

The Gayzette

LEXINGTON GAY SERVICES ORGANIZATION, INC.

FEBRUARY 1979

SPEAKER'S BUREAU AND IN-SERVICE WORKSHOP PROGRAMS ARE BUSY

This month we have several classroom speaking engagements coming up. We also will be conducting two important in-service training sessions for area professionals. On February 19, we will be at the Comprehensive Care Center in Winchester dealing with "The Needs and Problems of Gay People." On February 25, we will be with the Division of Children's Services under the Urban County Government to deal with the issue of gay youngster.

We hope to continue such services as frequently as possible. If you are interested in taking part in such work, please let us hear from you.

GAY PERSON IN THE FAMILY

Doug Burnham, GSO President, will be conducting a workshop March 27 and 28 at the annual conference of the Kentucky Coalition of Student Social Workers. The topic of his workshop will be "The Gay Person in the Family." He is looking for gay men, lesbians, and parents of gays who he could interview for his material. If you are interested, please call Doug at 255-8173, or, in Richmond, at 622-5269.

GSO TO RESUBMIT GRANT PROPOSAL

For the past two years, GSO has submitted a grant proposal to the State Department of Human Resources to develop a drug and alcohol prevention program for gay men and lesbians. Both times, the proposal has been turned down.

Well, let's try it again. The proposal will be resubmitted this year. If the proposal is funded, GSO would be able to hire a full time director and one clerical person plus rent a space to develop programs and deliver services. Much of the services would focus on education and counseling.

CALL FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

GSO is operating its programs on financial contributions, a few money-making benefits, and in-kind donations. We are in need of funds to help support a number of projects. Our most expensive endeavor is the Gayzette. Because printing costs are so high, we have decided to purchase our own mimeograph machine. We also need to purchase pamphlets, bibliographies, etc. for our speakers bureau and in-service training programs. And, of course, simple supplies (envelops, stamps, paper, ink, etc.) are always needed.

If you can make a contribution, please mail it to GSO, P.O. Box 11471, Lexington, KY 40511. Your support is appreciated.

WINTER FORUM

The Gay Services Organization is sponsoring a series of workshops and forums. The workshops are focused primarily toward gay men and lesbians, but other interested person are welcome to attend.

The following schedule is set and all workshops will be held at the Unitarian Church, 3564 Clays Mill Road.

February 23 - 2pm to 4pm
Legal concerns for gay couples and individuals.

March 8 - 2pm to 4pm
Mental Health issues for gay men and lesbians.

March 29 - 2pm to 4 pm
Health issues for gay men and lesbians.

We hope you will plan to attend. Future workshops on assertiveness training and self-defense are being planned. If there are issues you would like to see addressed in a workshop, please send us your suggestions and ideas.

CANADIAN LESBIANS BARRED FROM U.S.

At least 55 women were refused entry into the U.S. from Canada during the weekend of the Michigan Women's Music Festival, August 22-24. At Port Huron, MI especially, Immigration and Naturalization Service officials turned back women believed to be lesbians or who were suspected of going to the festival. Later, the INS officers said that they had not yet officially received word of an August 10th policy directive concerning admission of "suspected homosexuals." Under the new policy, lesbians and gay men are "paroled" into the country, and could be subjected to an examination to "determine homosexuality" if INS lawyers ever develop a standard test. Previously, homosexuality had been determined by medical examination, but after protests from the Public Health Service stating that no valid medical examination could possibly determine sexual orientation, INS dropped these exams. INS is currently searching for a substitute procedure. The initial response from the INS to charges of policy violation was, "It was just a piece of paper that got mislaid and we can't get excited every time that happens."

While most women were not officially turned back, the majority "withdrew" their applications for entry after official intimidation. In some cases, women's passports were stamped "sexual deviate," a label they must now carry into every country they visit. Women were asked such questions as: When was the last time you slept with a man? Do you have negative feelings about homosexuality? Why not? How can you tell me you are not homosexual? Why are you traveling with other women? Do you have a purse? Do you ever carry a purse? Your friend (detained and interviewed separately) tells me all the women on this vehicle are lesbians. . . Your friend has already informed us that you are a lesbian. What do you have to say to that?

Incidents were also reported of mothers who were separated from their children; prescription medicines confiscated; baggage searched for festival literature; etc.

Out going INS Commissioner Leonard Castillo has ordered an investigation into his agency's direct violation of this new policy.

- Lesbian Connection, Nov. 1979

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT ORDERS INS TO BAN HOMOSEXUALS

Reversing an August decision to stop banning homosexual foreigners from the U.S., the Justice Department in late December notified the Immigration and Naturalization Service that it is "statutorily required to enforce the exclusion of homosexual aliens" under the 1952 McCarran-Walter Act.

The August decision, according to U.S. Surgeon General Julius B. Richmond of the Public Health Service, was made to "reflect current and generally accepted canon of medical practice with respect to homosexuality," and also because homosexuality could not be determined through a medical diagnostic procedure (sic).

Following the Public Health Service decision, the INS temporarily halted efforts to deny entry to suspected homosexuals, pending a Justice Department review of the legal issues involved. David Crosland, acting director of the INS, was advised in late December by the Justice Department to enforce the law.

Foreigners will not be asked about their sexual preference unless the immigration official has some reason to suspect homosexuality, Crosland said. Crosland indicated he believed the number of foreigners to have been excluded from the U.S. because of homosexuality was very small. He said that the total number of people excluded for all medical and psychiatric reasons from 1971 to 1978 was 31, of which homosexuals would represent an even smaller number.

excerpted from

Dayton Daily News, 12/27/79

The Michigan Supreme Court reversed two lower court decisions January 17, and restored custody of 12-year-old Jillian Miller to her lesbian mother. It was the first time the Michigan Supreme Court ruled in a lesbian parent's favor, establishing that lesbianism alone is not grounds for refusing custody.

LNS, Jan. 26, 1979 (via LC)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Gayzette:

I was happy to see (in the December issue) that Joe Lincoln was not quite as sarcastic as he sometimes appears - either in the Gayzette or in the Kernel. It is obvious Joe has talent as a young writer - I only wish he could be more direct with his anger. Sarcasm (which always to me seems to be an expression of hostility) is so difficult to understand. I'm never really sure I got the right connotation.

I, too, feel some anger that has developed into hostility - not an unusual experience for a gay person, I think. Most any person from an oppressed minority can probably identify with Joe's anger, but I think many of us have trouble identifying with it's expression in such a vague medium. I tend rather to simply "turn off" and thus a meaningful connection is never made.

I believe that, especially for gay people, the experience of focused anger is a very healthy experience and perhaps the Gayzette could become even more a forum for that - many of us have plenty of reasons to be angry.

I hope Joe doesn't see this as an attack, but simply as another gay person's point of view.

Doug Burnham

On Reading the NEW YORK TIMES'
"Week in Review" Section

voids and vacuums wrestle for
prominence in a pigs' trough
filled with pieces of
yesterday's left-overs and
sourer juices.
the grunts and groans of their
efforts attract and frighten
the hogs, pulling and
rejecting their attempts
to swallow the mush.
being limited creatures the oafs
sniffle and snort about
the sweet sick basis of life
but decide to go yet and
wallow in the mud.

Doug Burnham

CALENDER

- February 19 - In-service Training, Comprehensive Care Center, Winchester
February 23 - Forum, 2pm to 4pm, "Legal Concerns for Gay Couples and Individuals," Unitarian Church, 3564 Clays Mill Road
February 25 - In-service training, Children's Services
March 3 - GSO Monthly Meeting, 8pm, Walton Avenue Comprehensive Care Center
March 2-9 - Women's History Week
March 8 - Forum, 2pm to 4pm, "Mental Health Issues for Gay Men and Lesbians"
March 29 - Forum, 2pm to 4pm, "Health Issues for Gay Men and Lesbians"
March 27-29 - Workshop, "The Gay Person in the Family," Kentucky Coalition of Student Social Workers Annual Conference.

THE OPINIONS AND VIEWPOINTS EXPRESSED IN THE GAYZETTE ARE THOSE OF THE INDIVIDUAL AUTHORS AND NOT THOSE OF THE LEXINGTON GAY SERVICE ORGANIZATION. YOUR RESPONSES AND CONTRIBUTIONS ARE ENCOURAGED.

GAY LINE
252-9156

Thursday and Friday, Evenings 7pm - 10pm

ASSISTANCE NEEDED FOR RESEARCH PROJECT

I am conducting research into the status of gay people in the professions. I would like to find out which professions still restrict or prohibit the entry of gay persons via licensing laws, "professional guidelines," etc. I would also like to know the experiences and feelings of gay men and lesbians in the professions. I am especially interested in the situation among gay professionals here in Kentucky.

If you have any information about this or if you are in a profession and would be willing to talk with me about your experiences (confidentiality assured), please write to: Birch,

GSO
P.O. Box 11471
Lexington, Ky 40511

SHORT TAKES

"Lesbianism was only one of the several factors in deciding custody," wrote Judge George Cook in a Michigan Circuit court decision awarding custody of 4-year-old Jayson to his mother, Raelynn Smith. "It is rather the kind of care, the quality of care . . . that are important. Thus, if two female homosexuals can give that kind of care, it matters not that they are lesbians nor does it matter that the child is male or female." In making his decision in favor of the mother, Cook cited testimony that lesbianism is "not a disorder or a disease, but a variation of female sexuality."

- Upfront (via LC)

A Federal Judge has awarded a year's back pay and an allowance for lawyers' fees to six women fired in March, 1977 from the Boise Police Department for alleged lesbianism (LC Vol III, Issue 1). The women, who have refused to deny they are lesbians, were fired after an investigation resulting from complaints that they "made no secret of their sexuality." In an earlier decision, Judge Ray McNichols declared the firings were "abysmal" and the case "cried out to be tried." The judge declined to order that the women be reinstated, however, because he felt that the move would be non-productive for a small police department. The women are suing the city of Boise for ten million dollars in damages. Boise was the scene of a famous gay witch hunt in the 1950s.

The Body Politic (via LC)

A move to declare AID (Artificial Insemination by Donor) for lesbians unethical has been defeated by the British Medical Association. The motion, which would have mandated expulsion for any doctor providing AID for a lesbian, was defeated by a majority of the BMA at its annual representative meeting in Liverpool.

GPU News (via LC)

DISCO

Tuxedo Junction - Take the A Train, Butterfly

The second album by this group of female lovelies features more shimmering versions of evergreens from the 30's and 40's. Some of the song selections seem to be calculated for their camp value (especially "You Gotta be a Football Hero" and "Toot Toot Tootsie Goodbye"). But all the rest transcend corniness and are simply great songs performed with proper respect and funky only slightly. Best Cuts: "Begin the Beguine," "That Old Black Magic," "Stardust."

POP

Louise Goffin - Kid Blue

This second generation pop singer has a style all her own - leaning more to rock n' roll than to her mother Carole King's craftsman-like pop. But they both have a spare, basic approach that touches the listener. In addition to several songs she wrote by herself, she also covers a pair of oldies: Lennon and McCartney's "All I've Got to Do" and the Shangrilas' "Remember (Walkin' in the Sand)." Rather, like a Linda Ronstadt album, the music here moves effortlessly from bawdy, touch rockers to ballad laments like "Hurt by Love." The punchy, tight band backup supplies just the right amount of funk for vital, vibrant material. And yes, Louise's mom does background vocals on this album. Best Cuts: "Kid Blue," "Hurt By Love," "Jimmy and the Touch Kids" and "Singing Out Alone."

RESEARCH CALL

I am planning on a series of workshops on "The Gay Person in the Family." These workshops will be presented to a variety of professionals in and around Kentucky. I am interested in making contact with 1) gay men and lesbians who are parents, 2) parents who have gay children, 3) gay people who live together in a family constellation.

If you have about 30 minutes and would be willing to talk about your unique experience, please contact me by writing:
Doug Burnham, GSO, P.O. Box 11471,
Lexington, KY 40502 or call 255-4993.