

the empty closet

FREE



NEW YORK'S OLDEST GAY NEWSPAPER

ISSUE 95

JUNE 1979

Rochester Hosts Men's Conference

submitted by Sue Cowell

Rochester hosted a successful Men's Conference on May 19th. The conference was attended by approximately 50 men and a young daughter of one of the participants. It was the first large scale men's gathering of this type in Rochester. The planning was begun over 8 months ago and evolved from the interests of several men. The organizers wanted to begin an on-going forum for men to share interests and develop consciousness about oppression in our society. A major goal was to explore issues of relevance to how men relate to each other and themselves.

A Community course entitled "Men, Sexism and Masculist Issues" provided a beginning dialogue on men's issues in Rochester. The course was presented by Daryl Clemens and Alan

Clark offered a positive beginning. Several participants within this group became involved when a need for on-going dialogue was recognized.

A group of men interested in exploring alternative lifestyles were also a major organizing force. Ron Linville, GuruSeva Mason and Matthew Calleli, members of this group, have been involved in various projects and discussion groups designed to promote better communication and understanding among men.

Among the many workshops offered was a showing of a video-tape about violence against women. Martha Gevor, member of Rochester Women Against Violence Against Women (RWAVAW) reproduced the tape and relates the course of events concerning the attempted showing of "Snuff" in Rochester. Four women

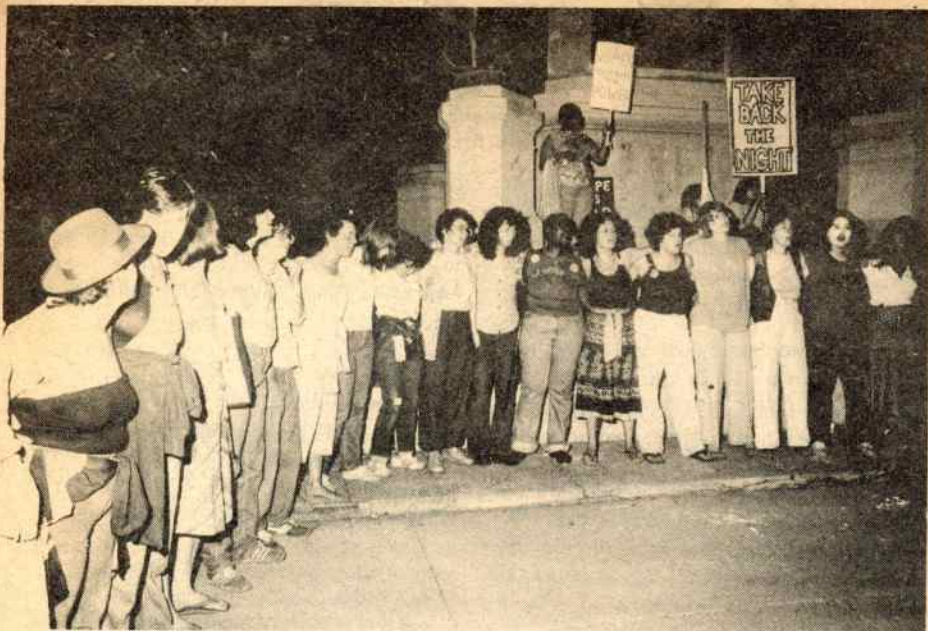
were arrested during a protest of the film, which graphically depicts the mutilation, murder and torture of women for "pleasure." The video-tape effectively conveyed the pervasiveness of our women-hating culture and sparked awareness in all the men. Reactions varied from shock, to anger, to disgust. It prompted in-depth exploration of violence, including the violence men do to each other and themselves. Other workshops included parenting, toward gender justice, bisexuality, growing up male, single men and at least 10 others. All opened the door to in-depth discussions.

Several groups were born from this conference. A "Psychodrama Group" for men interested in exploring a variety of methods of communication, using movement, words and non-verbal avenues. A

"Fathering Group" including gay fathers will share experiences and feelings about parenting. Several other special interests were identified, such as how gay and non-gay men relate to each other and further exploration of violence.

Further information can be obtained by contacting the Gay Brotherhood (GBR) at the Gay Alliance of Genesee Valley, Inc. Regular meetings are held the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 8PM. GBR is located at 713 Monroe Ave. in the Genesee Coop Building. Call 244-8640 for further information.

Women Unite to Reclaim the Night



Rally at Washington Square Park at the end of the march - a time for healing under

the full moon - TOGETHER! Photo by Jill Feinberg.

by Sue Cowell

Hundreds of women marched through the streets of Rochester on May 11 to **Take Back the Night**. The march was organized by Rochester Women Against Violence Against Women (RWAVAW) to protest the fact that women are unable to walk the streets because of fear of violent verbal and physical abuse. Take Back the Night marches have been held nationwide to demand safe and non-sexist environments in the schools, in the media and in the streets.

As women marched, few women posted demands.

As women marched, a few women posted demands at a variety of localities along the route, including adult book stores, City Hall, the City School District, Gannett News and Genesee Hospital. Along the route, feminist theater dramatically portrayed the ways violence is supported by business, government and society.

The march was preceded by a rally at the YWCA on North Clinton Street. The

Rochester Women's Community Chorus provided music along with several other individual women.

Several hundred women left the YWCA with banners, candles, flashlights and noisemakers to march along a three-mile route. Transportation was provided for those unable to march the entire length of the march. Reactions from observers were generally favorable, as women along the way shouted support. Many joined the march in progress.

Although men were discouraged from participating in the march in order for women demonstrating to show their solidarity in womanhood and strength in numbers and individuality, several men leafleted along the route in support of the march and women's demands.

RWAVAW has regular meetings to continue the work they have begun. Women interested in more information can contact the Lesbian Resource Center at 244-9030.

More photos on page 4.

Flower City Fights Back—Peacefully

by Sue Cowell

Approximately fifty women and men participated in a candle-light march and vigil on the steps of City Hall in Rochester on May 22.

The march was organized by the Gay Alliance of Genesee Valley, Inc., after the sentencing of Dan White in the slaying of Harvey Milk, a gay city official of San Francisco. White received what is considered an extremely light sentence that shocked gay communities across the country. Local demonstrators felt outraged at his sentencing, especially when contrasted with the current struggle two men were facing in Florida, awaiting execution for murder. Since the local demonstration, Spengelink, one of the men in Florida, has been executed. Spengelink was charged with the murder of a travelling companion

who allegedly forced him at gunpoint to participate in "homosexual" acts. There has been much speculation as to why these two men have been singled out to be actually executed. All appeals have been unsuccessful.

Demonstrators felt the events in San Francisco and Florida reflected unequal justice in America when dealing with poor, black, Hispanic, women, gays and other oppressed minorities. The majority of demonstrators were against capital punishment, as one sign reflected, "Thou Shalt Not Kill-Anybody!" "We shall overcome" was a theme of the march that attempted to shed light on violence and injustice in America.

White was also charged with the voluntary manslaughter of George Moscone, mayor of San Francisco and gay

sympathizer. White received 8 years and may be eligible for parole in 2 years. His lenient sentencing shocked San Francisco into violence, with over 1,000 demonstrators protesting on the day of the verdict.

The following days peaceful demonstrations occurred across the country (with Rochester participating in the peaceful marches). Gay organizations were able to effectively respond and control the crowds without incident. In San Francisco, over 10,000 people demonstrated peacefully in those following days, but received very little media coverage. The initial violent reaction was given widespread media coverage, including front-page placement in Rochester's local press. Individuals, The Rochester Gay Task Force and the Gay Alliance of Genesee Valley have responded to the local media concerning biased

reporting of these events.

Local demonstrators marched between City Hall and the County Legislature and received coverage on all three commercial television stations. The coverage was generally judged to be unbiased and adequate. The demonstrators were subjected to a few hecklers, but generally were allowed to march peacefully, carrying banners from the Lesbian Resource Center, Gay Brotherhood and placards with a variety of statements.

Anyone interested in more information on how to get involved can call the Gay Alliance at 244-8640 or come to a meeting of the Rochester Gay Task Force (RGTF). RGTF meets every Monday night at 7:30 pm at 713 Monroe Avenue. If these events shocked you--now is the time to get involved.

THE EMPTY CLOSET

Letters to the Editor & You

May 16, 1979.

Dear Editor:

I would like to thank you very much for the article in the **Empty Closet**. I guess I am fortunate to be able to spend so many hours away from my mob thanks to Arnie, Walt and Joanie Bauer for covering for me.

I'm sorry about the float in the parade, it was too late to get it in.

I have a lot of things in store for the coming year. First of all, we will start our Al Sigi Fund on August 25th. We will be having a gay citizens' picnic at Ellison Park. Tickets will be \$10.00 and the proceeds will be divided between the Al Sigi Center, St. Joseph's Villa and the St. Joseph's Hospitality House. Last year Gary was my greatest helper. Hope he will do the same this year. The Gay Alliance also contributed to the efforts.

If there is anything I can do to help you in your future projects, please call me at the Bachelor's Forum.

Yours truly,
Vicki Russo

"Time" marches on!!

I would like to comment on the cover story in the April 23, 1979 issue of **Time** magazine.

Three years ago, you would never see in the cover of **Time** - "How Gay is Gay?" (Homosexuality in America) Isn't it wonderful today we can be so open?

I did feel that the article was a rehash of facts that have already been heard, but in total the article was handled in an interesting way.

One updated figure worth mentioning is: The Institute of Sex Research estimates that homosexuals constitute 10% of the U.S. population (13% of the males, & 5% of the females). Of these, according to gay leaders, perhaps only 1% are out of the closet.

The article expanded on the Masters & Johnson book, **Homosexuality in Perspective**.

Isn't it interesting to learn that homosexuals have a more relaxed understanding of their partner's sexual needs?

Perhaps the most intriguing finding is not about homosexuals, but about heterosexuals. As M & J tell it, heterosexuals are generally bumbling in their lovemaking. They hurry sex, misread signals, & communicate poorly.

So if the straight community would look at gay life today, they would learn important lessons in lovemaking. Among them that nothing succeeds so much as treating sexual partners with considerate understanding and unhurried gentleness.

Now if someone stops you and asks you - "Are you Gay?" you should say "YES!!" Say it loud, Gay is Proud!!

Alan H. Davidson

Costs Increase

In the movie "Cabaret", based incidentally on a book by a fellow gay, Christopher Isherwood, Joel Gray does a nightclub scene singing "Money Makes the World Go Round" which is obviously not literally true, but figuratively "hits the nail on the head".

I, as an active member of the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley, Inc. am just as tired of hearing about financial problems as most any other people. It seems no matter how hard one tries today to save a buck, or get ahead, or whatever terminology, that the bucks are never enough to cover the bills incurred. Uncle Sam and the many other governing levels, the supermarkets, physicians, dentists, car dealers, and even the gas pumpers, require ever more and more. Regardless of

a person's political persuasion this increasing cost of living is a fact of life.

The GAGV naturally has the same problem. We also have a greater problem! Is that a shock to many of you readers?

Our biggest problem is that the gay community, numbering in the tens of thousands in Monroe County alone, is not interested in the activities of the Alliance, maybe not even interested in the fact that it exists. Many of you are not interested in what we do, or even why we do "our thing".

Being from the "over 30" generation I could detail many situations from years past which young gays do not encounter today. However, many situations are still existent and "coming to grips" with one's sexuality is no less difficult in most cases. Many younger people may have no trouble confronting homosexuality in themselves because the media frequently mentions the topic, which makes them aware they are not alone in their feelings. It's not all that difficult to meet gay peers.

But where do most gays have to turn for help with a problem involving their homosexuality? Despite media publicity, most parents, siblings, physicians, landlords, realtors, lawyers, etc. are still not, at the least, non-judgemental, about gay people. This creates an uncomfortable,

and sometimes impossible, situation for gay people.

What's the sense of all my blubbering? I'm asking two things.

1. Anybody, and everybody, who can do so (even "straight" people's money is welcome-you may have gay brothers, nieces, aunts, or even a gay parent!) send us a buck, or five, ten, a hundred, or whatever. We must keep the Alliance open for those who need its counselling, library, political, etc. services. We aren't some radical fringe group, just people who are trying to make this a better world for everyone, even white middle class!

2. If you, dear reader, are, or know of, non-judgemental business people, (professional and non-professional alike), let us know who you or they are. Business referrals will be verified for accuracy and authenticity. Discretion is assured if desired.

Write us a GAGV, Inc., 713 Monroe Ave., Rochester, NY, 14607, or call us at (716)244-9030 or (716)244-8640, 8-5, or 7:30-9:30PM. Those of you outside Monroe County are equally welcome. We may eventually get the rest, in a loose regional or statewide network. As much discretion as you desire is guaranteed!

Peace and love to you all!

Dick Derleth

Closet Advisor

Dear Closet Advisor:

I've been going out with this woman for 4 months. Everything was going well. I enjoy my independence and she does not approve. What should I do? (Give her up or give up my independence?)

Trapped

Dear Trapped:

Lay down the law. Do your own thing. If she can't understand, let her go find someone else.

Dear Closet Advisor:

I have been out of the closet for one year. I haven't been able to meet the right person. How should I go about it?

Alone

Dear Alone:

Believe me, you're better off alone. Having a lover tends to be a big responsibility. Enjoy your freedom.

Dear Closet Advisor:

I have this complicated problem. I have 2 lovers. Neither one knows about the other one. Should I tell them, give them up, or give up one of them?

Vito

Dear Vito:

You seem to want your cake and eat it, too. Why not? See one of them Monday,

Wednesday, Friday, and the other one Tuesday, Thursday. Leave your weekends free. You'll probably be too tired to fool around.

Dear Closet Advisor:

My lover does not know how to cook. What can I do?

Julia Child

Dear Julia:

Just eat out.

Dear Closet Advisor:

I love disco music. I hang out at Jim's frequently. My problem is that I don't know how to dance.

Clutz

Dear Clutz:

No problem. Just do what everyone else is doing. 90% of them don't know how to dance either. They're just moving around like that because their pants are too tight.

Dear Closet Advisor:

I have this terrible problem. When I go out I seem to always get into a fight. I can't control my temper. Do you think this is a hereditary problem or should I seek some psychological help?

Punch & Judy

Dear Punch,

Your problem is definitely not hereditary. If you can't control your temper when you go out, then the solution is quite obvious. Don't go out.

STAFF

Deb Messmer, Editor
M.L. Wells, Associate Editor
Richard Natoli-Rombach, Co-Editor
Derrick Balsam, Typesetter
J. Stratton, Typesetting
Jonathan Millis, Advertising
Sue Cowell, Calendar
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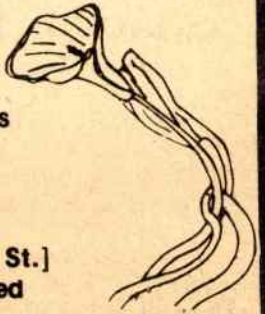
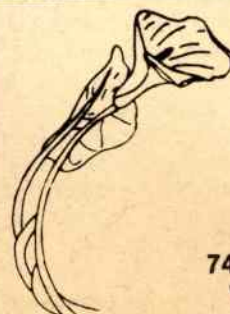
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my stay in Rochester so super!

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COLLECTIVE THINKING

What We're Doing for the Future

by Vern Hall

THE MARCH IS ON!!!!!! PASS IT ON... First of all, what is the march? The march is to bring to the attention of the American Public, that we are still here, that we haven't gone away, and that our rights are still denied us. We have been oppressed for a few thousand years and the time is NOW to stop the oppression. I hear on the streets that why should we holler, after all, we are not being harrassed in Rochester, things are better than they have ever been. My answer to all of you, THE LAWS ARE STILL ON THE BOOKS THAT MAKES US ALL CRIMINALS AND CAN BE BROUGHT TO BEAR AGAINST US AT THE TURN OF A COIN. It has been brought to our attention that several companies, among them Eastman Kodak, are permitting company employees on company time to circulate petitions condemning gays and urging of stronger legislation of anti-gay laws. There is now an upsurge of beatings and harrassment of gays in our community. The forces of Gates Community Chapel and kindred Fundamentalists are out in strength, they are the ones circulating the petitions. So, if you think that you are safe, show me where the law says so, and further tell me that a Gay Organization is not needed to help ourselves get our rights.

Right now we need to raise \$1500 to send our delegates to Houston on July 6,7 &8.. This only covers the air-fare. Delegates are still going to pay out of

pocket for their other expenses.. What is the conference n Houston? It is the final planning conference for the March in October. What is in it for you? Getting Rochester the national prominence that it rightly should have, this the city of Susan B. Anthony and Frederick C. Douglas. How much more fitting could it be? What can you do? Right now, attending RGTF meetings, help plan and carry out fund-raising activities, and meeting people who care about our Gay brothers and Lesbian sisters. We are here to help, just as we have in the past. But we need you, your time, your abilities, and not least of all, your money. I hear the gripes that the GAGV has always got its hand out. How else does a non-profit organization get funds to keep its doors open? CETA funding does pay the salaries of our two full time staff persons and some office supplies, but we still have the rent, lights, heating, and telephone. It has been estimated that we are 10 percent of the total population. If this is true, if each Gay and Lesbian domated \$1 to the GAGV a year, we would have \$40,000 just from the city of Rochester alone. If you throw in the rest of the county, you are now talking about \$150,000. We wouldn't have a single problem of having to go out and constantly shill for funds. When I see people at the bars dropping money left and right, and when the GAGV asks for a dollar or two, you're met with the oddest stares and looks. That's one less beer that night. Will

Editorial

The month of May, 1979 was eventful in Rochester. Women marched through the streets of the Flower City demanding their freedom to walk unharrassed and unafraid--demanding freedom from oppression from a male defined and dominated society. Men discussed what it is to be male in America and the pressures and frustrations of living up to a culturally defined role of maleness. Activists from several segments of Rochester's social reform movements marched in front of City Hall to protest what is considered an almost insignificant sentence levelled at Dan White who was found guilty of killing San Francisco Mayor George Moscone and San Francisco City Supervisor Harvey Milk.

All these groups protested inequality, taught others and stimulated each other by the growing demands for total equality within American society and the world at large.

What each demonstration conveyed to those who were there and those who were made aware of it by media coverage was the struggle that both women and men have in common. That is, restructuring the

world we live in to make it safe for all people to live a free and meaningful existence.

None of us are free if any of us must put up with street harrassment, violence in any form, destruction of life, inequality in the laws, and fear for our lives and our livelihoods because of who se are.

Gay men and lesbians have banded together to fight against these inequalities.

Now is the time for all groups who face discrimination because of their beliefs, their lives, their socially defined roles, their sex and their sexual or affectational preference, to come to that common ground and work together or in support of each other. Of course, some of these groups have separated themselves from others because of political beliefs. These beliefs are important, and separatism must be respected as well as solidarity. When we can work together, we should. When we can't, we can support each other. When we won't, there is our downfall. If we don't, we may win a few battles here and there, but we will undoubtedly lose the war.

it really hurt you? So, the next time I hear someone complaining about the GAGV, I want to ask each and every one of you, WHAT HAVE YOU DONE FOR GAY LIBERATION??? Your freedom is only worthwhile if you have had to work for it, it is not going to be given to you. There are only so many of us at 713 Monroe and we can only do so much. We are all volunteers and many give of their time and money

unsparingly and some times until it actually hurts. We are concerned and many of you are and many more could be. So, let's get off our backsides and support and help one another. It's always easy to let George do it, but then maybe George should enjoy the benefits of the labors.

Donations for the delegates to Houston should be sent to the Committee for Human Rights c/o GAGV.

NGTF Doesn't Endorse March

The National Gay Task Force issued the following statement regarding the proposed National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, following the April meeting of the Executive Committee of the NGTF Board of Directors:

The National Gay Task Force supports the statement of demands adopted by the National Conference on the March on Washington, meeting in Philadelphia in February of this year. The goals adopted in Philadelphia are compatible with NGTF's goals. We agree that public demonstrations of support for lesbian and gay rights are essential. We support any of our members who choose to participate in the march, which is scheduled for October 14, 1979.

We are troubled by the process used in planning and organizing the march. We believe that this planning process may limit the ultimate success of the march. Because of this concern, coupled with our limited resources which we must devote to our on-going programs, NGTF is not now in a position to endorse the march.

from:
RGTF
713 Monroe Ave.
Rochester, NY 14607
to:
National Gay Task Force
80 Fifth Ave.
New York, NY 10011
Dear Persons:

We, the members of RGTF are greatly displeased and disappointed that NGTF has failed to endorse the National March on Washington for Lesbian/Gay Persons. We eill continue to strongly support the March enthusiastically as do many other Upstate organizations. We understand that you as an organization cannot take over any part of the March as it would be draining energy and funds from your important areas of concern. However, this March is needed to strengthen the feelings of pride, solidarity, and self-recognition of the national gay community. Your disclaimer of the March only perpetuates frustration and confuses the feelings, of broad solidarity despite differences, that the gay community is developing.

Part of the enthusiasm of our support comes from our recognition and understanding of the broadbased grassroots support that we see in Rochester and we hear from other organizations from around the country. To your objection that the March esll be draining energy and funds, we can only say that the March has the potential to generate more energy and money that we have until now not been able to muster.

This March is important to gay people-to their pride and their feelings about themselves within themselves. A minority group's attitude towards itself strongly affects the general attitude towards that group. To disclaim what you cannot control, to have so little faith in the feeling, energy is to show a loss of idealism. To be so out of touch with these feelings is to display your loss of the high ideals that makes the gay movement truly a revolution and not simply another oppressive arm of the established institutions.

In the end, we are concerned with the freedom in our hometowns and within ourselves. What the diverse Marchers will be saying is not that all of the American public must accept all of us completely and

continued on page 5

LIST OF DEMANDS OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR THE MARCH ON WASHINGTON, D.C.

To end all social, economic, judicial, and legal oppression of lesbian and gay people.

Repeal all anti-lesbian/gay laws.

Pass a comprehensive lesbian/gay rights bill in Congress.

Issue a presidential executive order banning discrimination based on sexual orientation in the Federal Government, the military, and federally-contracted private employment.

End discrimination in lesbian mother and gay father custody cases.

Protect lesbian and gay youth from any laws which are used to discriminate against oppress, and/or harrass them in their homes, schools, jobs, and social environment.

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Rochester Womyn's - Community Chorus performing at "Take back the Night" rally. Photo by Marcia Craig.

Women Unite...



Leah Warnick, local feminist singer and songwriter at the rally. Photo by D. Marvin



Feminist Theater provided powerful dramatic images of the many ways women are abused by our women-hating culture.



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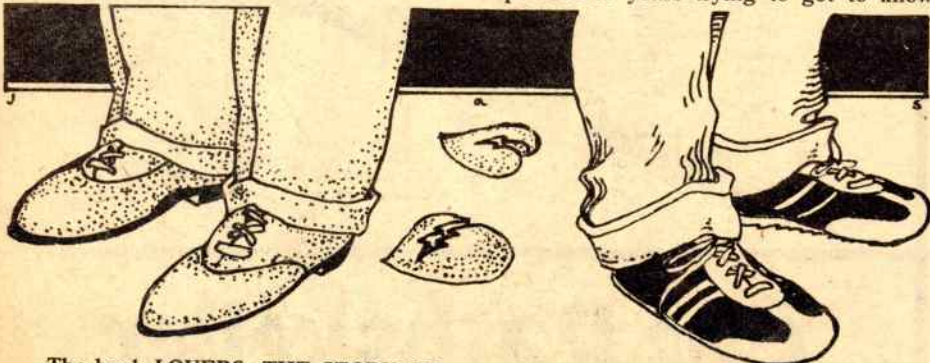
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The More News Page

Books in Review

LOVERS; THE STORY OF TWO MEN
By Michael Denny Avon Books, 1979
Review by Rick Dixon

"A shorter version of **LOVERS: THE STORY OF TWO MEN** first appeared in the February, 1979 issue of **Christopher Street** under the title 'Anatomy of a Love Affair.' **LOVERS** is the result of a unique collaboration between interviewer Michael Denny and his subjects, Philip Gefter and Neil Alan Marks, who met and fell in love, lived together, and finally and painfully, seperated."



The book **LOVERS: THE STORY OF TWO MEN** is the story of two completely different, yet two completely alike. As much as they are alike and different, so are the alike and different from the whole of the gay subculture. This is a very candid book of interviews of the two individuals where accompanied by a series of photographs that they find important. It tells the story of almost three years of an affair/relationship. It is unique in that both men have since their separation gone back to discuss

their life together and more importantly their feelings and expectations during this period. They show the differences in opinions that were taking place at the time that two individuals were together and experiencing the same event with often very different feelings.

In the postscripts the two men try to sum up their feelings and, more, why they did the interviews. Philip Gefter says, "We touched each other's lives. We loved each other and hurt each other. We laughed together; we argued often; we spent three years trying to get to know

each other on that most fundamental level. It was the most valuable three years of my life." Neil Alan Marks says, "He is still a source of continued puzzlement to me. We speak daily on the phone and manage to see each other fortnightly in one context or another. But these settings are rarely our own abodes. We are both all too aware of the extremities of feelings that are underneath the genuine warmth we feel and express toward each other. ...He is still the man I would turn toward in a crowded

The Gay Report by Karla Jay and Allen Young Summit Books, NY 1979
by Rick Dixon

"From the Atlantic to the Pacific, from the Arctic Circle to the Gulf of Mexico, in the tiniest hamlets and in the biggest cities, the inhabitants of the United States and Canada include a significant portion of Lesbians and Gay men, people who are often ignored or persecuted and only rarely appreciated. Reached by means of a widely distributed questionnaire containing more than a hundred questions, 5,000 men and women offer the reader of this book intimate facts and feelings about the homosexual component of their lives. Most of the words in 'The Gay Report' have been written by lesbians and gay men from the most diverse backgrounds, who willingly share what is usually considered private and intimate-presumably in the hope that there may be some vital connection between openness and understanding, between honesty and harmony."

How many of you remember the questionnaire that was in *The Lesbian Tide*, *Majority Report*, *Metro Gay News*, *The Gay Alternative*, *Blueboy* or *Playguy*? How many remember finding a small mention at the bottom of the questionnaire which said, "For a more lengthy, in-depth questionnaire write...". For those of you that took the time and energy to write down essay answers and fill out the lengthy questionnaire, the book has been published that compiled those 5,000 questionnaires. This alone is not an easy task, but to do it so thoroughly and non-judgementally is even more remarkable a task. This is exactly what Karla Jay and Allen Young did. Why did they do it if it was so much work? Simple concern. They have concern as gay activists and (past) gay anthropologists. They wanted to as a primary goal, "is for gaypeople is not winning acceptability or tolerance, but rather self-love, overcoming the self-contempt that is the gay person's first enemy". That is exactly what they have done in their book "The Gay Report". How was it done? Let's look at the titles of some of the chapters: *Lesbians-Growing Up and Coming Out*; *From Childhood to Gay Manhood*; *Sex, Love and Emotion*; *Self-Image and the Socializing Process for Role-Playing*; *Gay Men: Couples, Singles,*

and the Butch/Femme Question; *Lesbian Sexual Experiences*; *Gay Male Sexuality*; *The Specialized Tastes of a Few Lesbians*; *Erotic Variations of Some Gay Men*; *Lesbian Fantasies and Self-Pleasuring*; *The Erotic Imagination and Masturbation of Gay Men*; *Hangups and Handicaps: The Lesbian Experience*; *Anxieties and Ailments: The Gay Male Experience*; *Prejudice and Pride, Oppression and Liberation*; *Feedback: Comments on the Survey* and lastly the *Appendix: A Profile of the Respondents*. It sounds like a lot, it is!! It is a very complex subject that has been hardly explored, it is your life, it is the life of your friends, and more importantly it is about the lives of those Brothers and Sisters of the Gay Community/Subculture that you have not, and possibly will never come into contact with. Is it important that we all stop looking the other way and pretending that we have all the answers and know all that we need to know.

This book is important for every gay man and lesbian woman to have at the very least looked at and started to explore those things we have no idea about. It is also very important that all parents, friends and lovers of gay people read and digest as much of the information available so that we may start to become the unified sub-culture that is so often claimed that we live in. How can we live in a sub-culture that we do not even know about. We now have some of the information necessary to learn and grow together. You may be asking/saying to yourself who is this Rick Dixon and when did he become a critic or an authority. I decided I was. I am also a gay man who is very intent on educating myself about the gay sub-culture that I work-in, live-in, love-in and dream-in. It is important that we all find out about our Brothers and Sisters before we call names. It is important to me to be educated before I but the Non-Gay/Media Hype that I am a degenerate. I must first educate myself before I can even like myself, let alone love myself. I must have this self-esteem before I can educate the Non-Gay public that I am the truly good and important person that I have begun to feel about myself.

If you do not want to take my word for the importance of this book, how about the

room. But we don't deal with each other anymore. But then every so often there is a twinge. Every so often a twinge of memory. Of croissants on the veranda in Cannes. Of Thanksgiving with Terry and Sally and the kids in Provincetown. Of appealing to our extraordinarily insightful friend Susan to adjudicate a dispute. Of some apnel we spoke at on relationships with Betty and Ginny. Of running into Philip at a disco a year after he moved, dancing and finding out we fit perfectly. Of making love at those special times. Of attempting to make love after the split. And finally, of smelling his odor any time I have been near him and remembering that for long after he has gone. And yet for all the ambivalent feelings that his presence draws from me, I can lood at myself and say in all due honesty that I have loved, I do Love and I always will love. So finally, it is those lovers that have survived for whom this book has been done and for those who haven't but who still believe..." The author, Michael Denny says, "Like life,

love remains an essential mystery. Talking about it is not an attempt to explain the mystery but to call attention to it.

In the recent past the gay novel has become an important and long overdue part of the literary world. Here is a book, which is not a novel, but a true life account of the inner workings of two individual men and their relationship, told with candor and the objectivity of hindsight. It is a must reading for all Gay men and Lesbian women to understand each other.

March

continued from page 3

now, but rather that we all accept and respect each other. The non-gay citizens of this nation must understand what we are and who we are and to respect and finally to accept us.

In disappointment,
Vern Hall, Pres. RGTF

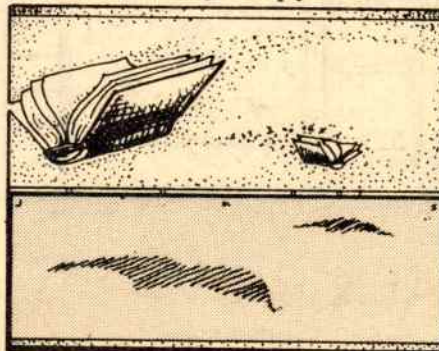
What's Happening at the Alliance

by Rick Dixon

At the present time, a lot is going on at the Alliance offices which a large percentage of the gay community is not aware of. We are, with the help of CETA funding, staffed from 8:30-5:00 Monday thru Friday and with volunteer support from 7:30-9:30 Monday thru Friday, and from 7:30-9:30 on Sundays. The evening volunteers are part of a staff of extensively trained peer-counselors who have been on the job as counselors for at least 6 months. The influx of counseling calls is increasing at a tremendous rate. These are done either by telephone counseling and/or face to face counseling. Appointments are not necessary.

There is presently available through the Alliance offices a referral list of professionals who will serve the gay community on a non-judgemental and supportive basis regardless of sexual or affectional orientation. Included in this referral list are: 6 lawyers, 4 counselors, 2 physicians, 4 pastoral counselors, and 2 real estate agents. This is what is contained on the list at the present time but there will be more additions. The name and phone numbers and specialties of these professionals may be obtained by

word of some big(?) name people. Christopher Isherwood, author and playwright, says "I so congratulate you on *The Gay Report*. A first-rate book." Andrea Dworkin, author of several books, says, "The *Gay Report* is a fascinating, challenging study of the sexual attitudes, values, and behaviors of gay men and lesbians. Sometimes shocking, always compelling. It will be a prime source of information and insight for social scientists, political activists, and same-sex lovers of all persuasions" Martin Duberman distinguished Professor of History at City University of New York says, "A marvelous book-comprehensive, moving, deeply informative,



wondrously free of evasive gentilities. A superlative compendium of gay lifestyles. The *Gay Report* is also a superlative read." Laud Humphreys, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology and author expresses the feelings of those who have had the opportunity to read *The Gay Report* by saying, "The *Gay REport* is a vast storehouse of personal accounts of what it means to be gay. It will make you laugh, cry, make you think. All of us who are gay find ourselves here."

calling the Alliance Offices during the day or evening hours listed above.

The two social, educational groups of the Alliance are the Gay Brotherhood of Rochester and the Lesbian Resource Center. These two organizations' main functions are to provide for social gatherings and meetings with guests speakers who discuss current and relevant issues. The Lesbian Resource Center meets every first and third Wednesday at 8:00 PM at the Alliance Lounge. The Gay Brotherhood of Rochester meets every second and fourth Wednesday evening at 8:00 PM again in the Alliance Lounge. The Lesbian Resource Center is a heavily attended meeting; many come for the support and companionship of other women. The Gay Brotherhood had for some time lacked the large attendance that it had experienced for many years in the past, but now attendance has increased with the institution of the "Everything You Wanted To Know About" series.

The Rochester Gay Task Force is the political action affiliate of the Alliance. The meetings for the RGTF are every Monday night at 7:30 PM at the Alliance Lounge. The present work of the Task Force is the planning for the March on Washington, political surveys, in-depth interviews of candidates, evaluations of candidates, campaigning for supportive politicians, and letter-writing on issues of interest to the Gay/Lesbian community.

The Empty Closet Press is the monthly newspaper of the Rochester Gay/Lesbian community. It is locally produced and executed. It provides the necessary information for an informed community. The work of the paper is done solely by volunteers and the *Closet* is always in need of qualified individuals who find that their interests lie in this area.

Information may be obtained for such groups as the Lesbian Mothers Support Group, Gay Alcoholics Anonymous, Mother Support Group (open to mothers of lesbians) and Parents of Gays Support Group. The Gay Alcoholics Anonymous group meets every Thursday at 8:30 PM and is open to both men and women. The Lesbian Mothers Support Group also meets on a regular basis. There is presently forming a social group for Transvestites. The New Mothers Support Group is open to Lesbian mothers and will be forming and meeting every Wednesday. The mother must have a child 9 months or younger. Information may be obtained about any or all of the groups by phoning or stopping by at the Alliance Offices.

There is always work to be done no matter what your specialty is or where your interests lie. For any more information, please call or stop by the Alliance Offices at 713 Monroe Avenue (side door) or call 244-8640 or 244-9030 from 8:30-5:00 Monday through Friday, or from 7:30-9:30 Monday through Friday and Sunday evenings.

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MONDAY-2 for 1 10-2am
SATURDAY-2 for 1 7-10pm



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LESBIAN LINES

WOMEN to WOMEN

Women to Women
 Face to Face
 Loving each other
 Embrace Embrace
 Sharing together the little things
 That only life on earth can bring
 And crying together when things go wrong
 But always playing our favorite song!
 Women to Women
 Loving each other - we'll always embrace
 Holding hands Face to Face
 Sally



Politically Incorrect

M.L. Wells

According to modern feminist was Wonder Woman p.i.,? Looking at her with an old-line dyke perspective she can not be missed as a favorite prototype.

As I recall, Wonder Woman was conceived by a male in the early 1940s. Women during the World War II era needed a strong role model/heroine with whom they could identify. The big W.W.II effort needed women to stand alone, act alone in a brave way to maintain the war machine.

Wonder Woman showed the way to solve their own problems. By the way, in the early comic episodes, Steve or Fred, (or whatever his name was) did not come to Wonder Woman's rescue. Introducing the male hero originated from the cartoonist's staff after his death.

To bring the problem up to date: it is p.i. to have heroines. It's p.i. to watch or comment on another woman's body. I do not know if it is p.i. to desire the same (to lust in one's heart) because I did not get that far in my thinking. It's p.i. to get off on pornography, no matter how erotic it may seem to you.

It's p.i. to work with gay men (all men are potential rapists). It is not p.i., though, to work for the Child Custody Bill. It is p.i. to work for gay rights, even if your oppression is defined by you to mean that your lesbian lifestyle blocks your way to live a rich, full life.

Child Custody rights or not it was really very p.i. of you to bear children for the patriarchy in the first place. Maybe you did not think of that when you did that unforgivable act?

It is p.i. to acknowledge/accentuate the lesbian as leader in the women's movement. For lesbian women it is p.i. to

model your love relationship after heterosexual couples. Here, again, it is like throwing the baby out with the bath water! It is a sacrifice you must make to be p.c. (politically correct). Besides you were not supposed to like the little tyke anyway; especially if it is a male child.

Basically, off with your head if you are one of those old line dykes. That means those of you with the joint checking accounts, too. Speaking of finances, it is monetarily p.i. to even intimate that you support your lover in some way.

How do you feel now? What is your negative score? Do you have a minus zero and an ego to match?

The p.c. doubt your worth. They close their circle. They are content that their politically correct heads are not like you.

They do not have to bother to figure out your Wonder Woman type of motivations. They already know where your "male identified" self is coming from.

They say to you if you want to get to where they are, "You cannot get there from here." It is an exclusive club and in its exclusivity it will lose some human beings along the way.

I hesitated to write on this topic because of the natural chasms which already exist. But my very survival depends on figuring out how to harmoniously live/work with the feminist lesbian in my midst.

Right now they do not understand me. I listen to them but I do not understand them, either.

Alex Dobkin Concert

lesbian-feminist singer & songwriter

June 30 8:30 pm.

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East Avenue at Westminster St.

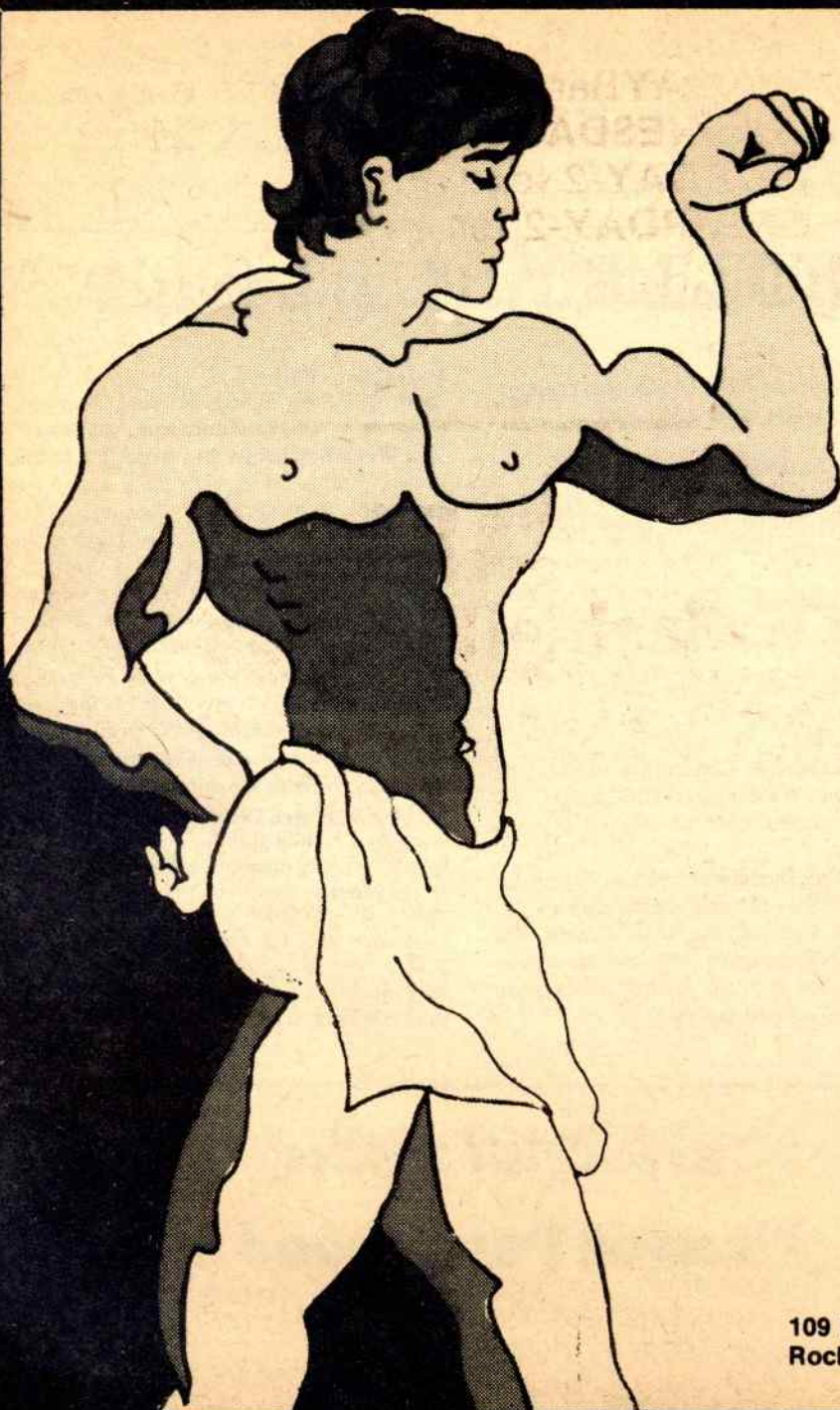
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ROUNDUP

Campaign Begins

The New York State Coalition of Gay Organizations and the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley, Inc. ask you to write letters of support for the following amendment to the New York State Domestic Relations Law:

THE CHILD CUSTODY BILL [A.9996] would prohibit a judge, in a child custody or visitation rights case, from presuming the fitness or unfitness of a parent based solely on the parents' sexual preference or orientation. Instead, the judge would have to base his/her decision on the overall best interest of the child, taking into account all of the factors that may determine a parent's fitness in a particular case.

The proposed change would provide some protection to lesbian mothers and gay fathers from arbitrary decisions by the State's judges.

Letters to State Legislators may be addressed as follows:

The Honorable.....
New York State Assembly or Senate
The State Capitol
Albany, New York 12224

Senate

Frederick Warder-Geneva
John Perry-Brighton
Fred Eckert-Greece

Assembly

Thomas Hanna-Webster
Gary Proud-Rochester
Audre (Pinny) Cooke-Rochester
Andrew Virgilic-Brockport
Roger Robach-Rochester
James Nagle-East Rochester
R. Stephen Hawley-Batavia

For more information, call 244-9030 or 244-8640, weekdays from 9:00 to 4:00.

Syracuse Gayla

SYRACUSE, NY—To mark the 10th anniversary of the Stonewall riots, generally viewed as the beginning of the current gay liberation movement, **Gay Light** is coordinating a weekend of activities which will be climaxed by a large rally on Saturday, June 16 at 2:30 P.M. The keynote speaker at the rally will be pioneer gay activist Franklin Kameny of Washington, D.C.

Kameny was actually active in the struggle for gay rights long before the Stonewall riots of June 1969. In the early 50's he founded the Mattachine Society and was often a lonely voice speaking out for gay rights. Others speakers will be announced as they are confirmed.

Tentative plans call for a Friday night Women's Showcase Coffeehouse, Friday & Saturday midnight showings of "Sebastian" at the Manlius Cinema, a dinner and dance on Saturday evening after the rally and a special Metropolitan Community

Church service on Sunday.

The rally has already gained the co-sponsorship of the Onondaga County Human Rights Coalition and the Greater Syracuse Chapter of N.O.W. We will be reaching out to other groups and individuals for support in the coming months.

This is a special year for the gay/lesbian rights movement. We have advanced quite a distance the past decade. The June 15-17 weekend will focus on where we have been and where we are going....to Washington on October 14...on to further gains. It will be an exciting time. For more information, watch future issues of **Gay Light** or contact the Gay Light Collective at 385 W. Onondaga St., Syracuse, N.Y. 13202 or (315) 475-6857.

Albany Fun

ALBANY, NY—A local coalition of gay people has announced the formation of a task force to plan the local celebrations for the 10th Annual Gay and Lesbian Pride Days. The days will run from June 17 through June 30, and will correspond with similar celebrations around the country.

According to Vince Quackenbush, President of the Capital District Gay Community Council, Inc., one of the sponsoring organizations, this year marks the 10th anniversary of the "Stonewall Riot" in N.Y.C., an event which is recognized as the spark which began the current efforts for the gay liberation movement. Local events are scheduled to promote awareness of this event as well as to provide open and positive social and cultural activities for the whole community.

The tentative schedule includes a Rally and Parade at 3 P.M. starting in Washington Park and ending at the Capitol for June 17th; a "Beer Blast" at the Penthouse Lounge on Central Ave. in Albany at 5 P.M.; lesbian songwriter/singer Maxine Feldman on June 22nd at the Playhouse; several buses on June 24th to the Christopher Street Liberation Day Parade in N.Y.C.; and a benefit disco on the 28th at La Chancerie. Planning help is needed. Call (518) 462-6138 evenings for more information.

For Gay Parents

SAN FRANCISCO—A paperback volume has been made available for gay parents facing child custody disputes.

Written in understandable lay terms, it describes the problems commonly encountered by a gay parent involved in a custody battle and gives sound advice on how to deal with them. **A Gay Parent's Legal Guide to Child Custody** is available for \$1 from the Anti-Sexism Committee of the National Lawyers Guild, 558 Capp St., San Francisco, CA 94110.

—from *Gay Light*

Shortchange

Make a red circle around October 14th. The GAGV will charter buses to take you to Washington for the March at a cost of \$25.00 per person. That is a round trip cost. Send in your reservation now so we will know how many buses we will need. Enclose **check** payable to Committee for Human Rights, c/o GAGV, 713 Monroe Ave, Rochester, N.Y. 14607.

The **Annual Gay Craft Art Show** will be held July 15. Artists register now for a space to sell your work. Call G.A.G.V. office at 244-8640 or 244-9030.

Coming in August: **Peer Counseling Training Course**. Anyone interested in taking this 20 hour course, call 244-8640 or 244-9030.

GAGV co-president George Mohr presented training certificates to eight peer counselors at a special Inservice Session on May 15. These newly certified peer counselors successfully completed the GAGV Training Program which included 20 hours of didactic training, and 10 weeks of apprenticeship staffing in the LRC and GBR offices. This class brings the total number of GAGV trained and certified peer counselors in the Rochester area to 33.

Apologies are extended to Gary at the Avenue Pub, who donated the flowers for the Vinnie Cup Awards. The E.C. reported that the Dorr collection had done so.

MAY21—Moments ago the tube showed San Francisco's burning police cars, and the damage done to City Hall last night as angry people erupted because of the "justice" dealt Dan White, voluntary manslaughter. White admittedly shot Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk to death last November.

Today's Rochester newspapers showed scene and story of this alongside details of two pending executions set for tomorrow morning in Florida. Each man had killed another man. For this they received death sentences. Willie Darden, Jr. has been given a last minute stay of execution. Only twelve hours away; John Spenkelink is to be electrocuted.

A state court hearing today upheld the 15 year prison sentence of a man convicted of stealing a Picasso painting.

Four different men, four trials, three different sentences. The man who admittedly killed - not one - but two other men, an ex-policeman, an ex-politician, young, white, father and husband, is given a maximum of less than eight years!

As a white, middle-class, tax-paying, single citizen, I deplore the destruction done to public and private property. As a person inclined toward libertarianism, I

have mixed emotions about the death penalty and its value as a deterrent. And I sure as hell loath the farce our American courts have become.

As a gay, I shed many emotional tears over the light sentence given Dan White, not because I'm filled with hatred for him, rather that I'm full of grief for the loss of Moscone and Milk and our judicial inconsistencies based much on what and who you are, and whom you know.

Happy birthday anniversary, Harvey Milk. Our love to you wherever you are.

Dick Derlith

The **Annual Gay Craft Art Show** will be held July 15. Artists register now for a space to sell your work. Call G.A.G.V. office at 244-8640 or 244-9030.

Uncensored Film Development, kodacolor films. (110 & 120) 20 exp. \$12.80, (35mm) 24 exp. \$15.16, 36 exp. \$21.60. Shipping \$1.00. Add N.Y. Sales Tax. All prints are custom printed 3 1/2 x 5. Enlargements also available. Creative Images, 2092 Niagara Falls Blvd. Tonawanda, N.Y. 14150.

FOR SALE: copies of **Physique Pictorial** magazine. Wrestling photos (many nude), martial arts, boxing, other mags with photos of good-looking men. Price negotiable. Contact G.B.R.

BULLETIN BOARD

All meetings held at 713 Monroe Avenue, unless otherwise noted.

DISCO LESSONS

June 8-July 13 for six consecutive weeks at 7:30 P.M. \$12.00 fee to benefit GAGV. Pre-register at 244-8640.

Gay Brotherhood

June 13: 8:00 Potluck Dinner, GBR meeting.
June 27: for topic, call 244-8640.

G.A.G.V.

July 6-8: Houston Conference to plan the March on Washington D.C., Oct. 14. Please contribute so we can send local delegates.

July 15: **Gay Community Picnic**. Watch for further details - but reserve the date!

June 16: **Cocktail Party to benefit the March on Washington**. \$3 donation requested. Call 244-8640 for further information (day, time) and ask for Rick.

Peer Counseling

June 19: 8:00 P.M. Business Meeting. Program: "Death Education Workshop" The Workshop leader has expertise in this area.

July 31: 8:00 P.M. - Summer Peer Counselors Inservice Session. Topic to be announced.

August: Peer Counseling Training Course. Anyone interested in taking this 20 hour course, call 244-8640 or 244-9030.

Rochester Gay Task Force

Every Monday night at 7:30 P.M. Planning the March on Washington, Oct. 14. We need you now to get involved and organize the "Gay Train to Washington, D.C."

Lesbian Resource Center

June 6: "Handicapped Gays." facilitated by a physically disabled lesbian. 8:30 P.M. at 713 Monroe Ave.

June 20: Women's Career Center - facilitator will be Linda Weinstein. 8:30 P.M.

July 4: L.R.C. picnic. Call 244-9030 for information and leave name.

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