NEWS AT A GLANCE

GAY, GOVERNOR SEEN HOLDING HANDS: After 2 1/2 hours of trying to question Gov. Rockefeller about gay rights in Rochester's town meeting Nov. 20, one of three GLF members in attendance managed to grasp the governor's hand at the end of the meeting. "Gay Love to you, Governor," he shouted. Governor Rockefeller smiled warmly and replied "Thank you."

HOTEL GUEST RAPED: A 26-year-old man reported he was robbed, bound, and raped by three intruders in his 111 East Ave. hotel room. The men reportedly gained entrance to his room late at night by posing as hotel employees. (NWC, 11/30)

FEMALE IMPERSONATOR ARRESTED: Police stopped what they thought was a woman walking along the street in the Central Ave. - Oregon St. area. When they found the person was a man in drag, they arrested him for loitering. It is not known why the police were trying to pick up what they believed to be a law-abiding woman citizen, nor is it known why they incorrectly charged him with loitering when the appropriate charge would have been masquerading. (WE, 26 December 1972, page 13)

MEDIEVAL MEDICAL PRACTICE: GLF has received reports that a Portland Avenue physician is administering hormones to "cure" homosexuality. Research has shown that administration of sex hormones will NOT change sexual orientation, although it may change the intensity of the sex drive. Use caution when dealing with such practitioners.

GAY CITIZEN AS LAWYER: An affirmed homosexual has been admitted to the Ohio bar following a 5-1 vote in favor and considerable reluctance by the Ohio Supreme Court. (Advocate, 1/12, p 15)

LESBIAN CENTER OPENS: A Lesbian Resource Center has opened in Minneapolis with a $1,000 cash grant from a gay Minneapolis woman. (Advocate, 1/12, p 21)

LEWDNESS LAWS USED IN FLA: A federal district judge ruled that the term "lewdness" is too vague a term to define an illegal act. "Lewd Conduct" laws are used by police in many states to harass Gays. In Florida, it is the state's first line of defense against gays following the voiding of their "crime-against-nature" law in 1971. (Advocate, 1/12, p 21)

TOLERANCE TOWARDS GAYS NOT BASCONE: An appellate panel ruled that an underground newspaper, COMMON SENSE, could be distributed to minors. The Dutchess County D.A. had sought to ban the paper because of one cartoon and an article decriing society's intolerance towards homosexuals. (NY Civil Liberties, Nov '72)

The University of Rochester Gay Liberation Front is dedicated to the ongoing struggle for gay equality and freedom. We seek liberation from our own fears, and the bigotry and discrimination of straight society. Meetings are held every Sunday at 7:30 pm, Todd Union Music Lounge, University of Rochester River Campus.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE

HAPPENINGS

SUN 7 JAN: "LIVING TOGETHER" not as lovers, but as brothers and sisters in gay communes or as housemates. Todd Union Music Lounge 7:30 pm

POLITICAL-LEGAL ACTION COMMITTEE: Room 201, 6:30

SUN 14 JAN: "LIVE ON THE AIR" Planning for our weekly radio program. Music Lounge 7:30 pm

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION: Meets at Music Lounge at 7:30 and moves to another location.

SUN 21 JAN: "FEMALE LIBERATION" What does it mean? What does it demand? Is it like women's liberation? Todd Union Music Lounge 7:30 pm

POLITICAL-LEGAL ACTION COMMITTEE: Room 201, 6:30

WED 24 JAN: RECREATIONAL OUTING: SKI EVENING Bristol Mt. See details in "Announcements"

SUN 28 JAN: "ANTI-GLF" Can the gay liberation movement do more harm than good? Music Lounge Todd Union 7:30 pm


THIRD ANNUAL VALENTINE'S DAY DANCE: 10 or 17 Feb. Watch for details in the Feb. CLOSET, Interpreter for deaf at some meetings.

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O. L. P. meetings are open to everyone who believes in basic civil rights and human dignity for all.

THE WORLD IS WHAT YOU MAKE IT. LET'S MAKE IT TOGETHER. COME OUT!
If you've been seen in the wrong places, you may be a police suspect. If possible, list homosexuals who are involved in the majority of sexual crimes (a crime involving a victim), we feel it only appropriate that heterosexuals also be listed for observations.

The phone rings. "Good evening, Gay Liberation Front. Fred speaking." If an uncomfortable silence follows that familiar greeting, the police suspect may feel that their speech and silence might be interpreted as "hang-up," an obvious thing to say to the voice of a person who feels uncomfortable, silent, and, for the first time, dialogue bar his gayness.

The obscene calls are written off as juvenile pranks. The hang-up calls are probably dialed by a person too frightened to talk about being gay. So overwhelming is the repression, that to utter the words, "I am a homosexual," is an overwhelming experience. Dialing that number is a healthy first step. If words follow that uncomfortable silence, they are said, "I'm just discovered gay feelings a few weeks ago and I feel the urge to talk about it."

If the voice is calm, decide that person is not a juvenile prank or that person is not feeling uncomfortable. If the silence is uncomfortable, the person may feel just as uncomfortable. The police suspect may be just as uncomfortable as the police officer.

The information in the file, according to Detective Joe Mathers, keeper of the homosexual file, is "to keep track of persons who may commit homosexual crimes." The information in the file, which Detective Matthew says is seen only by the other police agencies, including the persons name, address, nature of the alleged offense, and, in some cases, the location of the approach. The police suspect may feel, as the phone officer did, "only if the job is justified, and feel the urge to discuss them. Or, perhaps it is the police officer that persons as gay who are meeting other victims."

The volunteer counseling post, established in December, is staffed by volunteers who are not gay. Only persons employed as police officers are exempt from having their jobs listed. The police say they do not list homosexuals who are victims of crime and are a police report of the incident.

The Harris articles have received a good deal of attention in the gay community, and in other communities. People have written letters to the editor, sending comments to the paper. The paper has been subjected to a bit of kidding around the office. What one reads in the paper can serve to orient others. The police have been interested in the series, but could not be oriented because they were unsigned. There were about 20 telephone calls from those complimentary." Police Commissioner G. Horgan, one of those who received the series, said that no one seemed upset by the lifestyle of others."

"I, for one, feel lucky to be a part of the gay community here in Rochester. Good reasons, in my view. My view of a future here," he said, "(at 5:30, except as marked below.)"

Hochester Police. (Details on this matter are given elsewhere in this issue.)

"The police, I am sure, are doing their best to keep the peace."

"I'm beginning to get a clue to the apathy and what you people are subjected to."

"It's still not too late to thank the paper as of 2 January had received 1,052 alleged homosexuals kept by Rochester police."

"The lack of the expected response indicates that the articles are not being noticed or read (we hope that's not true). We encourage all persons interested in this movement to subscribe to the paper. We have met with the mayor and several local police officers and the president of the University of Rochester police."
HOMOSEXUALS' RIGHTS

During the year, the ACLU took on more than 30 court cases challenging laws and practices which restrict the rights of homosexuals. For the most part, this litigation was successful.

In response to a lawsuit by the National Capital Area ACLU, the District of Columbia government agreed not to enforce the local sodomy statute in cases of private consensual acts involving adults. Another ACLU case resulted in a federal court decision that homosexuality in itself does not constitute cause for denial of government security clearances. In Philadelphia, the Post Office offered a job to a man after the ACLU sued because he had previously been rejected as a homosexual. In Maryland and Oklahoma, campus restrictions against homosexuals were overturned in ACLU cases. In Florida and California, the ACLU succeeded in challenging restrictions against wearing effeminate attire in public.

Other ACLU litigation during the year involved such issues as the rights of homosexuals to hold jobs as librarians and teachers, obtain student government association funds, and hold civil service positions. Several lawsuits were brought on behalf of persons discharged from the armed forces for homosexuality who sought to upgrade their discharges from "undesirable" to "honorable." (American Civil Liberties Union newspaper, Dec.-Jan.)

NATIONAL CATHOLIC REGISTER: printed a letter from a St. Louis man reading in part: "I cannot understand why the church does not do more to help the homosexual. I am one of the despised "outcasts," and I need help desperately...I value my Catholic faith highly, but is it any wonder that so many homosexuals reject the church when the church rejected them first?" (Ann Landers, D&C, 12/4)

ANN LANDERS COLUMN: A Maryknoll priest and theologian, commenting on a bible quotation often interpreted as being anti-gay, wrote: Leviticus 20:13 is a part of a law code...It no more speaks of society's total responsibility to the individual than an isolated paragraph of the US Criminal Code. The demand for the death penalty for an act of sodomy may have been part of a campaign to wipe out the pagan practice of male and female prostitution that periodically threatened to invade Judah's own worship." (D&C 12/4)

PHOTO: CONVERSATION COMMITTEE PO Box 6913, River Station, Rochester, NY 14627, telephone 275-6181

ANNOUNCMENTS continued from p. 1

- The GAY FREEDOM CO-ALITION, recently formed at Geneseo meets every Wednesday at 7:00 in the College Union Ballroom Lounge. Address: Box 16, Suffolk Hall, SUC Geneseo, Geneseo, NY 14454
- The Brockport University Gay Freedom League meets every Tuesday evening, 7:30pm in room 202 of the Student Union.

- GAYS FOR HUMAN LIBERATION meets at 7:30 Monday nights in the Huitt Union Building, Oswego State, Oswego, New York.

- The deadline for the next EMPTY CLOSET is 28 Jan; distribution will be the weekend of 4 February. Mail or phone items to: COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE PO Box 6913, River Station, Rochester, NY 14627, telephone 275-6181.

- The coffee house, scheduled for 14 January has been postponed until a later date.

- Organizers and workers are needed for the third annual Valentine’s Day Dance, scheduled for 10 or 17 February. Phone 275-6181 for more info, or to volunteer.

- The GLF Legal Assistance Fund will pay for initial consultation with our lawyer for gay-related problems when approved by our committee. Additional legal expenses will also be unencumbered if funds permit. No details of the case will be made public without your permission. You do not have to be a member of GLF to take advantage of this service, nor is ability to pay a consideration.

- Let us mail the EMPTY CLOSET to you regularly. Phone 275-6181, or write to box 6913, Rochester 14627. The newsletter will be sent in a plain sealed envelope by first class mail at no charge.

- HOUSEMATES: Two men seek third gay of either sex to share large country home 5 minutes from MIT. $100 includes utilities and private bedroom. For more info, phone 275-6181.

- HOUSEMATE WANTED by man, 30, K-dak area. $50-70/month, 3 rooms including utilities, laundry facilities. Separate sleeping facilities available. Phone 275-6181.

- HOUSEMATE WANTED: Man, 21 wants same to share Henrietta 2BR apartment. Year-round pool, sauna, many extras. $110 includes utilities. 275-6181.