

# DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY: HOW TO VOTE P.3

# GAY 50¢

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## INTRO 475: WESWUNG AND MISSED. NEXT?



Photo by Bettie Lane

Protesting Intro 475's defeat, 20 gay liberationists were arrested near Brooklyn Bridge.

BY LEO SKIR

New York, N.Y. Wednesday, April 25, 10:45 a.m. The Firehouse, 99 Wooster Street. Firehouse is full of folk but mostly not newsfolk but regular GAA meeting-tonight folk, jolly as jumping beans and grabbing the news releases like party favors. A general jolly air. It seems in the bag and from the Firehouse the perspective is good. It's a press meeting but with Victory almost on the horizon everyone wants to be a parent.

GAA President Bruce Voeller introduces the speakers. There is a list circu-

lated of 24 who will speak. About ten show up. But it doesn't dampen spirits. On Friday the General Welfare Council will meet at City Hall. There are 15 members. If seven vote for Intro 475, it will get out of committee. And almost all bills getting to the floor of the council go through. And it seems enough of the councilpeople are committed.

No one seems disturbed that not one of the committed councilpeople from that committee are in the Firehouse this morning.

Bruce Voeller tells of the million gay New Yorkers urging the bill on, "ten per

cent of the city's population." The bill will ensure fair employment, fair housing, fair public accommodations for them.

The "news" is that the people who backed the campaign continue to back it. To prove this, Clingan and Burden, who sponsored the bill, say they are for it. Ditto Herman Badillo, Edward Koch, a Mr. David (for Eleanor Holmes Norton), Bronx Borough President Robert Abrams, Wilma Gottlieb of the National Organization of Women, Roberta Weiner of the Manhattan Women's Political Caucus, Marie Rothman of Americans for Democratic Action.

This is hardly news or drama. We have overcome nothing.

There is a cloud, but it doesn't seem that large. Cuite (pronounced "cute"), the majority leader, will not accept proxy votes. There are no fixed rules about accepting these. One of the bill's possible supporters, Matthew Troy, is in Florida. There is word he is driving home.

But the only problem seen is getting the people on the council who will vote for the bill to the council.

DiBlasi may sneak away on vacation. Should we lie in front of the wheels of his car?

Thursday, April 26, 9 p.m. The Firehouse. General Meeting. Cheerleading. And now: Power-of-the-Mimeograph-to-be-demonstrated. One sheet to be distributed through the city: "We Are On The Verge of Victory . . . but the help of everyone is needed." Out into the streets! "Why, I can call the fisher from the sea." "Why, so can everyman but will they come?"

Friday, April 27, 10:30 p.m. City Hall. They don't. About 100 people, mostly old familiar GAA faces, get wet waiting in the rain across the street from City Hall behind barricades. From time to time we get reports. There is a discussion of small two-family houses, of the issue of transvestites. Two transvestites, Marsha Johnson and Sylvia Rivera, have neared the

GAA loud-hailer and members of the council are informed they are motherfuckers (Is this the issue? Incest? Are we against consenting-parents-with-children?). The recess is ended. Aileen Ryan has not come back. And hers is to be a deciding vote. We sing (to the tune of "Frere Jacques"):

*Aileen Ryan, Aileen Ryan,  
Where are you? Where are you?  
Hiding in the closet, hiding in the closet  
Shame on you, shame on you.*

One of the women tells us she called Aileen Ryan at 7:30 a.m. and was told Ms. Ryan would have to read the bill. Slow reader. Late lunch. We lose.

It's about 3 p.m.

"This has been a peaceful demonstration," a police captain tells us (they are lining up in preparation for a demo, a paddy wagon is on hand). "Please disperse peacefully."

"Move to the subway entrance!" cries GAA President Bruce Voeller. We follow him to the entrance near Center Street bordering the approach to the Brooklyn Bridge. It's raining hard.

"I don't know what you are going to do," he says, "but I'm going to sit in the road and stop the traffic."

That's what we're going to do. We are wet and tired and angry. We line up across the road and sit down. The cars stop. The police come and carry us off. The first carried off—I'm among them—are not arrested. The rest are. Our president, vice-president, press relations man are taken. I, unarrested, only slightly bruised, hop over to GAY office, tell Jack Nichols the result, go back to the Firehouse to await the results.

The 20 arrested are all charged, then released on their own recognisance. Fifteen men and five women. Louis de Vito, the police liaison with the GAA, had been at the stationhouse or the court. I remember that the mayor had publicly come out in favor of the bill.

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Laura Kenyon, an extraordinary singer, is currently packing them in at the tubs, as she flourishes in Ron Fields/Tom Tolla's superb show, "Pizzaz '73." Don't miss her at the Continental Baths Friday and Saturday (Eves) through May 26th. See photo interview in our next issue. (Photo by Eric Stephen Jacobs)

## JOHN W. DEAN III FEARS GAY RAPE

Washington, D.C. Ex-Presidential counsel John W. Dean III has let it be known through his lawyer, Charles N. Shaffer, that he has "an obsessive fear of going to jail because his boyish appearance might make him a target for homosexual abuse by other prisoners," according to a report by CBS News.

Dean, 34, has been twice married. His "babyfaced" appearance has been widely touted in the national media. His lawyer's statement confirms what some gay spokesmen have said privately and publicly: "The Nixon Administration's top dogs are homophobes."

Dean is believed to have evidence which may implicate President Nixon in the burgeoning Watergate scandal, and has already expressed his disappointment with Nixon's "explanations" on TV.



Dean: Do buggers fear buggery?



# Our Best Friend in Politics

## THE JUNE 4th PRIMARY

# Re-Elect City Councilman Eldon Clingan

BY RANDY WICKER

**GAY:** What have you done, what are you doing, what will you do in the area of homosexual civil rights?

**CLINGAN:** Of course, I'm the principal sponsor, the first name on the bill of Intro 475 which has been the focal point for all kinds of activity for equal rights for homosexuals in New York City. I've not only been a sponsor of that bill, I've been a very active participant in the struggle for its passage. This has included work in the council itself and work of a more direct nature outside.

**GAY:** Who had the idea for Intro 475?

**CLINGAN:** The basic language was worked out in consultation with Councilman Carter Burden, representatives of GAA, I think it was Kay Tobin and some others at the time, and myself. It was physically drafted by an attorney in my office.

**GAY:** One reason I asked was that Herman Badillo said Hal Morrison, a young lawyer on his staff, helped draft it.

**CLINGAN:** I have no knowledge of that. Frankly, the drafting of it was not a difficult job. It consisted of inserting the words "sexual orientation" at every relevant point within the human rights law. I don't know that Hal helped, but I'm very delighted that he did. He's a very fine fellow and I'm delighted we had his help. It was just not aware of it.

**GAY:** You were the first politician to respond to invitations from gay groups in New York, weren't you?

**CLINGAN:** Yes. In 1970, the Mattachine Society extended an invitation to several politicians, I'm not sure how broad it was, to meet with representatives from Mattachine and Daughters of Bilitis. And we met at a townhouse in the Village, "we" being myself and the representatives of those organizations. I was, in fact, the only person who turned up out of those who were invited. We had a very interesting conversation, but I think in retrospect a very moderate conversation. Most of our attention was devoted to the problem of employment records and of how to screen employment records and particularly how to stop draft records from being scrutinized by employers. Looking back on it through the years, it seems to me we were just too modest at the time.

**GAY:** If you've read the *New York Post* recently, you know that is still quite an issue. They did a couple of big features on that.

**CLINGAN:** Yes it is. But I think that the thing to do was to go for the overall inclusive bill. Certainly this remains a problem not only for homosexuals but for many others. But in terms of specifically dealing with the problems of homosexuals, I think 475 is the better approach.

**GAY:** What sort of reaction did you get? Was this a difficult type of stand to take as a politician?

**CLINGAN:** Well, without being more specific about it as to who said what, a kind of failure to really feel that this is a terribly serious problem or one that people should get involved in who are active in public life. I certainly didn't have the impression that anybody was going to form a brass band and play it for me for



Anyone in Manhattan can vote for Eldon Clingan as City Councilman-at-Large.

getting involved. When we actually introduced the bill, the result from our colleagues and the press corps down at City Hall was pretty damn negative. There was by no means a rush to support it or even any kind of feeling about it except that Burden and I were probably a little screwy for putting a bill like that in.

Then we had to fight for public hearings for the bill because there was no desire whatsoever to move this bill. We had three very hot hearings down at City Hall, really precedent-making in the sense that there had never been, to my knowledge certainly, such an open discussion of homosexuality in the councils of government. I think that was a large part of the opening up of this area to general discussion.

We had to work to get those hearings. GAA had to work too. They worked very hard to pressure Sharison. We were pressuring Cuite and Sharison on the Council. Then we forced the vote and lost the vote.

Then we had to get it put back together again and go through a second round. At which we again lost. And of course, we are now going through a third round. And each one of those has taken us about six months to put the whole thing together.

**GAY:** Did actively working for 475 cause you any problems?

**CLINGAN:** Sure it has. It's very difficult for me to get any sort of press release on any subject short of the second coming covered by the City Hall Press Corps.

That's not only because of 475. It's also because I have been a very active participant in Gay Activists Alliance activities around Intro 475.

You have to remember that my role in this has been a little bit more than that of a legislator. I have marched on picket lines. I've marched outside Police Headquarters with the GAA. I've marched outside the *Daily News* building with the GAA. When Alan Roskoff was being arrested as a result of the fracas which occurred at the Hilton Hotel, he came to my office at City Hall and asked if I would allow him to stay there and in effect force the District Attorney to come in and arrest him there. And I gave him permission to do that and that is what occurred. Now, this is a very strange kind of thing to happen down at City Hall. Most of its residents are not accustomed to things being done that way. This is not the way minority leaders behave. The result has been that I am the subject of a deep freeze down at City Hall so far as the press is concerned.

I'm not sorry about it, you understand. I think I did the right thing. I would do it all again that I did before. But the fact is the damage.

Against that of course I have had some help from within the gay community. I've had some financial help. It hasn't been a great deal of money, but it has been some money and I've appreciated it.

**GAY:** Do you think the homosexual community is a little bit lax in that regard?

**CLINGAN:** I think not only speaking for myself, but speaking for politics generally, that the homosexual community has got to put itself together much, much more and play much more of a role financially and insofar as volunteer assistance in politics in order to really make its weight felt. And I've been preaching that sermon for three years. Hopefully, one of these days...

**GAY:** How would someone who wanted to work in your campaign go about it?

**CLINGAN:** Our headquarters are at 154 E. 79th Street. Our telephone number is 535-5810.

**GAY:** What types of things can people do?

**CLINGAN:** They can address envelopes. We have crews working on the streets. We have one GAA member who is very active with our street crew, people who go out with me in the streets, shake hands, hand out leaflets and so forth. And leaflet distribution of all kinds. We will be making a campaign directed at the gay community. I will be going into gay bars. I'll be talking with gays directly.

Let me tell you something funny that happens to me on the street. I've had, every Saturday I've been out campaigning, a gay come up to me and say: "Where do you stand on Intro 475?"

So I say: "Man, I wrote it. That's where I stand on Intro 475." Intro 475 as an idea has gotten across to the gay community. Eldon Clingan as a politician associated with it has not gotten across. I think there is a great reservoir out there in the gay community for people who have been involved the way I've been involved. It's just a matter of going out there and saying: "Hey, this is the guy who's done it and who has in fact been the best friend of the homosexual community in New York City and damn near the eastern seaboard." I say that only because San Francisco has had success with passing legislation so I'm not going to take credit for the whole country.

**GAY:** If Intro 475 came into law, could it be used as a wedge against the total exclusion of homosexuals from federal and state employment?

**CLINGAN:** In a couple of ways. A lot of federal funding comes in but the employees are actually city employees. The check they get is really a city check. We've had the limited success of having an order against discrimination in public employment, which we achieved last year, so there is some protection there.

This whole thing has to be seen as dynamic, as something which is coming. We've seen this over 475. When we put it in, it was thought to be outrageous. The whole idea of gay liberation was a real far-out thing. We've come in two years' time from that point in the public mind to the point where the issue could be raised and discussed at the 1972 Democratic National Convention. That's a big movement. As we get legislation in New York City, San Francisco and places like Minnesota, I think the federal government is going to be very hard pressed to maintain discriminatory policies.

**GAY:** What do you think is going to be the job after 475 is passed?

**CLINGAN:** My next target would be the

state sodomy law. That would just be my personal preference as to what the next target should be. I think that as long as you've got a sodomy law and a possibility of entrapment, a new mayor who was of a conservative mind may well bring back the pre-1966 days in New York. As long as something is on the books, a law to be violated, you have the possibility of entrapment.

**GAY:** Do you think there's anything the city could do regarding syndicate control of gay bars in the city in view of SLA anti-gay regulations? The GAA dances, of course, have been a major wedge in that direction which has been a major funding source for the gay movement in this city.

**CLINGAN:** One of the things I have done, I've tried. I don't say I've been successful. But I've intervened with the Buildings Department in regard to that cabaret that wanted to open up down in Sheridan Square that was owned by gays. That's *When We Win*. I've been around with the Buildings Department regarding that. They were going to sit down and directly get an answer from the Buildings Department because they were getting a run-around. That's the kind of thing, in individual instances, that I can hopefully do something about. Although it's like pulling teeth, particularly when you get, as you did in that situation, a community group that is in opposition. Now, a lot of these community groups bear you're going to open a gay place and they go up in arms.

**GAY:** How about areas of bonding and insurance, people who work on Wall Street. How would Intro 475 relate to their situation?

**CLINGAN:** I'm not certain whether there would be an applicability there or not. The problem is that the bonding company might not be within the jurisdiction. Insurance is something that we haven't gotten into yet. It seems to me that that might be handled by the state insurance department. It might even be handled on an administrative basis.

**GAY:** What are the other areas outside the gay community where you're hoping to get special support?

**CLINGAN:** I don't know if I'm going to get any support from them. But there are groups I have tried to do things for, people who are really powerless and poor. People, for example, like tenants. I don't think there is a better councilman in the city so far as tenants are concerned than I am. But they're not in a position to help anybody. They've come to be because they need help.

The other prominent civil rights bill I've been involved with is Intro 438, which is the bill on Blacks and Puerto Ricans in the construction trade. Here I've just had the honor of having the Mayor just steal the bill from me. Which is OK with me because there's the possibility that with the Mayor's support we might be able to get somewhere with it. Here again, I would hope I could get Black and Puerto Rican support but...

**GAY:** One of your opponents is Puerto Rican, Arnie Segarra. Is he a spoiler?

**CLINGAN:** Well, I don't really think of Arnie Segarra as being my problem, frankly. Robert Wagner Jr. is my problem. And he is an individual who has no record on the homosexual issue, among other issues. He's now come along. He's me-tooing me. He's me-tooing Clingan at a time, frankly, when it's easy for him to do. It really doesn't take a lot of guts to come out at this point in history in Manhattan to come out in favor of gay rights. It took a lot of guts in 1970 to do it.

**GAY:** Are there other specific instances like the *When We Win* thing where you have become involved?

**CLINGAN:** Well, that's just the one that comes to mind. There are other kinds of things that occur. I was involved in trying to put the screws on the Police Department over the incident that occurred at the Hilton Hotel when Maye beat up the people from GAA. Without conspicuous success, I may tell you. Things like writing letters to the Police Commissioner and carrying on outside police headquarters with GAA, things like that. I found that to be a very unrewarding kind of activity simply because the Police Department chooses to ignore the letter and six months later some low-ranking guy writes you an answer and it is a non-responsive answer. Back in 1970, Carter Burden and I went with Jim Owsie, then president of GAA, to meet with Dick Aurelio. Jim felt he needed some people with more influence than he had to do something about establishing contact with the Police Department again. I don't know that we were terribly successful in doing that. There was the usual kind of answer that was given, you know.

**GAY:** The *Advocate* is carrying a feature in their next issue on the two gays who have joined the auxiliary police force in Brooklyn Heights. Do you think this is a good entrance into the police force?

**CLINGAN:** I think it's great. I think it's a terrific thing to do. I think it will put the cops on the spot. You know, they have been one of the problems with 475, Murphy's great reluctance to come and talk about the bill. But, God, I think it's terrific that they're involved.

**GAY:** Should homosexuals do more than just vote for you? Should they actively work for your election?

**CLINGAN:** Well, I think homosexuals ought to work for me, vote for me, and help me win the election because they haven't had a better friend in New York City government. And if I'm not in New York City government, I don't think they will have such a friend there.

**GAY:** Do you think the other politicians look upon you as highly identified with this issue and if you ran very poorly, they would say the homosexual issue is political poison?

**CLINGAN:** There is no question of that. If I'm defeated and I'm defeated badly, it will indicate that this issue is a very dangerous one for anyone to get involved with. You understand that I'm running on this issue. It appears prominently in my literature. So, I'm not trying to hide it or anything like that.

**GAY:** What kind of reaction do you get when you go out and speak to people on this issue? Like what about those perennial questions about transvestites in the classroom?

**CLINGAN:** We've tried to put the gay rights concept in perspective by saying everybody needs a place to live, everybody needs to make a living. Regardless of what you do, those things do come up. I went in to talk to the Cardosa Society in Richmond Hills, Queens. It was an association of middle-class lawyers and their wives and the response was overwhelmingly positive.

**GAY:** Do you think people respect you for taking an outspoken stand in an area like this? People could hardly call you opportunistic and say you expected to be swept into public office because of your support for the civil rights of a group as unpopular as homosexuals.

**CLINGAN:** I don't think people know it. Most people don't know much about the City Council and don't know who their city councilman is.

**GAY:** Why did you switch from the Liberal to the Democratic Party? Wouldn't it have been easier to keep your seat by remaining in the Liberal Party?



Eldon Clingan joins Carter Burden, Congressman Koch and Badillo and others supporting Intro 475.

**CLINGAN:** I changed because all the people associated with me had decided they had come to the end of the road with the Liberal Party and were switching their registration to the Democratic column. So, I showed my leadership qualities by following them.

No, I don't think it would have been easier for me to have won reelection as a Liberal. It would have been hard under either circumstance. I would have had a primary because I had fought boss control of the Liberal Party. They would have put a candidate against me. And then I would have had to win the general election.

**GAY:** Did your support of Intro 475 cause you problems with the Liberal Party?

**CLINGAN:** No. The Liberal Party doesn't care about principles one way or the other. It didn't do me any good with them. They didn't say, "Look, Clingan's an SOB. He says nasty things about us. But you've got to say for the guy that he's a gutty fellow who stands up for principles." They never said anything like that. Their idea was: "Clingan is interfering with our control of the Party and so we got to kill him regardless of where he stands on the issues or principle."

Now you get a guy like Henry Stern. He's running against Chuck Choset in the Liberal primary. It's going to be hard for him to make it. But when Henry Stern was down talking to GAA on candidate's night, Intro 475 never had a stouter friend. I've never seen the likes of all the support we get. All I know is that these people for years did everything they could to destroy me. It seems to me that if they were sensible people who stood for the things I stood for, that like me or not like me, it seems to me that they ought to support me. They don't.

**GAY:** GAY ran an article on Robert Wagner Jr. which was a very sympathetic feature. However, Mike McPherson says that on Wagner's literature, that for all his remarks at the Firehouse and in the GAY interview, Wagner's literature has only a lukewarm mention of sexual orientation and says that if elected, Wagner would "set up a committee to study the situation and see if people of certain sexual orientations could work for the city or not."

**CLINGAN:** I think it is even more lukewarm than that. I've got the piece about it. I was appalled. He had made such a positive statement, you know. Not only was he so much for Intro 475, but he was for strengthening 475. Then when I see his literature he doesn't even mention the word homosexual.

**GAY:** Then you think Robert Wagner Jr.'s posture in this area is opportunistic?

**CLINGAN:** There's no question about it. First off, he comes very late to the issue. Where the hell has he been? Do you have to be paid by the government in order to participate in community affairs? Furthermore, why doesn't he do it openly? Why doesn't he come out and say: "I am for equal rights in housing and in jobs for homosexuals?"

**GAY:** Does he use this against you in the campaign?

**CLINGAN:** He's tried to use it before audiences that were sympathetic to 475 by saying that if I knew how to build coalitions, I would have gotten the bill passed. What he said specifically, and he made the mistake of saying it to my face, he said: "You refused to let Ed Sadowski be a sponsor." And I said: "What?"

Ed Sadowski is a councilman from Queens. So I said: "Says who?" And Wagner says: "Well, Sadowski told Matt Troy." And I said: "Look, the way you do it. If you want to co-sponsor a bill, you come and you talk to the guy who is the sponsor of it. I never turned down anybody. We were so damn lonely, we weren't in the position to turn down anybody."

I went and talked to Sadowski and he said he never asked to co-sponsor the bill. He said he'd vote for it but he didn't want to be a co-sponsor. Now, what I'm saying is that Wagner is a liar. That's what I'm saying. And Wagner knows he's a liar. And he continues to repeat things he knows to be lies because he knows I did something that was really very courageous, if I may say so, and that was to introduce 475.

**GAY:** In your race, are you bound by the rule that you have to get 40 per cent of the vote to win?

**CLINGAN:** No, you just need plurality. Wagner's argument is that the New York City Council is something like the Athenian Senate, that Eldon Clingan doesn't know how to talk to these people who are rough, unschooled people but who you can work with, you can build a coalition with them. They really will work together with you.

Well, you know in my experience, they are a phony bunch of bastards taken as a whole, who are in bed with the special interest groups, who are controlled by the political machines from which they came. Of course, I'm not talking about all councilmen. There is a reform group down there but they are a small minority. There is no "coalition" possible. All you can do is work as we worked on 475. You put it together by a combination of pushing and pulling and political pressure and whatever wheeling, and perhaps a little bit of veiled threatening from time to time. You do all those

# The Wicker Report



Randy Wicker

BY RANDY WICKER  
ALMOST 10,000 ARE ANTI-ANN

Nationally syndicated columnist Ann Landers says that a column she did calling homosexuality "unnatural" and "a sickness" drew 10,000 letters, about 90 per cent of them anti-Landers.

"It was the angriest and most militant, threatening and vitriolic response I've ever gotten in the 18 years I've been writing the column," Landers told *Newsweek*.

In a follow-up column, Ann Landers claimed that the deluge of critical mail had caused her to "rethink" her position. Apparently, Landers' "rethinking" did not include any objective or new research.

After "rethinking" the matter, *Newsweek* reports Landers "reached the same old conclusion: 'Homosexuality is unnatural. Individuals who prefer members of their own gender as sex partners are sick.'"

Ironically, Ann Landers' sister—nationally syndicated columnist Abigail Van Buren ("Dear Abby")—has "rethought" those 1930's anti-gay attitudes she and her sister were exposed to in their formative years. Abby espouses a much more open and sympathetic attitude toward homosexuals.

## NEW YORK LEGISLATURE PASSES ANTI-GAY STATUTES:

The New York State Assembly has passed a bill authorizing the holding of anyone arrested for prostitution, rape, sodomy or other sex offenses for up to fifteen days so VD tests can be run on them.

"It's hard enough for gays to explain the one or two days they're away from work when they get arrested these days," John Howard, NYS/CO lobbyist, commented. "Now, if they want to really hassle someone who has just been arrested, not convicted, for sodomy, they have the means to do so. Nobody is going to be able to hide fifteen days they spent in jail waiting for the results of VD tests. Whether they are eventually convicted or not, they'll end up being fired."

To become law, the bill must also be passed by the New York State Senate and signed by Governor Rockefeller. So far, there hasn't been any real opposition to the measure. It is likely to sail on through onto the statute books.

When it is used to detain arrested suspects, the constitutionality of the bill will probably be challenged by civil liberties groups. After much expense and after claiming a number of victims, the law will probably be declared unconstitutional.

Meanwhile, the New York Senate has



The Twilight of the Gods and the Darling of the Gods hobnob.

passed Gov. Rockefeller's bill calling for mandatory minimum sentences for people convicted of certain sodomy offenses. Lobbyist Howard says that he has secured copies of the Rockefeller bill but has been unable to determine which of the sodomy statutes are involved.

## TALLULAH'S GAY BIOGRAPHER DISHES THE DIRT:

Kieran Tunney, an Irish playwright and critic who describes himself as "mostly homosexual," has written a book entitled *Tallulah, Darling of the Gods* (Dutton), subtitled *An Intimate Portrait*. It paints Tallulah as vulnerable, insecure, self-destructive and self-punishing. It has also angered many of Tallulah's friends who charge Tunney was not as intimate with Tallulah as he claims.

Tunney first met Ms. Bankhead when he came to the U.S. at the age of 24 to ask her to be the lead in one of his plays being produced in Britain. Two hours after arriving, Tunney reports he was sitting on the edge of Tallulah's bathtub drinking champagne while she bathed. Tunney claims "perfect" recall for conversations and claims he went to bed with Tallulah on one occasion.

Some of Tallulah's friends say that they saw Tunney at her apartment from time to time but when he called, Tallulah would say, "That's Kieran—he probably wants to borrow some money. Tell him I'm asleep."

Tunney reportedly does "an accurate imitation" of Ms. Bankhead, describes his career in the theatre as "disastrous" and has earned his living mostly by doing criticism and journalism. He knew Tallulah for 20 years and says that he is "not impressed" with any of the other books done on her because most have been written by people who didn't know the "real Tallulah" as he did. He considers his book to be a sort of belated Valentine.

Although Tallulah died in 1968, three books have been published about her this year and two others are rumored to be on

their way. Eugenia Rawls, Ms. Bankhead's protegee, is on tour across the country doing her one-woman show about Ms. Bankhead. The Tallulah business appears to be booming.

## ENGLISH NOVELIST'S DIARY TELLS ALL:

The "Evelyn Waugh Diary" has caused quite a stir in England by relating the lives that country's "smart and clever" people lived from the 1920s through World War II.

Waugh died in 1966 at the age of 62 after producing 28 books. His diary will soon be published. London's *Observer* newspaper is printing carefully edited preview excerpts with the names of living persons replaced by asterisks.

"We escaped with our lives. \*\*\* had the male prostitute \*\*\* with him so I passed a quiet night unmolested," one typical excerpt noted.

Many of Waugh's friends have been highly critical of the diary's contents saying that "wild oats should be kept secret." The *Observer* has replaced the names of living persons with asterisks because they fear libel suits.

Waugh, who was married twice and left a widow with six children, covered the antics of such people as one nicknamed "Luncher" who became a prominent public figure and whom Waugh described as "a cocaine addict who lusted after young men, talked dirty and drank too much."

Noel Coward, another of Waugh's gay acquaintances, was characterized: "He has a simple, friendly nature. No brains and a theatrical nature."

Most of the sensationalism revolving around the diary comes from its description of Winston Churchill's son, Randolph Churchill, as "a flabby bully" who drank his way through the war.

"The diaries cover all aspects of Waugh's life for 50 years," the *New York Post* reports. "The focus so far has been

on orgies, drunken parties, naked parties, homosexual parties and lesbian parties, often with famous people participating."

The *Post* quoted *Sunday Express* editor John Gordon as saying the diary was "a shocking picture, even lifting the veil from Waugh's own exploits in a male brothel in Paris where young children were available for rich monsters from England."

## GAY YOUTH CONFERENCE PLANNED FOR MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND:

A "Gay Youth Conference" will be held Memorial Day weekend (May 25-27) at the Washington Square Methodist Church, 133 West 4th Street. The conference is open to all gays under 21 years of age. Gay Youth chapters in Manhattan, the Bronx, Albany, Syracuse and Boston are sending representatives to the conference.

The sponsors of the conference—John Fermin, Lori Hale, Jeff Shaw, Marc Wald and Marguerite Proccio—have issued several leaflets and made mailings saying that the Gay Youth Northeast Regional Conference is "in desperate need of funds." They say that \$110 is needed to pay for meeting facilities and another \$125 is needed for food, mailing expenses and literature. Donations or checks can be made out to *Northeast Regional Conference of Gay Youth* and mailed to Marc Wald, 118 E. 11th St. apt 1R, NYC 10003. More information for those wishing to attend the conference can be gotten by calling Ed Babcock at (212) 691-2169.

## PSYCHOTHERAPISTS CLAIM "CURE" OF TRANSEXUAL:

Using the same combination of psychotherapy and aversion therapy shock treatments supposedly used to "cure" homosexuals, psychiatric researchers at the University of Mississippi claim they have successfully "cured" a transsexual for the first time.

"The boy was first conditioned to stand, walk and sit in a more masculine manner, then taught to speak with a deeper voice and less feminine inflections," *The New York Times* reported. "The therapist then tried to change his sexual fantasies, lavishly praising the patient's successful substitution of female for male figures."

"Using so-called aversive techniques, such as mild electric shocks, the therapists were then able to diminish his sexual response to pictures of nude men. The successive treatments were carried out over a 10-month period, with numerous follow-up visits afterward."

"By the end of therapy," the *Times* reported, "the patient, who had previously been severely depressed, socially withdrawn and a school dropout, had returned to his high school and acquired a steady girl friend."

However, Dr. John Money of Johns Hopkins University, considered to be an expert on transsexualism, was not impressed with the one report of a supposedly "cured" transsexual.

"One case doesn't prove anything," Dr. Money told the *Times*. "Show me 20 consecutive cases and I'll listen."

Dr. Richard Green, another psychiatrist, said that if the procedure could be repeated on other transsexuals that the

(Continued on page 10)

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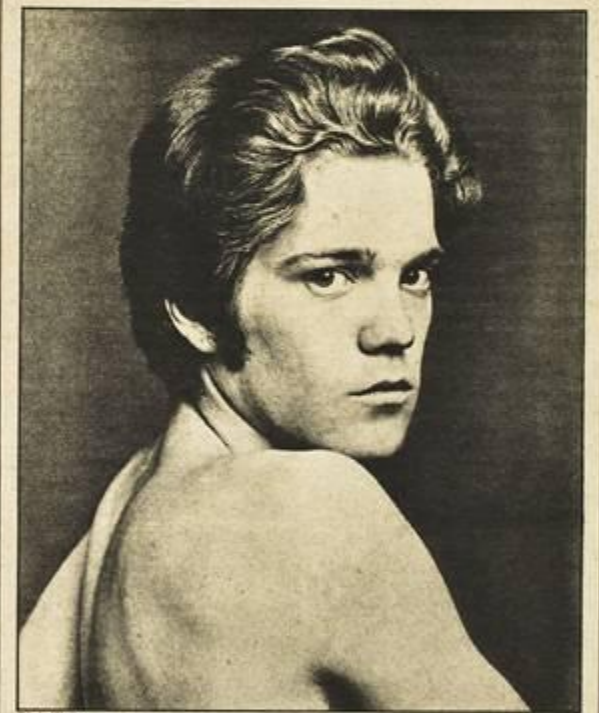
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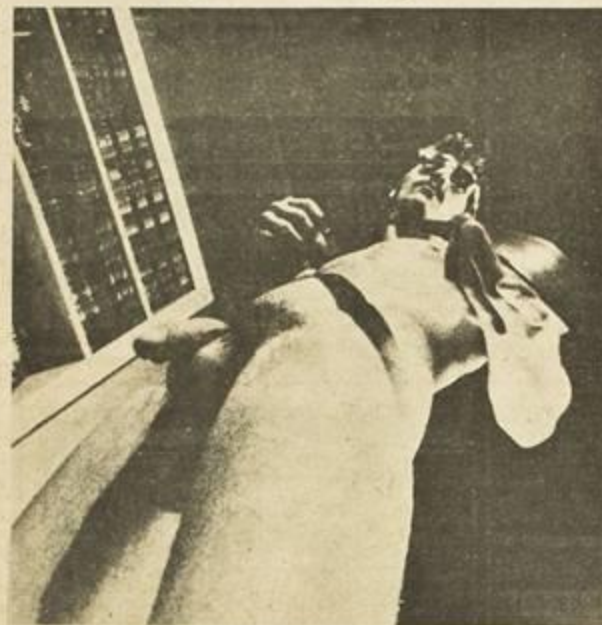
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I'LL TAKE MANHATTAN

It's Spring! Who Do I Hate?



A "wild scene" from BROTHERS—the latest in no-hum-skinfluffs.

BY VITO A. RUSSO

Well, it's Spring. The government is crashing down around what's his name's ears, Intro 475 has been defeated for a third time in the New York City Council, plans are well under way for the Fourth Annual Gay Pride March, people are already throwing parties on Fire Island, Christopher Street looks like bargain day at Saks, the era of hizzoner Mayor John V. Lindsay is coming to a close, hundreds of gay people are holding hands across the George Washington Bridge, there are over 800 Gay Liberation groups in the United States, Bette Midler is lying on the beach in Jamaica, they're trying to erect a fence around Washington Square Park and Liberace has just announced the publication of his autobiography entitled Why I Never Married—a real cliff-hanger. Just another season in the ol' Big Apple. Aren't you glad you don't live in Chicken Pluck, Idaho?

I've decided that this is my Ode to Spring issue. The beginning of the year wrap-up. Have you any idea how many things are happening here right now? This was the week my mother called me and said "I watched that Press Conference for Intro 475 on the news last night. Where were you? Aren't you supposed to be at those things?" After explaining that I do have to work sometimes I said "OK Mom, I'll see you soon." "Soon? I'll see you Sunday at the George Washington Bridge. Aren't you holding hands?" This was the week that the telephone rang in a Village gay bar and it was the bartender's mother asking if her son had been arrested at City Hall and did he need any bail money. It was the week when the news came that Intro 475 was defeated again by one vote and gay people, in fits of anger, called their parents long distance and announced that they were gay and not hiding anymore.

Another Spring filled with loves and hates. We love Tommy Tune this Spring for his breakthrough portrayal of an un-stereotyped gay man in a musical comedy, *Seesaw*; Ben Vereen of *Pippin* for a *New York Times* interview in which he volunteers opinions about gay people which couldn't be dragged out of some gay actors with a forceps; Arthur Bell for his dynamite article on Intro 475 in the *Voice*; Franklin Roosevelt Underwood at the piano in Walter's Apartment for his superb new lyrics to Cole Porter's "Anything Goes" ("A limp wrist today is a fist today"); John Paul Hudson for spear-heading the Gay Pride March this year and fighting Stonehill Publishers like a tiger; Jim O'wies and Chuck Choest for getting on the ballot and reaching out to their people; Walter Kent for his many kindnesses to the gay community; Jean De Vente for handling the GAA Cabarets with grace and a touch of fury; Arnie Kantrowitz, Nath Rockhill and Bruce Voeller for telling Jack Paar where to get off; Sylvia Rivers for her leather-lined lungs and spiked heels; Lill Tomlin for coming out in *The New York Times*; Jerry Fitzpatrick for trying to wake up the bar people in New York—and succeeding; and Michael Maye for getting bounced as head of the Uniformed Firefighters Association.

This Spring we hate Aileen Ryan for taking a ride in traffic instead of playing in it; Michael DeMarco, Stanley Simon, Joseph Ribustello and Eugene Mastropieri for voting against Intro 475 and Thomas Manton for not even having the courage to make up his mind; Ronald Reagan for saying that the Watergate burglars aren't really criminals, just people who tried too hard to re-elect the President; William F. Buckley on general principles; David Suskind for being stupid; Jean Gordon of *After Dark* magazine for being intolerant; Judith Crist for the phrase "limp-wristed young men"; straight people who pretend they had to tell you they were gay and not hiding anymore.

are that Intro 475 failed but fail you when you ask them to write to the City Council and gay people who don't even care enough to know what's going on, thinking they're free if they're allowed to hide in a bar.

We also love and hate some films.

In Peter Bogdanovich's *Paper Moon*, Ryan O'Neal finally makes his contribution to the art of acting: his nine-year-old daughter Tatum. *Paper Moon*, set in Kansas during the Depression, is a deceptively funny film about a crooked bible salesman named Moses Pray who stops at the funeral of a loose woman acquaintance and inherits Addie, her daughter. His task is to get the child to her aunt in St. Joseph, Missouri. His plan to blackmail one of her mother's old boyfriends with the child backfires when he discovers Addie to be a bigger crook than he is—and much better at it.

Addie and Moses have a hell of a great time, traveling around Kansas together, swindling people into buying bibles supposedly ordered by their deceased loved ones. It's the oldest trick in the book and Addie catches on at once. The kid is superb. She hoodwinks salesladies out of \$20 bills, smokes like a pro, carries her cigarettes and money around in a cigar box and writes gushy letters to "Franky" Roosevelt whom she obviously adores. In short, she's the brains of the outfit. When Moses takes up with a carnival floozy named Trixie Delight and her black maid Imogene, Addie plots to get back her rightful place in the front seat of the car with devastating timing and style. Always present in her performance is the sense of dread of reaching St. Joseph, Mo. and having to settle down and become a little girl. Her acting is so good it's disconcerting. You keep waiting for her to fall on her face but she's a natural. It's more than just a cute child performance. Of course we all remember Patty Duke, so maybe it's better to wait awhile before giving her the Sarah Siddons Award.

Tatum O'Neal's performance finally betrays the film, however. You eventually realize that her flashiness makes up for the lack of substance. It's inconsequential. Not inconsequential in the way forties comedies were; they had that fulfilling sense of poetic justice that kept the smile on your face for a week. When this one ends you just say "oh."

It's a great series of vignettes, though, and a hell of a lot better than most things playing now. You'll love Madeline Kahn as Trixie Delight, all tits and ass, always stopping the car to go "winky tink." The part of Imogene, her maid, is played to perfection by P.J. Johnson, whose timing is flawless ("I tried to push her out a window in L.I. Rock once"). As for Ryan O'Neal, he wears this mustache in it and it looks very nice . . .

*Here Comes Everybody*, which I hope is still at the Festival Theatre by the time you read this, is an interesting and valuable experience. The documentary feature which was first shown at the Whitney Museum last year, focuses on a three-day encounter session at Esalen Institute in Big Sur.

without making value judgments about Encounter Sessions. Firstly, you must consider that like the Loud Family on NET's *An American Family*, these people knew that they were being photographed and can't fully be said to have been caught unawares. That's a basic problem of documentary filmmaking. No matter what emotions we see in them, we are sitting in a theatre and they are the show. There's no way to escape that. The action is so very interesting, however, that we get caught up in it and find ourselves relating to them as they are trying to relate to each other. It's only when you catch yourself that you say "Hey, wait a minute; I didn't sign up for this."

Many fascinating things happen; some ugly, some beautiful and all ultimately very revealing. A man and a woman who've been married for a short time cannot bring themselves to be open with anyone including each other. An extroverted woman named Janie is goaded by the group into admitting her cover-up hostilities and finally says what she really feels; an overweight named Betty verbalizes her sense of loss and frustration at being too fat and not having a child to look after. A gay man named Stan is confronted by a straight guy and through an amazing series of changes, is forced to defend himself and his lifestyle, though tired of doing just that. I felt myself reacting to the same things he did, being scared when he



The psycho-killer in "Wicked, Wicked."

was and relieved when he was. I don't know what people have to go to Esalen to be honest with each other but seeing *Here Comes Everybody* might make them more aware of the concept of honesty and do something about it right here.

*Wicked, Wicked* is what we used to call a camp and a half. It's the film you love to hate—the best piece of shit in town. It is shot in Duo-Vision, a new process by which you see two images, side by side on the same screen. This provides for endless possibilities, most of which are explored to death. Literally.

It's the story of a psychopathic killer who has been active in several gay groups for some time and who just recently transferred into medicine at Brooklyn's Downstate Medical School.

INTRO475:



Intro 475's defeat brought tears to some who waited in the rain at City Hall.

(continued from page 1)

Bruce, returned, takes command. He brings out the photostats of the signatures of support given by Ryan and Manton. Ryan had been absent; Manton had abstained. "They signed petitions," Bruce says. "They lied."

There is a discussion of what to do. About 50 people are present. There is much anger at Ms. Ryan but Bruce Voeller says that Cuite, who did not openly oppose the bill, had engineered its defeat. The account of his tactics, later confirmed, seems believable:

- 1. He had offered the black Councilman, Taylor, concessions to the black community if he withdrew support from the gays.
- 2. Cuite had gotten Manton's aged father to the City Hall and made him force his son to withdraw his support, threatening the son that he could not enter his father's house again.

That night, about midnight, the GAA members and others at the Firehouse march from Soho to the Village and through the Village stopping at the gay bars trying to pick up more marchers. They stop at Bonnie and Clyde's, Trade Heller's, Julius, Danny's. Police cars follow us. Most of the people in the gay bars stare out fearfully. They don't know about 475. They're not angry. We're scaring them.

Two of our newly militant members, angry at their gay non-angry brothers, scream outside Ty's. "Assholes! What do you need? To be killed!" Faces pressed against the glass. Some of the marchers overturn garbage cans. One hits a police car, yells, "Cocksucker!"

The march ends at the site of the Stonewall. Ron Gold, GAA press secretary, urges the marchers to wait for the media to come and photograph them. About 300 have accumulated. The media fail to come. They disperse.

That weekend there is an emergency executive meeting. It is decided to demonstrate at the Monday meeting of the Council.

Saturday night. Midnight. I am at the Continental. Tally Brown is singing. No one mentions GAA or the defeat of 475 or a demonstration.

Monday, April 30, 2:30 p.m. I am inside the City Hall. The GAA demonstrators have been kept outside until the session begins. I speak to Robert Postel, (Dem. Manhattan). He tells me that Friday, directly after the negative vote, he filed a discharge petition, which would bring the same bill (or rather his duplicate of it) past the committee to the floor if he could get enough votes.

Did he think he could get the votes? He doubted it. Ms. Ryan had given accounts of obscene and threatening phone calls. She was to have her nipples cut off and be strangled with her son's jockstrap. She now has police protection. The council members are very angry.

The council session begins. I show my press credentials and sit in the press box. I am asked to show them five times as police circle the court. The session is called to order. From the balcony, going by twos, whistles, voices, the random gays interrupt the session. They are removed. The council session continues.

I send a note to Ms. Ryan asking to interview her. She tells the attendant to tell me that after the actions of the gay community she will not speak to a gay reporter.

The whistles are all stopped. Cuite spoke from the floor. Quietly. He is strong. He has the votes.

If we have a million fish we must call them and they must come. We must be on that floor. Not gay sympathizers, not people pro-gay. Gay councilpeople. Voted in.

Not with "Motherfucker!", not with a blowing of a whistle. But from the closet known as the voting booth.

When we are on the floor of the council, not in the balcony as spectators we will talk.

We are not fishes. We have voices. And if not now, then when? Now.

GAY MEDICAL STUDENT ALLIANCE FORMED

BY RANDY WICKER

Brooklyn, N.Y. A specialized gay group composed of those studying or practicing medicine, nursing, or working in health related professions has been meeting every other Sunday afternoon in different members' homes since early January.

The Gay Medical Student Alliance was started by Ron Hellman, a graduate stu-

dent who has been active in several gay groups for some time and who just recently transferred into medicine at Brooklyn's Downstate Medical School.

"Each meeting has been attended by about a dozen people," Hellman reports. "Most attend one of the medical schools in the New York area. A couple of physicians also come. So far we have not had any nurses, but anyone in medical or the

health related professions is welcome."

The meetings are democratically run with open-ended discussions, sometimes lasting three hours, of the social, personal and political problems facing gays working in medicine.

"Medicine is a very closeted field," Hellman observes. "Many people have called or had friends call but were afraid to give us their name or come down to a meeting."

Only a couple of women have joined the group, which Hellman partially attributes to the fact that only 10 or 15 percent of practicing physicians and medical students are women.

"Gay people in medicine are alienated and isolated," he elaborated. "Gay medical students who take courses in psychiatry find themselves using books which are very offensive."

One member of the Alliance had a long argument with his instructor over the chapter dealing with homosexuality, during which the instructor admitted he was "blessed" and could only treat homosexuals with the idea of "curing" them.

Hellman termed the level of sex information available to most medical students as "poor but rapidly improving." He described the books used as a "mixed bag" and was pleased that a book on venereal disease had a thorough, comprehensive and accurate chapter on "Homosexuals and VD."

The group has not been able to determine the extent of discrimination against gays in the medical fields and has asked members of New York's Gay Legal Caucus to research the area for specific factual cases.

"The problems do not revolve around getting into medical school," he noted, "but in getting licensed after you have

graduated.

"After taking the required pre-medical courses, you take the Medical Commission Admission Tests which are objective tests of your technical knowledge. After you've passed those, they ask you to come in for an interview.

"We have some people in the group who are 4F for being gay and they got into medical school," Hellman confided.

After graduating from medical school and completing internship, the physician-to-be is then reviewed by a Board who reviews the applicant's record and examines the applicant's character.

Hellman said that seven or eight medical students had managed to attend all of the group's five meetings held to date. Others attended less regularly.

"Some people would like to attend more frequently," he added. "We have one physician from Mexico who comes whenever he happens to be in town and another from Italy who does likewise."

He said that the group had not yet issued any literature but was very interested in hearing from medical professionals throughout the country and being informed of any problems or experiences they had encountered.

Hellman noted that they had been asked to write an article on gays in the medical profession for the *NYU Medical Newsletter* which is widely circulated in the field.

He asked that those with information or anyone wanting to attend the group's meetings contact him by writing to: Ron Hellman, 111 Woodruff Ave., No. 4D, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11226 or phoning (212) 693-8301. The group also lists its meetings with New York's Gay Switchboard (212) 924-4036.

NINTH CIRCLE BAR WEATHERS COMPLAINTS

New York, N.Y. On April 20th, four neighbors of the Ninth Circle gay bar on West 10th Street attempted to appeal a New York City Board of Standards and Appeals decision granting a zoning variance which allowed the Ninth Circle to have a downstairs dance floor.

However, despite predictions that "juicy testimony" from neighbors would figure prominently in the hearing by Voice columnist Mary Perot Nichols, the only decision the court has taken under consideration is whether the neighbors even have a right to appeal.

"My lawyers aren't even involved," Bob Krivit, owner of the Ninth Circle, explains. "We're not on trial. The City's Board of Standards and Appeals is being questioned. They're defended by the City Corporation Counsel whom I'm in touch with. In the event the judge grants a right to appeal to my neighbors, then my lawyers will step in."

"The charges listed in the *Village Voice* and the *Villager* really weren't heard by the judge," Krivit continues. "They were contained in affidavits submitted from four of my neighbors."

"One woman who owns the building across the street where Casey's is, she's a nice woman, she made a general statement that the character of the neighborhood has changed in the last year and a half. That's not an unfair statement."

"Then there was real, real lying, where a guy says customers defecate in the hallway, urinate in the hallway, are always drunk and drugged and so on and so forth."

"Another guy lied," Krivit continues. "He said that his children came home from camp and went out to get an ice

cream cone and a man who came out of the Ninth Circle said: 'How'd you like to suck my cock?' It's one man who has a vicious and vindictive life. It's not true. I checked the police records."

"Another neighbor, an old Italian woman, said she opened the door and two men were embracing. It's probably true. Two guys probably did walk into her doorway. They could have even come from the Ninth Circle. The world's not going to end."

Krivit says that he feels a large part of the opposition to his continued business operation is the fact that the Ninth Circle is a gay bar.

"But I think in all honesty," he adds, "that if I had asked for a variance four years ago when the place was straight, I would have gotten some static also. Maybe not as much. I'm almost sure not as much. I've never been liked anyway."

One of the people who used to be his friend but who Krivit says "no longer even speaks to me" is Congressman Ed Koch. An article in the December 25th edition of *GAY* detailed the Ninth Circle's metamorphosis from a straight bar to a gay bar and quoted Krivit as saying: "Ed Koch is a dear friend of mine. I'm not ashamed. Ed tells me to call him if I have any sort of problem with anyone."

Congressman Koch, when asked why he had become angry with Krivit over the *GAY* article, said he felt it implied that he was helping Krivit get his zoning variance.

"What I was referring to when I mentioned Ed Koch," Krivit elaborated upon hearing the reasons for Koch's anger, "was that I had been hassled unnecessarily"

(continued on page 10)



# THE LAST ESTATE

BY GREGORY BATTCOCK

Planning dinner for dean of fine and performing arts, Harold, the fish man, doesn't think there will be any shad roe. The butcher can't promise squab. Harry doesn't know if he can come to serve. Only the guests are sure, and will arrive all smiles and expectations.

We hate celebrations, parties and holidays; i.e., all forms of institutional merriment. Thus, it was doubly wrong to accompany Jill Johnston to the Guggenheim Museum party for the idiotic Jean Dubuffet Exhibition. Jill picked me up in her battered three-month-old BMW "Bavaria".

"Stop blowing the horn. It drives people crazy," I admonished.

Jill: Yeah. Will anybody be there? I mean, who goes to these things nowadays?

Me: Don't you like my outfit? My velvet suit. And look, satin tie. My shoes are patent leather.

Jill: I was downtown drinking. There won't be anybody there. I know it. My friend said I shouldn't beging out with you. You're my date!

Needless to say, and as readers of Jill Johnston in the Voice already know, we got arrested. Well, SHE got arrested. For no reason. Unless you arrest people because their clothes don't match everybody else's. Or because you yell. Or because you sit on the ground to lace up your construction boots. Or because you splash in the little Guggenheim Museum fountain. Well, two law-and-order guys from the 23rd Precinct arrested Jill for "harassment"—i.e., harassing some complacent lower-middle-class sensibilities that had been carefully, artificially contrived by neighbors and relatives in a lower-class Italian homestead in Queens.

I have been arrested twice actually. Once



"I have never played tennis in my life. I HATE tennis!"

in Michigan for peeing in a parking lot. I got to spend three days in the "drunk tank" and a \$25.00 fine. The next arrest, courtesy of the 24th Precinct, was by some TPF toughies who seized our car on West End Ave. and managed to discover a speck of hash in the glove. Society was protected by placing us in the 100th Street tank where we were systematically starved and verbally abused. The lawyer, recommended by David Bourdon ("he defends everybody from Life"), was some kind of kook who showed up in court with a briefcase full of "French ticklers." He secured a conviction for the State's Attorney which, given the illegal arrest and harassment on the part of the cops, must have amazed the D.C.'s office.

Jill's arrest took place in the doorway of the Guggenheim. She was bundled into a cop car, I followed in a taxi, stood around the 23rd Precinct looking official, disdainful, smart, etc., in velvet outfit, etc. The best part was telephoning the New York Times city desk from the pay phone at the Bodega Latina across the street. It meant getting change, smiling at everybody, being gracious in a dramatic situation. Customers, loiterers and staff were suitably impressed by both the outfit and the mission, and I did the thing to death.

A charter flight bound for Montana Got hijacked and went to Havana

There was nothing to do  
But transfer the crew,

And continue the trip on Cubana!

Fly Avianca, you'll love it, my dear.  
But make sure you go on a day that is clear:

The planes are all rusty,  
The flight crew untrusty,

And instead of Champagne they have beer!

He flew Air France from Paris to Nice,  
Where he discovered they'd lost his suitcase.

"It'll be here tomorrow,"  
She said without sorrow,

And threatened to summon the police!

There was a group flight on Sabena  
Booked all the way through to Havana.

Before they got there,  
They discovered the snare,

The wine was a lousy Retina.

The rich all go on the vol de nuit.  
The poor prefer the aere midi.

They put them below,  
The only way to go.

For those who choose economy!

We, however, choose Baltic Steamship Company and have booked on the M/S Mikhail Lermontov which, come June, begins for the first time ever transatlantic service on a Russian company ship from New York to Russia. Of course, now that everybody else has totally abandoned transatlantic steamship service, the Russians are starting it. It will, no doubt, be a scream.

Cheers,  
Gregory



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# PENPOINTS

Dear GAY:

We were pleased to see the article "Sex Booklet Stirs Catholics" in the 3-12-73 issue. This type of publication can bring a better understanding of sex to the Catholic Church and especially help free gay Catholics who are struggling with their gyness via a vis the Church. As the Chairperson of DIGNITY/National (a gay Catholic group), I come into contact with many women and men who want to be gay and stay within the Church. We gay Catholics have a very positive contribution to the Church's Theology of Sex. And I hope that with the sex booklet being published at Georgetown U., other Catholic colleges and universities will be encouraged to explore the whole area of sexuality more freely.

Sincerely,  
Joe Gilgamesh  
Chairperson  
DIGNITY/National  
P.O. Box 6161  
Los Angeles, Calif. 90055

Dear GAY:

The Eulenspiegel Society was most gratified for the announcement about our publication *Pro-Me-The-Us* and the itemization of some of the trials and tribulations we've been through in getting it together, in "The Wicker Report," GAY, April 23.

However, I would be most appreciative if you could correct an erroneous impression created by Mr. Wicker's statement that the Church of the Holy Apostles "prefers" we don't mention the Church's name in our ads. Everyone at the Church, especially those with any official capacity, has welcomed us warmly and most particularly Father Weeks has extended himself in our behalf to an exceptional degree.

We once ran an ad in which, at the suggestion of the chairperson for the event, the name of the Eulenspiegel Society was omitted. It had not occurred to me that this would leave the impression that the Church itself was sponsoring a "Sexual Fantasy Rap Session." I made a chance remark to Mr. Wicker about the Church's understandable objection to this and apparently I did not make it sufficiently clear what had happened.

Thanks for setting this straight.

Pat Bond  
Coordinator  
The Eulenspiegel Society  
Box 2783, NYC 10017

Dear GAY:

I wish to renew my roommate's subscription to GAY to help us celebrate our 18 years together. You see, it can be done in the far Middle West, among middle-aged professionals, who are willing to play the establishment game just enough to survive. But, our debt to our activist little brothers is more than we can ever repay.

Jack O.

Dear GAY:

If Vicki Richman is a heterosexual, why is he writing for GAY?

Don't heterosexuals have enough outlets for their writings without taking ours as well?

I say, GAY for gays only!

Sincerely,  
Jan Tobias  
Irvington, N.J.

ED. NOTE: Our editorial policies don't discriminate. Frankly, a person's sexual orientation is of little interest to us. It's talent, wisdom, humor and clarity we're after.

Dear GAY:

The image that GAA presents not only to the people of the city but also to the gay community is one of complete disorganization and chaos. The physical facilities are filthy and unattractive and in no way present a feeling of security and credibility.

It has always been my belief that GAA is concerned with the interest and involvement of all homosexuals; if it is physically attractive, it will please those who care about such matters and for those who don't, it just won't make any difference. Considering that it is spring, why don't you get it together and do some spring house cleaning?

Many people who are secure within themselves as homosexuals also have a deep concern for their rights and are therefore critical of GAA because of the image it presents. We don't like the idea of being associated with or represented by that hodgepodge on Wooster Street.

I do not understand the diligent efforts and gains made by GAA with a cause that is at best tolerated by the general public. But let's face it, the gay community is not going to respond positively to an organization which is not together in every way, including its philosophy, its methods and its headquarters.

Sincerely yours,  
George R. Lindsey

Dear GAY:

While watching the noisy demonstration on the nightly news by a group of angry Gay Activists Alliance members in front of New York's City Hall after the one vote defeat of Intro 475, a bill that would outlaw discrimination against homosexuals in housing, employment and public accommodations, I had the embarrassing feeling that GAA's tactics are becoming outmoded. Yelling into the camera when questioned by reporters was an obvious, and overused, device to give more credence to their demands. But the demonstrators came off looking like a group of left over yuppies from the 1968 Chicago convention. And any opportunity they had to state their case was lost in the chaos.

Granted, if it weren't for the "zap" and shouting techniques perfected by GAA, the bill would probably never have come up for a vote by the General Welfare Committee. But having been defeated twice before, the vote taken on April 27 is strike three. And in anybody's ball game, strike three means you're out. If they're going to come to bat again, GAA would be better off trying a new approach.

Moving into the crucial area of the 1970s, GAA's previous confrontation tactics, which were productive in the past, seem now to be self-defeating and a waste of time. If these demonstrations and zaps once served an overall useful purpose, it was to raise the consciousness of many homosexuals. Not necessarily only for homosexuals who took part in the demonstrations, but also for untold numbers who became aware of "gay power" through the occasional spurts of publicity in the newspapers and on television. If consciousness-raising was one of the aims of GAA confrontations, then I would say they have succeeded. The conscience has been raised, now what?

In this super-swift decade of rapidly changing times, the tactics of last year are as dated, and as useless, as a 1955 Edsel. They still might work, but when they peter out, it is difficult to find replacement parts. And this seems to be New York GAA's problem. As the dwindling membership shows, there are fewer people who want to join and become politically active in the organization as it now stands. While the goals of GAA are still admirable, the techniques are solidly dated. Finding replacements for tired and retiring GAA members requires rethinking by the current administrators.

Jack Ricardo  
New York City

PLEASE SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE to: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, GAY, P.O. Box 432, Old Chelsea Sta., NYC, NY 10011.

path of confrontation that has characterized it since the formation, this will prove to be less productive than it has in the past, and the homosexual movement in New York City will become static. The steps that GAA will take in the future could determine its fate as an organization with enough power to constitute necessary change.

The revolution of the 1960s and early 1970s was a revolution in spirit only that started many people on the road to a realistic awareness of the problems surrounding our Country. The time is now ripe to sweep these same people into a new political revolution.

With homosexuals Charles Choiset and Jim Owles, former GAA President, running for the City Council in New York City, the Gay Activists Alliance should seriously consider changing its tactics and bringing all their force and energy to bear in seeing that these candidates succeed at the polls. By coming out and working for candidates in the City Council, GAA would have more power than they would have by shouting into TV cameras about how unjust the members of the General Welfare Committee are. But GAA as it now stands is helpless and unable to even consider such a move.

GAA calls itself a political organization, but because of their Constitution, they cannot endorse any person for political office. While this does not stop individual members from working for the candidates of their choice, as a group they merely sit by with clenched fists raised in tireless revolution while the homosexual candidates struggle to survive in the political arena.

Changing the Constitution of GAA and allowing the endorsement of political candidates, and eventually putting their own candidate up for public office, seems to me to be a more productive way to create change than by utilizing harsh attitudes of confrontation and demonstration.

To alter the Constitution of New York GAA is perhaps tantamount to rewriting the Bill of Rights. But if GAA is to play an important role in the political future of homosexuals, and if they are to grow into a group that will not only demand change, but also effect change, the time is now. To change.



"TUBSTRIP," a play about gay love and lust in a New York bath house, previews currently at the Mercer Arts Center's Brecht Theatre, 240 Mercer Street in Manhattan. The show, which will open in July, features Jim Tate (left), Richard Rhaem (right), a part-time staffer for GAY, is also featured in the cast. For information and reservations, call OR 3-3927.

## Suffering is Good for the Soul

# Palm Sunday Sermon from Mrs. Loud

BY LEO SKIR

It is years from the Inquisition, not that many years from the pogroms. My father remembers them in Russia. "The Christians start to act up at Easter," he said. "I can remember hiding in the cellar, watching thru the cracks as they, drunken, march thru the streets of the town carrying the cross before them." But that was years ago, and this is America, not Transylvania. Still... It is Saturday night, April 14th, before Palm Sunday.

My phone rings. I answer. "This is Pat Loud," a voice tells me. "Yes?" I said. "You have pictures belonging to my son. You've sold them to publications. I want them back."

"Mrs. Loud, I don't—" "All you have to do is put them in an envelope—" "Mrs. Loud—" "All you have to do is put them in an envelope and mail them to me."

"Mrs. Loud, I don't have any photos belonging to your son." "I know you have, Leo." "I know I don't, Mrs. Loud." "Leo, all you have to do is put them in an envelope and mail them to me. That's all I'm asking. I've spoken to my lawyer about this and he told me to speak to you."

"Tell your lawyer I don't have the pictures." "Leo, you know the pictures I'm speaking about. They're the little strips four-for-a-quarter that Lance took."

"Mrs. Loud, I looked at those strips but I never took any." "Leo—" "Please call me Mr. Skir, Mrs. Loud." "Mr. Skir, I want those pictures."

"Mrs. Loud, I don't have those pictures." "Leo—" "Call me Mr. Skir." "Mr. Skir, I know you have those pictures. I've heard from highly-placed authorities that you have them."

"Mrs. Loud—wait a second—let me get a chair and sit down—" "You sound guilty, Leo." "Mr. Skir, please, Mrs. Loud. Call me Mr. Skir."

"Mr. Skir, you sound guilty. You sound as if you had a guilty conscience. You sound hysterical." "I AM HYSTERICAL, MRS. LOUD. MRS. LOUD, I DON'T HAVE THE PICTURES. I LOOKED AT SOME OF THOSE STRIPS OF PICTURES BUT I NEVER HAD THEM OUT OF THE APARTMENT WHEN I INTERVIEWED YOUR SON."

"Then you've got to get them from whoever has them, whoever you sold them to—" "I never sold any pictures of your son, that belonged to your son."

"I never said that Leo—Mr. Skir. All I want is those pictures back. I want you to put them in an envelope and return them to me."

She gave me her address in California. "I can hear your guilt in your voice," she said. "You're afraid because you're guilty. Why did you get hysterical as soon

as you heard who I was? You had to sit down as soon as you heard who I was. That's because you're afraid."

"Mrs. Loud, I wish I could help you but I can't—" "All you have to do is to—" "I can't, Mrs. Loud. I don't have any such pictures. All the pictures Lance gave me and a friend picked up from the SCREW/GAY office."

"You have those pictures or you know who has them—" "I don't—" "I can hear it in your voice—" she said. She was speaking to me the way you speak to small children.

"Mrs. Loud, I am a 40-year-old respectable writer—" "I know what you are. You are vile. You are vicious. You're an exploiter."

"Well, if I'm exploiting any pictures of your son you can take me to court. Mrs. Loud, I would like to terminate this conversation."

"I wish to terminate it too. All I want is those pictures back. I won't call again." I came back at 1 a.m. Sunday morning, going out that evening, stomach upset from that vile-vicious routine. Saw Garbo in *As You Desire Me*, managed to get down spaghetti later in bitter sauce. When I came home to the Y at 1 a.m. there was a message from the woman who had told me she would not call again. I was to call Mrs. Loud at the San (sic!) Moritz. "Call approx. 9 a.m. Do not call before 9 a.m."

I had visions that she had changed her mind about me, realized what a good person I was, had decided to hire me to write her biography.

I called. She answered. "Well, are you calmer now?" she asked. "I'm OK," I said.

"I want those pictures—" she said. "I know you used them in other articles—" "Mrs. Loud," I said. "The articles used photos belonging to the studio. The other photos used in SCREW and GAY were chosen by a photographer who was a friend of Lance and Lance himself and the editors. I never touched them—" "You're just trying to confuse the issue," she said.

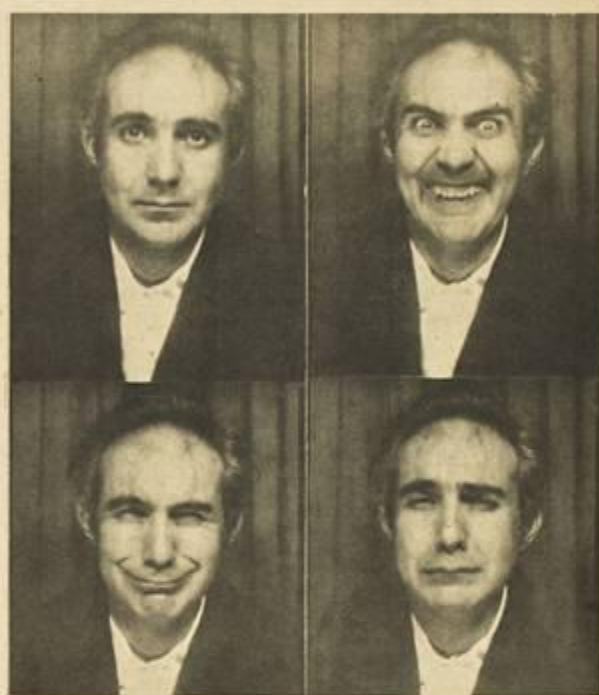
"Mrs. Loud—" I said. "Leo—" she said. "Call me Mr. Skir, Mrs. Loud," I said. "We're not friends."

"All you have to do is to put the pictures in an envelope—" "I don't have anything belonging to your son, Mrs. Loud—" I said. "People who tell falsehoods are liars. People who take objects not belonging to them and sell them are thieves—" "You said it—" she said. "I didn't."

"Well, I'm not a liar or a thief," I said. "I know you're a real person," she said. "So are you," I said. "So is Lance."

"Lance told me he gave you those pictures," she said. "Maybe he felt backed into a corner," I said. "Lots of people get defensive then—" "You seem pretty defensive—" she said. "You sounded very guilty to me last night."

"I'm not guilty," I said. "Not guilty, vicious and exploitive."



(Below) Mrs. Loud. (Above) Leo looking guilty, vicious and exploitive.

"I think you are a vile and vicious person," she said. "Did you read my articles?" I asked. "I don't read those magazines," she said.

"Do you want to call the magazines and ask them if they have the pictures?" I asked. "You didn't give me their numbers last night," she said. "I'll give them to you now," I said. "It's Sunday," she said, "and I have to be on the plane at noon and I'm very busy. I want you to know that you are vile—" "You said that, Mrs. Loud."

"I'm not guilty," I said. "Not guilty, vicious and exploitive."

"Mrs. Loud, I was sick to my stomach after that scene last night." "Good. I'm glad you suffered. Suffering is good for the soul."

At that point the operator came in saying there was someone waiting downstairs. Mrs. Loud told me she had to go. "God bless you, Mrs. Loud," I said. "God bless Mrs. Loud. And Heaven protect those who answer the telephone!"

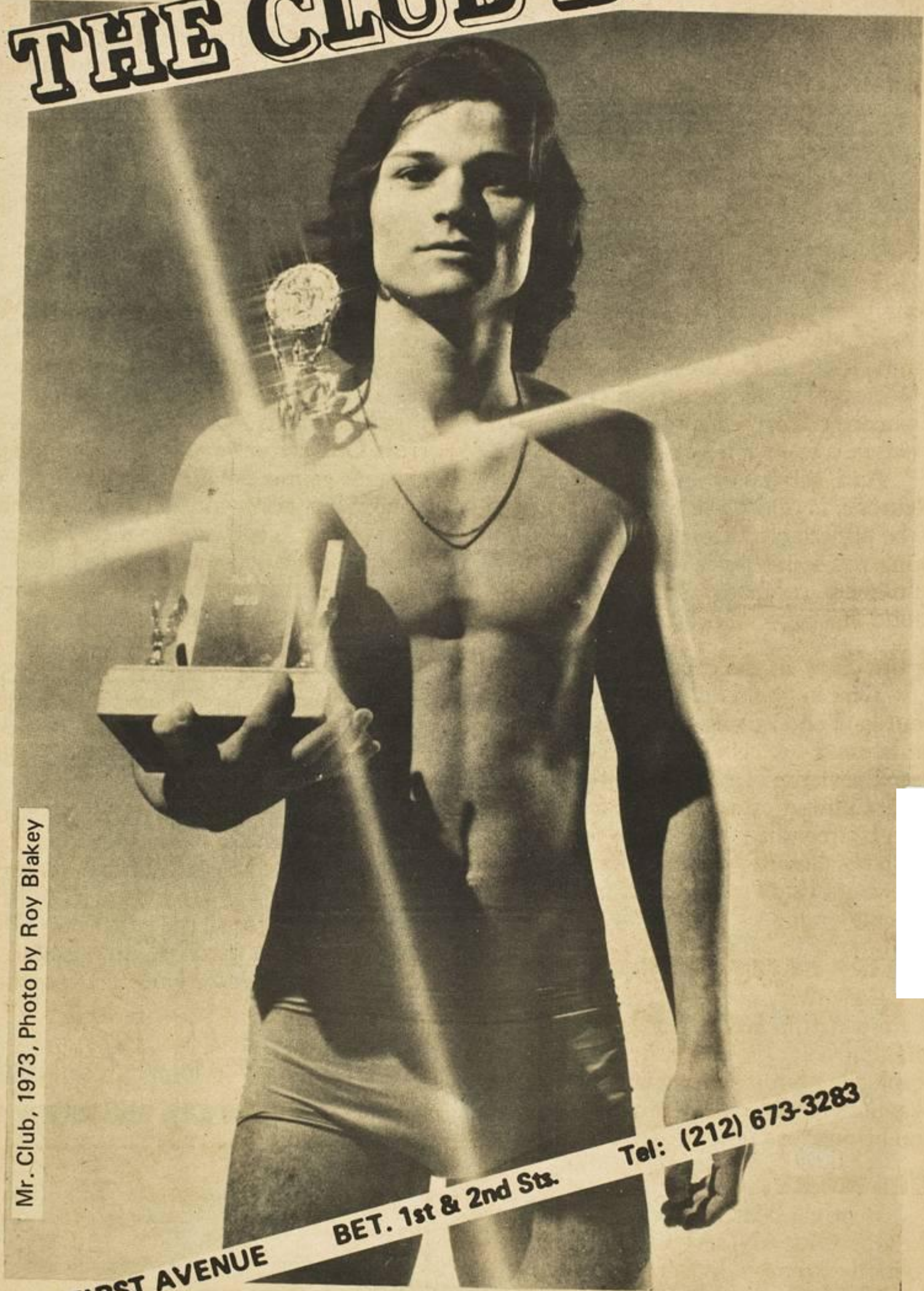
Here one sings (in Calypso beat):  
De Jew-ish boy  
Do weep and moan  
He got a Christian lady  
On de tel-ephone!







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Mr. Club, 1973, Photo by Roy Blakey

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