Love Unlimited, etc. The Miss Cosmos Contest will progress throughout the evening

with various stages of competition and elimination until Miss Cosmos is selected. Climaxing the evening will be the grand coronation ceremony. A panel of judges will select the winner in a contest which should prove to be the best yet, with intense competition for the \$1,000 prize,

To complement the tal-

ent for the Follie's Review, Variety Show, and Miss Cosmos Contest, the War Memorial will be entirely converted by professional decorators to a night-club atmosphere with multicolored lights, full length dra ping, and various sized tables arranged in Greek Theater fashion around the stage, with a seating capacity of 5,000 people. The tables will be decorated with colored tablecloths and candles to give an additional zest to the festive mood. Various colored hearts freely hanging from the ceiling will also serve to commemorate the Valentine Weekend. There will be dancing on the 1500 sq. ft. stage to music by a fantastic DJ who hails from Cleveland, with extensive experi-ence as a radio station DJ and programmer. Along the periphery of the auditorium will be eight bar setups for ease in acquiring drinks. Food will be available from

Inquiries from other areas regarding informa tion about the show, tickets, Miss Cosmos applications, and accomodations here in Rochester indicate that people will be coming from all over the Northeast--Boston, New York, Washington. Philadelphia, Pittsburgh Detroit, Syracuse, Buffalo, Toronto, etc. The combination of talent, professionalism, music, and atmosphere is most definitely going to make the Valentine Weekend one of the most talked about and memorable entertainment productions ever

a concession stand.

Information, tickets, and Miss Cosmos applications are available by writing: Pisces & Libra Performances, Ltd. P.O. Box 364 Pittsford, NY 14534 or contact: Michael Deak, Talent Director Jim's Bar, 123 North Street.

EW GAY PUBLICATION NOW

To those of us who are into reading or writing gay movement newspapers the appearance of a new one is like a breath of fresh air - when a really good looking one appears it's like a windfall...

Well, the NEW WOMEN'S TIMES made its debut last

month and for women, it really is a windfall.

Most movement newspapers start off with a cranked-out mimeo sheet not so with the TIMES. It's loaded with news; letters, reviews and listings of events; all written and published by, and directed at, women. It seems to be a paper with a clear direction and purpose and holds to that conviction to the last word.

THIS MONTH'S HATIONAL HENS

A Minnesota State Legislator, Senator Allan Spear, has publicly declared his homosexuality, becoming the second upfront gay solon (after Elaine Noble) in the U.S. Spear, whose support comes from both a large blue-collar Minneapolis district and the huge (43,000 students) University of Minnesota, has been active in various gay rights groups for some time but reserved his public "coming out" for a lengthy interview by the MINNEA-POLIS STAR.

The Los Angeles Gay
Community Services Center, recently the subject
of headlines because of
its receipt of a \$1 million grant. is suffering
a severe dron in private
contributions, even though
the grants may be used only for certain services
and not overall operations. Financial problems
have already resulted in
the demise of its transsexual - transvestite counseling program, as well as
its program of interim thousing for released gay
parolees.

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PIZZA WEDNESDAY

DANCING

163 STATE STREET

AUCTION:
FOR THE BENEFITOR

GAY BROTHERHOOD

presented by the

BACHELOR FORUM

MON FEB. 17

PLEASE BRING ANTIQUES, GADGETS, ART, GUODS, SERVICES TO THE FORUM

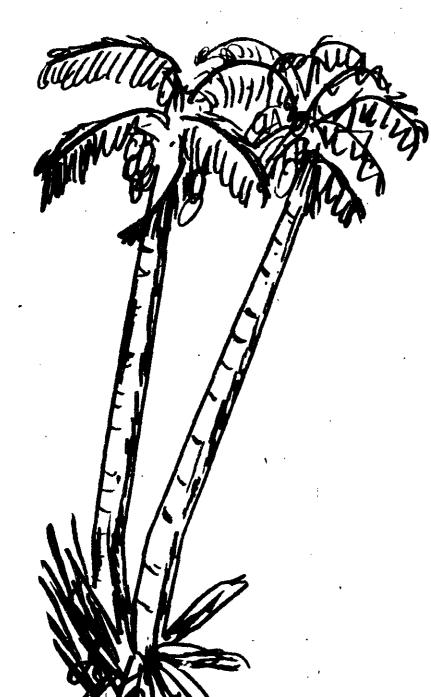
AND COME PREPARED TO BID ON THESE ITEMS FOR A GRAND GAY TIME !

9:30

RED CARPET

Rochester's Newest

Dance Bar!



OPEN DAILY 3_{PM}-2_{AM}



ALL LOCAL BEER 50¢

ALL BAR DRINKS 65¢



430 MAIN STREET EAST

AVERY NATURAL THING

Color, 16 and 35mm, 85 minutes. MPAA Rating: R.

An accurate, non-pornographic presentation of contemporary gay life, told through the story of a twenty-six year old ex-monk's quest for a meaningful relationship. Beautiful technicolor photography on-location in New York City, Fire Island and Cape Cod provides an exciting back drop to this powerful story.

"And especially I wanted to make a film which would tell it like it is about

gay people and gay life, both the sad and the beautiful, and try to say . something about the direction in which I think we have to go to discover the fully self-accepting and responsible life-style of the liberated gay person." -Christopher Larkin, Producer-Director

...one doesn't have to get too involved in the arts and politics debate to appreciate A Very Natural Thing ... The film never becomes just a consciousness-raising session with

"You don't feel guilty about laughing at A Very Natural Thing the way you might feel guilty about laughing at The Boys in the Band or Faggot, At last a film has come along which separates the humor from the gayness. We're funny because we're

funny, not because we're gay ... A Very Natural Thing might end the era of the one-dimensional gay character. Larkin doesn't cheat gay people of their depth.

"There is a degree of thought and analysis at work in this film which won't settle for an unreal happy ending. The film does end on an 'up' note, but at the same time it posits that the future is more dynamic than riding off into the sunset." -Chuck Ortleb, Out

"He has lifted the gay film out of the porno class and given some depth and feeling to the gay's way of life. A Very Natural Thing is an excellent film for straights and non-liberated days to see as the impression is a good one from the gay's point of view. -Gay Scene

"...a film maker has finally dared to say with artistic and moral intensity

'Gay is indeed A Very Natural Thing.' As a constructive, emancipating identity-forming experience, one could hardly ask for more."

"...a first rate evocation of humanity a movie to make you remember

preferences, with greater clarity, and depth than ever before... Poetically photographed and directed ...an eye opener and a heart-opener." -Norma Mclain Stoop, After Dark

your own loves whatever your partner

"Sensitive and realistic in its approach... Impressively natural." -A.H. Weiler, The New York Times

"...a film which offers an innovative and perceptive evaluation of homosexual relationships as well as an interesting tour of the gay subculture of Manhattan."

-Patrick Pacheco. After Dark

YOUR ONE CHANCE TO SEE IT, IN ROCHESTER

FRI. FEB. 28TH

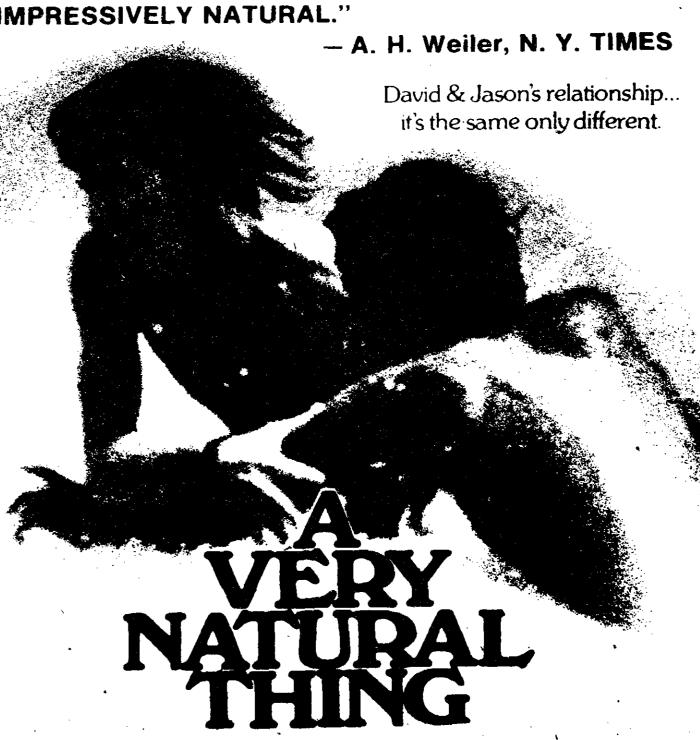
R.I.T.'s INGLE AUDITORIUM

SHOWS 7:30 + 10:00

"A MOVIE TO MAKE YOU REMEMBER YOUR OWN TOVES, WHATEVER YOUR PARTNER PREFERENCES ...an eye-opener and a heart opener."

- Norma McLain Stoop, AFTER DARK

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Sexual Privacy

The private sex lives and sexual prefer ences of Americans are subject to massive government proscription, intrusions and regulation. Sodomy, fornication and adult laws criminally proscribe private consensual sexual activity among heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual, transvestite and transsexual adults. Government regulations and practices deny people employment, government benefits and equal treatment based on sexual preference or private sexual activities. There is active government snooping to determine the sexual preference, sex habits and sex partners of government employees and

All this information, along with information gleaned from draft, employment and arrest records of many more people, finds its way to vast public and commercial data banks where it becomes available for public perusal and use with relative ease.

In May 1973 the ACLU founded the National Sexual Privacy Project in response to these problems, and in response to the growing needs and demands of the gay community and of prostitutes who are clamoring for equal rights throughout the

The project's activities expanded greatly during 1974 with the addition of many important cases to the sexual privacy docket.

In North Carolina v. Enslin, now on appeal, the mational office and the affiliate are defending two adult males against criminal prosecution for consensual sodomy in the privacy of the home. In Rock v. Kissinger, the Northern California CLU is challenging the constitutionality of the state sodomy laws because a homosexual was denied security clearance for violating the law of sodomy in the privacy of his home.

Last year the ACLU successfully defended the rights of gays to organize gay campus groups and the rights of lesbian mothers to maintain custody of their children while living together. The Union also challenged government employment discrimination of homosexuals in civil service jobs, federal security clearances, and the military; discrimination in immigration and naturalization; and police

> CIVIL LIBERTIES **JANUARY, 1975**

LESBIAN RESORT WEEKEND

A new, non-profit organization, Women on the Move is planning a weekend for gay women in the Catskills, March 14-16. The group has rented an entire hotel for the weekend and there will be entertainment, three meals a day, cocktail parties, candlelight dining, etc. The cost of the weekend is \$65-\$75. Inquiries should be directed immediately to Barbara or Sandy; call collect at (201) 865-2948.

No homosexual policy

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — The American Medical Asso-ciation postponed taking a stand on homosexuals yesterday, after some doctors exessed concern that move ight be misinterpreted as an dorsement of prostitution. octors according to the conopt of brain death.

13



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ROCHESTER GAY GROUPS INCLUDE:

GAY BROTHERHOOD meets 7:30 P.M. Sundays, 713 Monroe Avenue, Rochester, 14607. Office staffed evenings and some days. (716)244-8640.

UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER GAY LIBERATION FRONT (GLF) 201 Todd Union, Box 6913, River Campus, Rochester, N.Y., 14627. (716) 275-6181. Meetings Mondays, 7:30 P.M. as announced in Campus Times.

LESBIAN RESOURCE CENTER has open house every Friday evening 7:30 - closing. Discussion, beverages, informal rap sessions, orientation at office. Ind floor, Gennesee Co-op, 713 Monroe Ave. Open other weeknights 7-9 P.M. Phone: (716) 244 - 9030. Mail Box 8594, Rochester, N.Y., 14627.

ROCHESTER GAY TASK FORCE, an action - oriented political group. (716) 235 - 4961. Also: 244 - 8640 & 244 - 9030.

ROCHESTER GAY YOUTH is open to anyone 18 or under. For information call (716) 235 - 4961. Also: 244 - 8640 & 244 - 9030.

ROCHESTER COMMUNITY CHURCH Worship services Sundays at 11 ST.M. 713 Monroe Ave.. 244-8640.

GROUPS INCLUDE:

ALFRED GAY LIBERATION Box 472 Alfred, N.Y. 14802. (607) 587-8848. Meetings during school year.

ALBANY GROUPS INCLUDE: GAY ALLIANCE SUNY ALBANY. Box 1000 DD SUNY A Sta. Albany, N.Y.

CAPITOL DISTRICT GAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL, Box 131 Albany, N.Y. 12201. Center at 332 Hudson Avenue.

BROCKPORT GAY FREEDOM LEAGUE Meets Thursdays, room 111A 7 P.M. Office 111A Lathrop Hall (behind Hartwell, the oldest building on Campus). All are welcome to stop by the office during hours posted on office door. For more information, call CW, 1-638-6954, or write CW Box, 32, Fancher, N.Y. 14452

BINGHAMTON GAY LIBERATION Box 2000 Harpur College, State University of New York, Binghamton, N.Y. 13901.

BUFFALO, N.Y. GAY GROUPS INCLUDE:

MATTACHINE SOCIETY OF THE NIAGARA FRONTIER, Box 975 Elliccott Sta., Buffaio, N.Y., 14205. Center is located at 1350 Main (at W. Utica) (716)

SUNY BUFFALO GAY LIBERATION FRONT, Box 10, Norton Union, 14213. GAY LAWSTUDENTS Friday, 8P.M., Norton Hall, SUNY at Buffalo.

GAY LIBERATION FRONT 180 Pearl St. 14202.

STONEWALL COMMUNITY CHURCH, 25 Calumet Pl., 14222.

ITHACA/CORNELL GAY LIBERATION meets Thursdays, 8:30P.M. at Gay People's Center, Suite 221 Sheldon Court, 410 College Avenue, Ithaca, N.Y., 14850. (607)

GENESEO GAY FREEDOM COALITION Office: Room 312 College Union. Open 7-10 P.M. weekdays. Box 38, Student Union, Geneseo, N.Y. 14454. (716)

GENEVA GAY LIBERATION William Smith/Hobart, Geneva, N.Y. (?) OSWEGO GAYS FOR HUMAN LIBERATION c/o Janet Cutman, 278 Washington Blvd., Oswego, N.Y., 13126. (315) 343-2412.

POTSDAM/CANTON GAY COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION Potsdam University, Potsdam, N.Y. SYRACUSE GAY FREEDOM LEAGUE Meets 7:30 P.M. Mondays at Community

House, 711 Comstock Ave., Syracuse, N.Y., 13210. Mailing Address: 103 College Place, Suite 6, Syracuse, N.Y., 13210. GAY YOUTH meets Friday night. For meeting place, call (315) 423-3599. GAY MALES RAP GROUP Wed. night 7:30, 103 College Place.

LESBIAN FEMINISTS OF SYRACUSE meets Wed. at 7:30 at 113 Concord Place.

Meeting times, addresses, etc. are often subject to change, Please let us know of any incorrect information, or any difficulty in contacting the above groups. GAGV, 713 Monroe Ave., Rochester, N.Y. 14607. (716) 244-8640 evenings.

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NO BIG DEAL ? BECAUSE IT'S GOOD FOR YOU- THATS WHY. MEMBER-SHIP AND SOME DEGREE -EVEN SMALL - OF INVOLVE-MENT IS ESPECIALLY GOOD FOR THE HEAD.

YOU RUB ELBOWS WITH PEOPLE LIKE YOUSELF WHO CARE ABOUT THE COMMUNITY YOU HAVE TO -OR CHOOSE TO - LIVE IN. YOU TRY TO DO SOMETHING POSITIVE ABOUT WHATS WRONG AND PUT THE SPOTLIGHT ON WHATS RIGHT.

GAY ALLIANCE WANTS 100 MEMBERS BY JANUARY 1.st. JOIN US. THE BEST TIME TO DO IT IS AT ONE OF OUR REGULAR SUNDAY NIGHT MEETINGS.

Bulletin Board

words, and \$.10 a word themafter. Ads run for two months, unless otherwise requested. GAGV office telaphone or box may be used for replies upon manuest. The GAGV is not responsible for ad

UNFURNISHED APARTMENT: 2 1/2 bedrooms, redecorated, \$145/mpnth. Pay own electric, gas heat. 232-3584 ask for DAN. ROOMMATE WANTED: to share nice small home 15 minutes from either RIT or Geneseo. Very inexpensive and many extras. 18-25 preferred. Call 458-2390 extension 31., 8-5PM daily. Ask for Dave.

CONGRATULATIONS: Chris & Jo on your first anniversary. Best of luck for a long continuation of your Gay love. -Kevin DRINKING PROBLEM? Gay, Alcoholics (AA) meets weekly. Call 244-8640 for details. Absolute discretion used.

SPECIAL FRIEND & ROOMMATE: I am 43, employed, mature, but young at heart and looking for someone up to age 35, employed, mature, but also young at heart for the purpose of developing a relationship and living together. I have a speech impediment. Please leave message at 244-8640 for Ad #14 ROOMMATE WANTED: Luxurious 5 room flat in Geneseo area. Split rent and utilities. Call 244-8640, Ad

SPLIT RENT with someone . Call Rick Reed at GAGV - 244-8640, or leave message for Ad #16. SKI? Register with GAGV office to share ride to slopes. Name, telephone #, address, ability, times preferred to: 244-8640. Ad # 17.

OFFICE EQUIPMENT NEEDED: GAGV really needs a type-writer and any other office equipment and/or supplies you can spare. 244-8640, Ad #18

SPEAKERS BUREAU needs people to speak to college classes, organizations, etc. You will be paired with one or more EXPERIENCED SPEAKERS. We particularly need people available during the day. 244-8640, Ad #19.

PREVENT VD: Manufacturer claims use of ATHOS LUB-RICANT prevents V.D. Available at AM-PM Club and Roman Sauna. Lab analysis and preliminary user reports are good, but we'd still like reports of any

problems encountered (particularly failure to prevent V.B. as claimed). Tell either of the baths, or call 244-8640 Ad # 20. USED COUCH & CHAIRS: wanted for Gay Alliance office. We will pick up. 244-8640, Ad # 21. WRESTLING AND/OR BOXING PARTNER WANTED: College student, 26, 5'8, 154.5 pounds. Leave measage for Ad 11,

RAP GROUPS will be forming Members meet at each others' homes every week for a period of time to talk about their feelings relationships, or whatever is important. Call John Cook, 244-8640.

PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING FOR GAYS. Relationship counseling for gays, straights, bisexuals. Emphasis on concerns about interpersonal communications and conflict. Interviews by appointment. Call appointment coordinator Ms. Susan Novakowsky, Monday thru Friday, 9 a.m.-5p.m. Evening appointments also available. Family Service of Rochester, Inc., 31 Gibbs Street, (716) 232-1840. A non-profit community service.

GAY COUNSELING. Relationship, individual, clinical, and referral, Moderate fee adjusted to income. Also, gay-related problems related to marriage and family situations. Arrangements made for gay union blessings. Call Rev. Walter Szymanski, 442-2136 (evenings and weekends) or leave name and number at church (442-3544 M-F days).

AUCTIONABLE ITEMS WANTED: Antiques, gadgets, goods, services, etc., for Gay Alliance Benefit Auction. Bring to Bachelor Forum, 1065 E. Main. When enough is accumulated, we'll have another auction.

PRIVATE ROOM FOR RENT, share house with two others. Call 254-2331 after IPM. Driving Park-Dewey area.

GAY NEWSPAPERS & MAGAZINES

THE EMPTY CLOSET. Monthly, \$3/11 issues. News, feature articles, local events, etc. Gay Alliance of the Genessee Valley (GAGV), 713 Monroe Ave., Rochester, N.Y. 14607

DYKESUNITE. Monthly, \$3/12 issues. News, feature articles, editorials. S.U.C. Geneseo, Fraser Box 354, Geneseo, N.Y. 14454. Soon to be retitled THE NEW WOMEN'S TIMES.

THE NEW WOMEN'S TIMES.

GAY MORNING. Monthly, free. News, local events.

GLOW, P.O. Box 847, White Plains, N.Y. 10602

LAVENDER OPINION. Monthly, \$2.50/12 issues. News, poetry, creative writing. Lavender Opinion, c/o Gay People's Center, Suite 221 Sheldon Court, 410 College Ave., Ithaca, N.Y. 14850

FIFTH FREEDON. Twice monthly, \$3.50/26 issues. News, opinion. Mattachine Society of the Niagara Frontier, Inc., P.O. Box 975, Ellicott Station, Buffalo, N.Y. 14205

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NATIONAL
THE ADVOCATE. Twice monthly, \$4/13 issues, \$7.50/
26 issues. News, book & movie reviews, opinion, feature articles. The Advocate, Box 74695, Los Angeles, Cal. 90004
GAY SUNSHINE; A JOURNAL OF GAY LIBERATION. Bimonthly, \$6/12 issues, first class \$10. Interviews, art work, poetry, photography, general commentary. Highly recommended. Gay Sunshine, P.O. Box 40397, San Francisco, Cal. 94140
THE BODY POLITIC; GAY LIBERATION JOURNAL. Bimonthly, \$3/6 issues. Canadian viewpoint, news, reviews, politics, interviews. The Body Politic, 139 Seaton St., Toronto, Ontario. MSA 2T2, Canada PAG RAG. 4 times per year, \$5/lifetime subscription. Political commentary, art work, poetry, outrageous. Fag Rag, Box 331, Kenmore Station, Boston, Mass. 02215
GAY COMMUNITY NEWS. Weekly, \$10/52 issues. News.

GAY COMMUNITY NEWS. Weekly, \$10/52 issues. News, opinion, feature articles. GCN, 22 Bromfield St., Boston, Mass. 02108

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Calendar of Events GAY BROTHERHOOD MEETINGS

SUN. 2 FEB: GAY MALE SEX TECHNIQUES. A sensative discussion on the art

of gay love making. SUN. 9 FEB: COFFEE HOUSE SUN. 16 FEB. TRANSEXUALISM

TUE. 18 FEB. COORDINATING COUNCIL SUN. 23 FEB. BUSINESS MEETING

GAY BROTHERHOOD MEETINGS ARE NURMALLY HELD 7:30 SUNDAY NIGHT AT THE GAGV CENTER, 7/3 MONROE AVENUE. SECOND FLOOR, EXCEPT AS NOTED ABOVE. MEETING TOPICS MAY OCCASIONALLY BE SHIFTED DUE TO SCHEDULING DIFFICULTIES.

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

EVERY DAY:

Free Buffet & 4-9PM Happy Hour at Treehouse. Cocktail Hour 4-6 at' teh Bazaar Lounge Cocktail Hour. Red Carpet. Reduced prices 4-7 M-F EVERY WEEK

2 for 1 at Rathskeller Monday: Movies at Jim's Western Night at Forum

2 for 1 at Forum & Red Carpet Wednesday: 2-for-1 at Jims, and AM-PM Club Gay Radio: WCMF - FM 96.5 Midnight

Thursday: 2 for 1 at Bazaar Gay Task Force Meets

Gay Radio: "GAY WAVES" WRUR 88.5 5:30 -6 Fish Fry at Jim's

Lesbian Resource Center Open House 7:30 Rochester Community Church

Worship Services 11 A.M., 713 Monroe Ave., 244-8640 Buffet, Bachelor Forum 6 P.M. GAGV Meeting

THIS MONTH

7 Feb (Thurs): V.D. HEALTH CHECK. AM-PN Club 8-10pm 9 Feb. (Sun): MARDIGRAS PARTY. Jim's 9 pm 14 Feb (Fri): MASQUERADE BALL. Forum.

FOLLIES REVIEW. War Memorial. 8 pm MISS COSMOS CONTEST. War Memorial 8 pm 14 Feb (Fri) 15 Feb (Sat) 16 Feb (Sun) 23 Feb (Sun)

SWEETHART BALL. Jim's BEST STARS OF '74 AWARDS. Rathskeller 28 Feb (Fri) "A Very Natural Thing" Gay Film. RIT Talisman Film Festival, College Union 7:30 \$ 10:00 PM

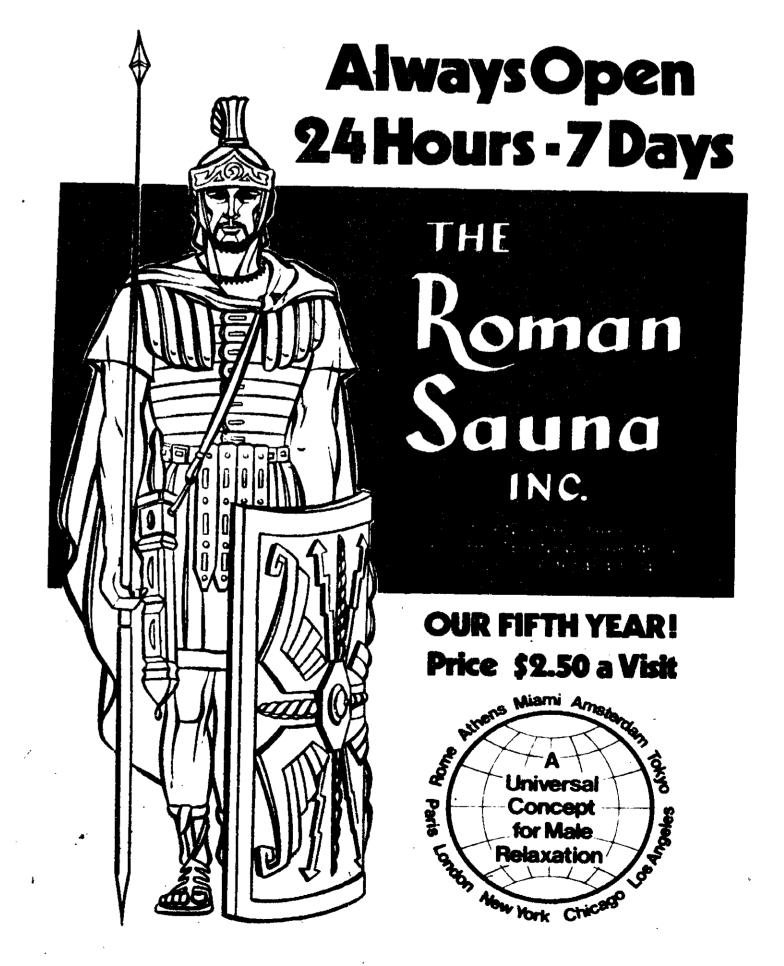
"ATIONAL NEWS ed from THE ADVOCATE on"s GAY COMMUNITY

A study by an Ohio State University psychologist has demonstrated that gays are no less capable of forming deep emotional bonds than are straights (we needed a study to establish that?). In addition, lesbians tend to be more alert, responsible and self-confident than straight women, according to the report, which added that "as a result of the present day women's movement ...women in general will become less apt to be enculturated into a noncompetetive, non-domineering, and submissive individual." The study, conducted by Dr. E. LaMonte Ohlson, included the stipulation that none of the subjects studied had undergone any kind of psychiatric treatment (including psychoanalysis), this forming one of the first serious psychological gay research projects built around normal, emotionally stable gays.

Gay activists Jack Baker and J. Michael McConnell have been denied by the IRS the right to file a joint return as a married couple. Granting of such a right would permit them to pay an additional \$145 in taxes....

THANK OUR ADVERTISERS

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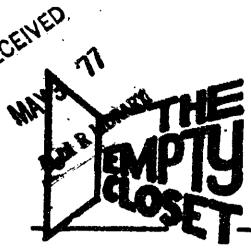
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