

The Gazette

LEXINGTON GAY SERVICES ORGANIZATION, INC. OCTOBER 1979

MARCH ON WASHINGTON: UPDATE

Kentuckians planning to be a part of the October 14 March on Washington for lesbian and gay rights are asked to contact Dennis Priddy who is the state coordinator for the march. He would like to know of any person planning to stay over to lobby Congress on the 15. You may reach Dennis when you arrive in Washington by calling him at the capitol Hilton hotel. He will also be able to brief you on the latest information concerning any group action on the part of Kentuckians.

According to Dennis, the March on Washington is just a beginning. When that is completed, he will be taking steps to develop and coordinate a group to continue lobbying efforts on a state level.

HOPKINS RESPONDS TO GAY RIGHTS LETTERS

Lexington's representative in Congress, Larry Hopkins, has recently responded to a letter sent him by the Lexington Gay Services Organization on the subject of gay rights as well as to letters from individuals on the same subject. The letter from GSO contained a brief explanation of H.R. 2074--the bill now pending in Congress which would prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation; the letter went on to ask Hopkins to consider and to support the legislation.

In his reply to the group, Hopkins assumed a noncommittal stance. He explained that the bill is assigned to the House Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights: no action has been taken there. The usual legislative pattern is to hold hearings on a bill at the subcommittee level and then vote on whether to send it to the full committee for consideration. If that vote is favorable, the full committee can hold its own set of hearings if it chooses before voting on the bill. If the bill receives a favorable committee vote, it then goes to the House itself for consideration and (depending on the House's schedule, time constraints, and other factors). Since he is not a House Judiciary Committee member, Hopkins would not have an opportunity to vote on H.R. 2074 until it reaches the full House for consideration. When and if it does, he says he will carefully review the Judiciary committee's recommendations and keep GSO's views in mind as well.

H.R. 2074 is not likely to move out of the subcommittee where it presently resides for some time. The House is behind in its work schedule as it is; the gay rights legislation is not a top priority item to most House members. If anything, as a controversial issue (like abortion), gay rights is something most Congresspeople would almost surely like to avoid taking a stand on.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Oct. 7 Rap Group at Southland Branch of the Lexington Public Library (521 Southland Dr.) The group begins at 1 p.m. and runs to 3 p.m.
- Oct. 14 March and rally in Washington for lesbian and gay rights.
- Oct. 21 Rap Group. (See Oct. 7 for further details.)
- Oct. 27 Benefit dinner for GSO at Jezebel's. From 5 to 7 p.m. Tasty spaghetti, wine, and the trimmings as well as tasteful waiters/waitresses. Enjoy a fun meal and help out GSO. \$2.50 donation.
- Oct. 28 GSO Speakers Bureau training session. 1 p.m. Call Gayline for more information.
- Nov. 5 Regular monthly GSO meeting at Walton Ave. Center (183 Walton Ave.) at 8 p.m. Newcomers welcome.
- Nov. 7 Holly Near concert. Sponsored by Amber Moon Prod. and SAFE \$5.00 Call 278-2187 for more information.

OUT OF THE CLOSET AND
ON THE SHELF:

Three Gay Novels

AMONG THE CARNIVORES

By Daniel Curzon
Ashley Books, Inc.

PUPPIES

By John Valentine
Entwhistle Books

THE GOLD DIGGERS

By Paul Monette
Avon Books

These novels have nothing in common except the fact that I read them over the past summer.

AMONG THE CARNIVORES focuses on the struggle of a college professor (creative writing speciality) to survive as a gay man in a small conservative town where he teaches. I liked the professor mainly because he was so vulnerable to human frailties. He made stupid mistakes and misjudgements. He used people with only a slight awareness he was doing so. He believed people would respond in groups as they would respond individually, a real fallacy in thinking. He thought people would be willing to risk their jobs to support him and their cause. He got angry and responded irrationally. He lusted and called it love. He loved and ran from it. Such a common man.

It is fast reading and evokes enough feeling to get you involved. It is not great writing but allows you to identify with the struggles.

PUPPIES. The book stinks! It is written in journal style telling all about Valentine's escapades to exploit young men and boys. A true piece of homophobia. I love (lust) reading lust but its merits hardly need a whole book. Having read this novel is proof that I will read any novel that I think may have a gay character. Though I end up being a little pissed off each time, I even read Gordon Merrick.

THE GOLD DIGGERS is refreshing, particularly in the sense that it has a plot, interesting characters (some of

whom are gay), and is even suspenseful--like late show suspense. The story does not center around being gay but allows its characters to manifest their sexual preferences without exaggerations. There is a Hollywood setting and lots of money so our characters never have to worry about the mundane--in that sense and only in that sense it is a fairy tale. This is fun bedtime reading. You can enjoy the characters but not have to worry very much about them.
Doug Burnham

EDITORIAL

Gay people are often fond (and correctly so) of pointing out the diversity in our ranks. Despite certain shared group experiences and concerns, gays are usually just as independent in their outlook on life as any randomly selected ten percent of the American population. No where is this more true than in the area of humor; the piece written by Joe Lincoln that appears in this issue of Gayzette brings out this issue. For the most part, it is a column that nearly all gay people should be able to identify with and chuckle over. And surely every gay person can find at least part of the piece relevant to their own experiences and feelings. At the same time, some gays may have some ideological or attitudinal problems with sections of the article. "The Compleat Homosexual" was written by Lincoln to amuse, to lighten our collective load a bit. If any part of it--or anything that runs in this paper--offends or seems inappropriate to you, please let us know. The Gayzette belongs to its readers and to the gay community of Lexington. We solicit articles from members of that community. Let us know how we are doing in presenting your community. Better still, send us a piece that represents your outlook and perspectives on gay life in general and the Lexington gay community in particular. Letters and/or articles can be mailed to P O Box 11471, Lexington, 40511. To be included in next month's issue, items should reach us by the first week in November.

THE COMPLEAT HOMOSEXUAL

by
Joe Lincoln

I suppose a duty which every homosexual feels obligated to fulfill at least once in his life is to explain why he chose to be gay. Usually an answer to this eternal question is demanded under the most unpleasant circumstances, making it impossible to come up with a response which will not cause even the most staunch of homophiles to wince. The typical scenarios are the parent-gay child confrontation and the newly-informed friend-gay friend discussion--both of which we tend to avoid like Mexican water (for the same reasons). More often than not, of course, these encounters are inevitable, and we might as well face it. But it is so hard to come up with a plausible reason for being gay while your mother is trying her newfound martyrdom on for size or your straight roommate is giving constructive advice such as "And when I turn out the lights, I better not hear your feet touch the floor". In our more rational moments we naturally know there is no reason for your being gay; we just are.

Another question frequently asked of us (and one of my personal favorites) is "How did you know you were gay?" Since the answer is so painfully obvious, the homosexual should feel free to come up with as many sarcastic responses as he wishes until physical harm is actually threatened. If you are not **terribly** creative, here are some good answers you may wish to borrow as written or to tailor them to your personal tastes. Remember, the question is "How did you know you were gay?" (Expect some occasional paraphrasing.)

1) I answered an ad on a matchbook cover that said, "If you can draw this flower arrangement, you may be a homosexual."

2) I found myself making my G.I. Joe dolls commit crimes against nature--this one is good for at least a half-hour of sordid details, especially if you involve a German G.I. Joe or two. Also mention how much creativity it took on your part since the dolls are made without genitals. As a variation on this

theme, you may want to include how you switched heads with one of your sister's Barbie dolls, performing one of the first gender re-assignments.

3) While watching Bonanza, I used to hope Little Joe would get shot, so they would have to take off his shirt-- substitute the name of the idolized character from your favorite show, if you so desire.

Now that you have the idea, I am sure you can come up with some of your own. You will be surprised how easy it is to make utter fools of some straights.

There are numerous other misconceptions about gay people which you may be called upon to deny, clarify, or blame on some other minority. Here is a partial list in order that you will not be caught by surprise:

1) Most gay men would not die if the word "hot" were removed from their vocabulary. (Severe depression would likely ensue, however.)

2) Most lesbians are not hostile to men. (They may hit me if I do not include that point.)

3) Most gay men do not want to "do it" with straight men. (We want to "do it" with every man.)

4) Most gays and lesbians do not feel threatened by straights. (It is their laws, prejudices, and baseball bats we are not too crazy about.)

5) Most gays and lesbians cannot "spot" one another instantly. (Just because we all dress alike is no reason to assume this.)

I bet you did not realize being gay was so complex, did you? Just think of all the responsibilities you are expected to fulfill, the questions you will be asked, the talents you will be assumed to possess, and the pressure you will probably be under to keep your private life private. So if we can still be called "gay" after all this, we must be doing something right

HOPKINS AND GAY RIGHTS
Con't. from Page 1

The last time the issue came up in the House, on an anti-gay amendment to the Legal Services bill, gays won an overwhelming victory--because the vote was an unrecorded voice vote. When someone demanded a recorded, roll-call vote, the anti-gay amendment passed by a two to one margin. We can find some relief in that the chair of the Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights is Don Edwards of California, a progressive legislator. It is better to have H.R. 2074 bide its time in his subcommittee than be sent to the full committee or the House floor to meet an early death.

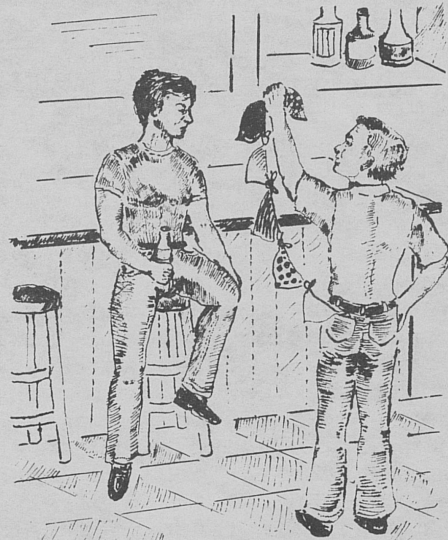
Which brings us back to the need for polite but firm pressure on Congress-people like Hopkins to at least see our side of the story. We can't expect him or any other member of Congress unfamiliar or unsympathetic to our cause to suddenly see the light. These are pragmatic politicians, often with other concerns besides what is right and wrong, like remaining in Congress. We have to convince politicians that there is a viable gay constituency out there. In short, keep those cards and letters going--to Washington: to Representative Larry Hopkins, 514 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20501. He won't be won over easily, but over time we might make a difference. And with some new and formidable adversaries on the scene (like Christian Voice--more on those folks next time), we'll just have to work that much longer and harder. For more information, contact any GSO member or write GSO at Box 11471, Lexington 40511.

If you would like to receive Gayzette regularly, just fill out the form below and mail it to GSO, Box 11471, Lex.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Though there is not yet a formal subscription charge, we do need & would appreciate donations to help defray the cost of printing and postage. If you specify, we will be glad to mail the paper in a plain envelope.



"Any of these turn you on?"

SONNET

I can't sleep though my body,
tired by sex, whimpers.
You finish a cigarette,
close misty eyes,
roll
Air starts whistling thru your nose,
and I know you are lost to me
the rest of the night.
Your wearied face assures me
it will be noon or one
before this pest can have you back;
your clock reads only three.

Our intimacy leaves me paranoid.
I am so afraid it will end and,
tossed like some cigarette butt
you once enjoyed, be
Often these fears
have crossed my long midnight vigils
and proven true.
Christ!
I hope it will be different with you.