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Price Dickinson

August 1969

GAY RIOTS IN THE VILLAGE

The first gay rioting in history broke out in the early morning hours of June 28, following a police raid on the Stonewall, a club on Christopher Street. Police, led by Inspectors Smythe and Pine, and armed with a warrant, arrived at about 2 A.M. and arrested the management and employees for illegal sale of alcohol. The patrons were ordered to leave, except for a few in drag who were arrested.

The patrons gathered outside, and were joined by other homosexuals and Village residents. The police started behaving with bad grace and the revolt was on. The crowd started pelting the cops with pennies ("dirty copper"), then cans, rocks, and even parking meters. The handful of cops was driven back into the bar and locked in. The crowd then set the bar afire in an attempt to cremate the police (or "cook the pigs", as someone said).

The police put out the flames after vainly searching for a fire exit. Had the place caught on fire during a busy time, the police said, most of the customers would have been doomed, as there were no fire exits. The crowd wouldn't let them out, and were

throwing things into the place at them. One policeman got hit in the eye and another suffered a broken wrist. Reinforcements were summoned, and the Tactical Police Force (NY's "Riot Squad") arrived on the scene.

Street fighting followed and continued for several hours. A number of people were arrested, and more were clubbed by the cops. Some of those beaten were clubbed in the Charles Street station house after having been arrested.

The Stonewall re-opened the next night and has remained open since, serving only soft drinks, although one may bring his own bottle. Crowds gathered outside early that

-more-

Gay riots . . .

night chanting "Queen Power" and "Gay Power." Soon the chant changed to "Christopher Street belongs to the queens. Liberate Christopher Street." Mobs of people -- gay people from all over town, tourists, Villagers, and the idly curious -- swelled the crowds. Soon things got out of hand again, and the TPF was called once more. The nearly 200 cops required several hours to clear the streets, and the TPF again lived up to its reputation for violence and brutality.

The most striking feature of the rioting was that it was led, and featured as participants "queens", not "homosexuals." "Homosexuals" have been sitting back and taking whatever the Establishment handed out; the "queens" were having none of that. The "butch" numbers who were around the area and who participated peripherally in the action remained for the most part in the background. It was the "queens" who scored the points and proved that they are not going to tolerate any more harassment or abuse.

(NOTE: The above was abridged from a leaflet, "The Hairpin Drop Heard 'Round the World," a detailed and wildly amusing account of the first part of the Christopher Street Riots. It was the first detailed account available, having beaten the newspapers to the full story. Copies were mailed with most of the last issue of the Newsletter, but some Newsletters had been mailed before the rioting started, so if you didn't receive a copy, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to MSNY, and we'll mail you one.)

Sunday, Monday and Tuesday evenings were rairly quiet, except for small outbreaks here and there. Most of the police, except for the TPF, had taken the first two nights of rioting with some good humor. By Monday night, tempers on both sides were short, and animosity filled the air. Some of the police maintained enormous "cool", but others deliberately tried to provoke trouble. "Start something, faggot, just start something," one cop kept telling people. "I'd like to break your ass wide open." After saying that to several dozen people, one man turned and said, "What a Freudian comment, officer!" The cop started swinging and hauled the guy off to a waiting wagon.

Two cops in a car cruised the streets, yell-

ing obscenities at people, obviously trying to start a fight. Another stood on the corner of Christopher and Waverly, swinging his nightstick (speaking of Freudian, watch the cops in the Village caressing and masturbating those billy clubs!) and making smart cracks to passersby. A wildly "fem" queen sneaked up behind him, lit a firecracker and dropped it between his feet.

It exploded and he jumped into the air in a leap that Villella would have envied, landing on a part of his anatomy that one queen called a "money-maker." He got up screaming like a peasant woman and swinging his stick. The queen tossed another firecracker under him, and when it went off a melee followed, during which the cop's badge was lifted. The next day, the badge turned up hanging on a tree in Washington Square Park, stuck into a string of pickled pigs' feet.

When the cops found the badge-stuck pigs' feet, they didn't take them down from the tree -- they beat the pigs' feet to the ground, then picked up the badge.

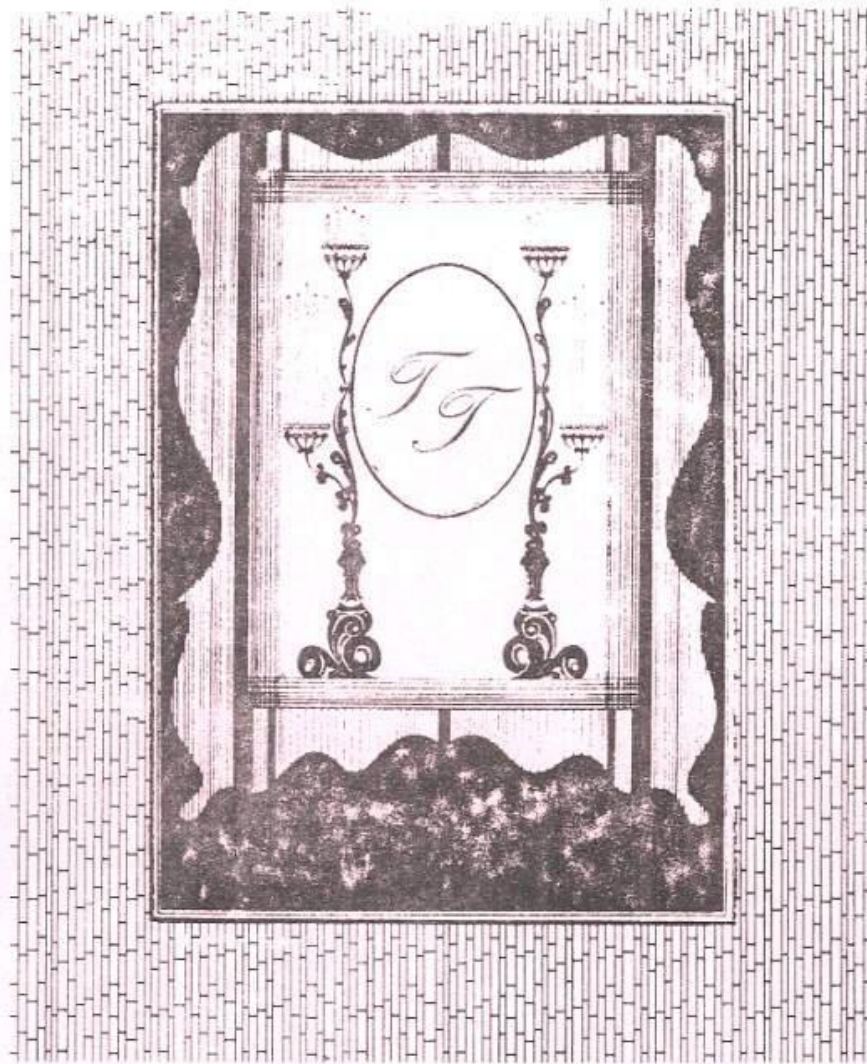
While there's nothing really funny about a man having a firecracker blow up under his feet, there is something eminently satisfying about seeing a cop get scared, jump and land on his backside -- especially if the cop has been after you for years. And even more so as he's a symbol of the cops who used to entrap, who raided bars, and who still harass homosexuals at every opportunity.

Wednesday night, the rioting broke out in full force. Much of the good humour and high spirits of the weekend had dissipated, and the street people were no longer half-serious, half-camping. The cops, who had been caught off-guard and were on the defensive before, had taken the offensive and massive retaliation was their goal.

Some seemed quite ready to depopulate Christopher Street the moment anyone would give them permission to unholster their guns. Failing that, some of them, particularly some of the TPF men, tried to achieve the same objective with their night sticks.

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Gay riots . . .

to West 10th looked like a battlefield in Vietnam. Young people, many of them queens, were lying on the sidewalk, bleeding from the head, face, mouth, and even the eyes. Others were nursing bruised and often bleeding arms, legs, backs and necks.

The composition of the street action had changed. It was no longer gay frustration being vented upon unsuspecting cops by queens who were partly violent but mostly campy. The queens were almost outnumbered by Black Panthers, Yippies, Crazies and young toughs from street gangs all over the city and some from New Jersey. The exploiters had moved in and were using the gay power movement for their own ends.

A lot of them were looking for a fight, and had the police not come, they probably would have started the old game of street gangs everywhere, "beating up a queer." The blacks and students who want a revolution, any kind of revolution, were there to exploit. They swelled the crowd and tried to recruit, but "graciously" let the queens take all the bruises and suffer all the arrests. (If they have no more courage than they displayed on Christopher Street, their revolution is a long way off.)

Looting began Wednesday evening. Obviously, little of it was done by people who live in and frequent Christopher Street and environs, because all the most unlikely places were looted. The first shop to get hit was the "Gingerbread House", a toy shop run by a delightful little lady who is a friend of everyone on Christopher. The other shops broken into were also run, for the most part, by nice people, sympathetic to the gay cause and the plight of the street queen.

The really likely places, the "fag shops" that overprice their wares and bleed the gay market for exorbitant prices were left alone. Shops whose managers complain the loudest about the cruising and swishing in the neighborhood were also, surprisingly, left alone. Observers in the know doubt if the looting was done by gay people.

A group of gay people did consider burning down the offices of the VILLAGE VOICE. That paper's editorial policy has long infuriated most homosexuals, as the paper pretends to be "liberal" and avant-garde, but actually

is conservative and uptight about homosexuality. They published two long "put down" articles about the Christopher Street incidents which contributed heavily to the anger that incited the Wednesday rioting after two relatively peaceful days.

Police and others had expected a tremendous influx of people over the long July 4 week-end that started Thursday night. People came in droves but conditions remained generally calm. Sporadic efforts were made to start trouble - by people who can best be described as "outside agitators", by gay people, and too often by uptight cops who tried to start trouble to give them an excuse to start bashing heads again.

Despite those efforts, no major outbreak erupted. It was almost as if everyone had decided that the point had been made and any further action would only bring on a backlash. As it was, everything worked out to give the homosexuals of New York City tremendous gay power. A totally spontaneous demonstration had broken out, and people who are generally considered the ultimate "sissies" had badgered the police, imprisoned some of them, and held off busses full of TPF men for hours. They had shown that they were tired of being kicked around and would no longer stand for such treatment.

The sympathy of nearly everyone in town was with the homosexuals -- even the uptight DAILY NEWS printed a wonderfully amusing and quite long article on the situation, in which they took the side of the queens against the cops.

Had the situation continued much longer, and violence increased, the non-participants, straight and gay, would have been "turned off" and the backlash started. The police would have escalated their retaliation, and the action would have been defeated, more people would have been injured, and the police would have started getting sympathy. As it was, homosexuals have won this first battle, the government and police have been put on notice that homosexuals won't stand being kicked around, and public sympathy for the homosexual cause is growing.

* * *

Police story . . .

Charges are always being made that bars have to "pay off" to stay in business, particularly if they serve a gay clientele. The police say this is possible, but not likely. They try, they said, to keep their men "clean" and check out any charges of shake-downs. Besides, they pointed out, with the legitimate bars not being harassed, there is no reason for them to "pay off" anyone. If they are approached, they should notify headquarters and turn in the culprits. Not only would they save the pay-off money, but they'd win the respect and cooperation of the command.

The Stonewall had chalked across its windows: "How Can Inspector Smythe Drive a \$15,000 Car on HIS Salary?" and charges that the police had "stolen" the money in the safe, a television set, and other items. The police claim that Inspector Smythe is independently well-off ("Not all boys who grow up to be cops come from poor families") and is probably one of the most honest cops around ("He doesn't have to be crooked, he doesn't need the money.") As far as the items taken from the Stonewall are concerned, the police swear they just impounded the money, etc., and counted the money before the Stonewall management and gave receipts for the cash and other items. The television set was reclaimed by a man who said he had loaned it to the Stonewall management, showed the police a receipt, and the cops let him take it.

The police denied any campaign of harassment. They gave their word that they knew of no orders authorizing such a campaign now or in the future. (A local woman lawyer, known more for "ambulance chasing" gay cases than for her honesty, has been spreading a story about imminent crackdowns as a selling point to get bars to employ her.)

They denied that local elections had anything to do with any harassment that might have occurred. They did not deny our charge that Village political boss Ed Koch had involved them in such clean-ups in former years to help win the votes of the up-tight segment of the Village, but said no pressure had been put on them this year.

They asked if we knew of any harassment. Other than that in the Village, we knew of

none. A little probing on our part elicited the information that the 6th Precinct got a new commanding officer about six weeks before the rioting. That rang a bell, because that's about how long the harassment had been going on. The cops who knew the man said he seemed like a fair-minded guy who wouldn't start any harassment campaign.

"Could it be possible that the men on the beat, knowing they had a new commander, and wanting to secure points, started their own campaign to clean up the streets just in case the new boss happened to be driving by?" someone suggested? The police officials agreed that this was a real possibility.

A discussion followed of the police brutality and beatings administered during the incidents on the streets. The police unanimously declined to defend such conduct by the police, other than to remark that when tempers get high, everyone loses some of his control. They pointed out that some very nice, probably law-abiding homosexuals, carried away by the rioting, tossed beer cans and worse at cops. The police, carried away themselves, sometimes swung their clubs too hard and too indiscriminately.

The police force doesn't condone police violence any more than any other kind of violence, and does discipline police officers against whom charges of police brutality are proven. It doesn't help the police do their job if they have the citizens against them, and cops don't like to see the bloody bodies of citizens any more than anyone else does.

* * *

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THE STONEWALL RIOTS
THE POLICE STORY

Naturally MSNY is sympathetic to the gay power movement -- we were trying to gain gay power while many of the people who are just now becoming interested were sitting back, enjoying life, and waiting for someone else to achieve any gains the homosexual community might want.

On the other hand, it was difficult not to feel sorry for the cops who were involved in the Stonewall incident, and their associates who were obliged to explain to the Commissioner how a group of New York's "finest" could be imprisoned in a gay bar for hours and nearly cremated. Imagine the jibes they must have gotten from their brother officers, their wives, and probably even their children! What must it do to a straight guy to have his kid say, "Daddy, tell us about the time the faggots cornered you and tore up the Village"?

When the police began visiting the MSNY office on July 3, their faces and their tired eyes told the whole story. They were in trouble - real trouble - and the situation looked like it might get worse before it got better. They wanted a sympathetic ear and they wanted to know what happened. We tried to help them on both counts.

The purpose of the visits by all of the officers (and there were many of them, including the Chief of the Morals Squad and the two Deputy Inspectors, Smythe and Pine, who had been imprisoned in the Stonewall, among others), was to find out one thing: why did this happen now, and why did it happen over the Stonewall, of all places? What we told them appears in another article in this issue; what follows is their side of the Stonewall story.

At no time in recent history has there been as little police action against homosexuals as in the past three years. Plain-clothes decoys are no longer used to entrap homosexuals. There has been no concentrated effort to close down gay bars as there was during the Wagner years and before.

Headquarters has tried to clamp down on any harassment of homosexuals by policemen on the beat as well, and has had speakers from MSNY address students at the Police

Academy in an effort to help the police. (most of whom are, after all, straight and pretty much as ignorant about homosexuality as most straight people) understand homosexuals and our needs.

There has been no harassment of legitimate gay bars, the cops all stated. (A subsequent check with a number of bars, including the Stage 45, Harry's, and others, indicated that these bars indeed had not been bothered for several years.) They do go after places that serve liquor without a license. This has nothing to do with who forms the clientele of the place, but only with the fact that it is illegal to sell liquor without a license. The State Liquor Authority had notified all unlicensed liquor-selling establishments that they must obtain a license by July 1 or stop selling. The Stonewall didn't bother, so they got raided.

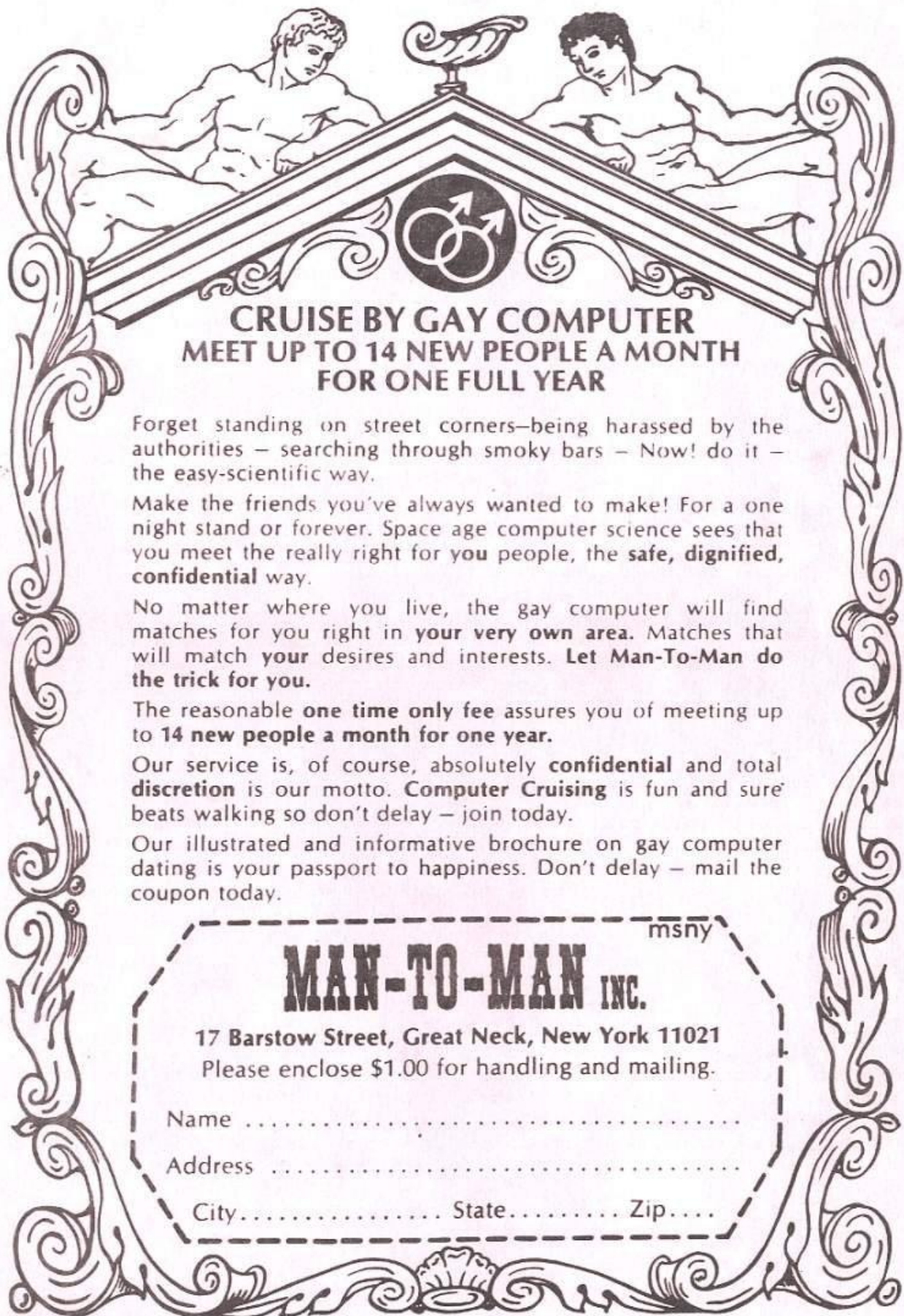
Another drive is under way to attack the organized crime syndicate. Many of the gay bars in the Village are suspected of having links with the Cosa Nostra, Mafia, or whatever you want to call it. These bars will be raided if the police get enough evidence to make charges stick. The Stonewall management was also suspected, the police said, of having such ties. That, the lack of a license, and the fact that the place was a health hazard and a fire hazard were the reasons the place was raided -- not that it was gay.

Why had the Stonewall been allowed to operate if it was illegal? That was the question often asked after the last raid.

The police explained that all they can do is make the raid, and impound all the liquor stock, cash registers, and other material that can be considered evidence. They arrest the management, who are booked, have bail set, and get themselves released. The next day, they get a new supply of liquor and open as usual. This happened, the police say, at the Stonewall at least ten times.

The police cannot force the place to close down, because they, like everyone else, have the right to be presumed innocent until a court finds them guilty. Thus, by hiring smart lawyers, and postponing the case again and again, the bar can stay in operation for years until their case comes to trial and the court closes it.

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KKK RIDES IN QUEENS

A group of nightriders, lacking only horses and white sheets to be a copy of the old Ku Klux Klan, have set up a reign of terror in the Kew Gardens area of Queens.

The "vigilantes" aren't derending the honor of white Southern ladies, but pretend to be saving the virtue of white Kew Gardens men. Their targets are not Negroes (at least, not yet), and some of the vigilantes being Jews, that group is probably safe, at least until someone else starts an anti-Semite vigilante group.

The Kew Gardens KKK limits itself to terrorizing homosexuals and intimidating women and heterosexual men who protest against the harassment of homosexuals or the destruction of public property, and like the other KKK, has evidently intimidated public officials, especially the police of the 112th precinct.

In late June the vigilantes, apparently headed by a man who has become their public spokesman, Myles Tashman of 76-35 113th St., Kew Gardens, chopped down all the trees and shrubbery in a small park in their neighborhood. About fifteen thousand dollars will be required to replant the park, and the Parks Department has already had the expense of hauling away five truckloads of severed trees and bushes.

Tashman said the vigilantes acted because homosexuals gathered in the park. The group had first tried harassing those they thought were homosexuals by patrolling the park. Thirty or forty of them would spot someone they thought was a homosexual, surround him, shine bright lights in his face and warn him to stay out of the park.

The harassment tactics had worked at first, Tashman said, but later, the homosexuals began to insist that they had a right to be on public land and the vigilantes decided to take firmer action, so they destroyed the park. Tashman claims his group had the consent and cooperation of the police from the 112th Precinct, a claim that appears to be true, considering the police reaction to the incident.

Captain John Ronan, head of the 112th Precinct, claimed that his men didn't notice

that the entire park had been leveled until the story appeared in the New York TIMES about two weeks after the vandalism occurred. If Ronan were not obviously lying, his comments would be a sad commentary on the efficiency and alertness of the New York Police Department.

That he is a liar, as well as a man totally unconcerned about the rights of individuals in this city, is demonstrated by the fact that a man reported the tree-cutting while it was happening. Car number 1156 from the 112th Precinct drove up and the cops in that car got out and chatted with the vandals who were even then, in the middle of the night, cutting down trees with power saws.

Another witness, Miss Joan Luxemburg, of Flushing, reported that she and her date had seen the vandalism in progress and reported it to cops in car number 1176. They refused to take action and said the men "were doing a job which the police were not able to do to the satisfaction of the community."

The Mayor's office, the Parks Department, and many citizens, including some residents of the area near the park, demanded a full investigation and prosecution of the culprits. MSNY pointed out, in its written complaint to the Mayor, the Parks Department, the Police Commissioner and the Queens District Attorney, that mob rule, allowed to progress unchecked, is dangerous. If one kind of bigot is permitted to destroy a park with impunity and violate the rights of one group -- in this case homosexuals -- without being prosecuted, what moral ground would anyone have to prosecute a racist group who might decide to place its local park "off limits" to Negroes or Puerto Ricans, or anti-Semites who might decide they didn't want Jews using the parks in their neighborhood?

Public officials have an obligation to the taxpayers to protect public property and prosecute any wilful destruction of such property. Moreover, they must protect that which is more sacred than mere property -- the rights of citizens.

As citizens, homosexuals have a right to be free from harassment and bullying tac-

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KKK rides . . .

tics, as well as an affirmative right to be free to use public property. In failing to protect these rights, the police of the 112th Precinct have failed in their duty and should be fired. Should the District Attorney fail to make a full inquiry, he, too, should be considered derelict in his duty and appropriate action taken against him.

As of this writing, the "investigation" into the vigilante group is a farce of the proportions usually seen only in Southern court rooms when Ku Klux Klan people are on trial. Sixteen days after the "investigation" had been opened by the police, Myles Tashman, self-styled "spokesman" for the group, had not been questioned. Deputy Chief Inspector John T. Downer, who is carrying out the "investigation", told the TIMES that he "probably would" talk to Tashman before he closes his inquiry!

Tashman himself has hired an attorney to represent him. When questioned about the tree-cutting incident two weeks after it was reported in the papers (a month after it happened), Tashman's representative said, "Isn't that a dead story by now?"

For Mr. Tashman, the story may live a long time. MSNY has filed a complaint with the Bar Association, recommending the disbarment of Tashman. On the other hand, the Bar Association could adopt the attitude of the cops and just give perfunctory attention to the matter, in which case it would seem that justice, law and order are indeed dead in this community.

Meanwhile, MSNY has begun a fund called "Trees for Queens." The purpose is to raise money to plant some trees in the park, at least one of them to be marked with a metal plaque recording them as a gift from the homosexual people of New York to the people of Queens. The plaque will carry a quotation from Radcliffe Hall's THE WELL OF LONELINESS, reminding the people of this city to "Give us also the right to our existence!"

Contributions may be sent to "Trees for Queens," c/o MSNY, 243 West End Ave., New York City 10023. Make checks payable

STUDY OF PORNOGRAPHY

It seems that obscenity is in the eye of the beholder.

Dr. Marsnall Katzman, of the Psychiatry Department of St. Louis University, has been studying various occupational groups to try to find out why people consider a picture pornographic. To date his study indicates that the greater a person's education, the less likely he is to rate a particular picture as obscene.

One exception to this, however, is policemen, who generally have less education, but who also tend to be less shocked than lawyers, for example, but Dr. Katzman thinks this is due to the fact that in the course of their work, policemen are constantly exposed to salacious material and tend to become hardened to it. This is also shown by the fact that new recruits to the police force usually find more obscenity in a particular group of pictures than the policemen of longer service.

The pictures used in the study were taken from many sources, ranging from popular magazines to police files of confiscated pictures. They were shown to groups of teachers, lawyers, police, physicians and psychiatrists who were asked to rate them on a scale ranging from "not obscene" to "extremely obscene."

Psychiatrists tended to rate the photos on the same scale as veteran policemen. Teachers and lawyers had about the same judgment, which fell about midway between the top and the bottom.

There were no major differences between men and women on obscenity, but a significantly greater number of men rated the photographs sexually stimulating than did women, Dr. Katzman said.

to "Trees for Queens." A special account has been set up in a Manhattan bank where the money will be accumulated until there is enough to buy trees and shrubs to replant the park, and the fund will then be presented to the Parks Commissioner.

* * *

VANDALISM IN PARK

Two members of MSNY went out to Kew Gardens a couple of Saturdays ago to pass out "Trees for Queens" flyers and went to see the park which had been cut down.

One curious thing was that they met some people who lived within a couple of blocks of the place who said they knew nothing about it. (They don't read even the DAILY NEWS?)

Two or three people commented that they thought it had been a shameful incident, but most of them were apathetic and showed no indication of protesting the action or trying to do anything about it. Our people distributed a lot of flyers and will have gone out there again before you receive this Newsletter, but they doubt very much that many people in Queens will contribute a dollar to restoring the destroyed trees.

The section of park which was leveled is actually very small - a little triangle the long side of which parallels the sidewalk and is not more than 40 feet long. It runs downhill to a point about 25 or 30 feet from the walk and could not have contained more than 12 or 14 trees, which have been sawed or chopped off about a foot above the ground.

This particular area is much like Riverside Drive, with apartments on one side of the street and a wooded area on the other, and the little triangle is at the root of 78th Avenue. The rest of the park was not damaged.

In view of the apathy of the local people, it seems that MSNY must keep up the drive to get the vandals punished and the vandalized area re-planted. Since the local police were involved, the authorities at that precinct are not going to punish the cops unless they are forced to, and the local Queens DA will probably drag his feet and insist that they "don't know who did it." It reminds one of the deep South where they were somehow never able to find out who killed the little Negro girls and the various Civil Rights workers.

This means that we have to keep up a steady bombardment of the Queens DA, of Commissioner Leary here, and also the Mayor. We must not only make phone calls and write letters ourselves, but we must persuade our friends to

do the same. We should also try to figure out ways to do something newsworthy so that the papers will have an excuse to print a story from time to time. The New York TIMES is more than willing to keep the story going if they have anything interesting to publish. Anybody have any ideas?

If there are any members of MSNY, or sympathizers who are free in the daytime, it would be a good idea to go out to Kew Gardens some afternoon soon and picket the office of the Queens District Attorney.

In the meantime, you should by all means write him a letter and insist that vandals must be punished for destroying public property, no matter what their reason was. And in this case, it is doubly imperative to protest, since this is a case of harassment of people who have a perfect right to use the park, and it is based on pure prejudice. If we let these criminals get away with their crime unpunished, other narrow-minded uptight neo-Fascists will be encouraged to imitate the action.

Write to the DA as follows:

Mr. Thomas J. Mackell
District Attorney, Queens County
126-05 Hoover Ave.
Kew Gardens, N.Y.

You should also write to:

Mr. Howard R. Leary
Police Commissioner
240 Centre Street
New York, N.Y. 10013

Mail copies of your letters to Mayor Lindsay at City Hall, to the TIMES, and also to Parks Commissioner August Heckscher at the Manhattan Borough Office of the Parks Administration in Central Park.

We must make it clear to everybody that actions of this kind cannot and will not be tolerated. Be sure to write these letters.
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The Atlantic Open held in the Mc Alpin Hotel, July 3-6 was won by International Grandmaster Pal Benko, who seems nearly unstoppable in "Open" tournaments. Benko was followed by Bruce Pandolfini and Orest Popovych who were tied for second and third. The time limit for play was 50 moves in two hours, so that many players were in constant time pressure. In fact time pressure cost Popovych the two half points he lost in his games against the young Canadian master, Day and Pal Benko. Here is his game against Benko.

White - Popovych Black - Benko

- | | |
|----------|-------|
| 1. P-K4 | P-QB4 |
| 2. N-KB3 | P-Q3 |
| 3. P-Q4 | PxP |
| 4. NxP | N-KB3 |
| 5. N-QB3 | P-K3 |
| 6. P-KN4 | |

A very sharp move.

P-QR3

P-KR3 was a good alternative.

- | | |
|----------|-------|
| 7. P-N5 | KN-Q2 |
| 8. B-K3 | P-N4 |
| 9. Q-Q2 | B-N2 |
| 10. P-B3 | |

Guarding against ... P-N5 and ... BxP. This move is better than, 10. B-N2 which obstructs the KN file, makes the bishop liable to exchange if the KP moves, and does not reserve the options of B-R3 or bishop on the KB1-QR6 diagonal.

- | | |
|-----------|-------|
| 11. O-O-O | N-QB3 |
| 12. P-KR4 | B-K2 |

Attacking and defending against a possible ... NxN; BxN, BxNP. White plans to storm Black's kingside with a wave of pawns. Now Black should consider the safer, 12 ... Q-B2 followed by, 13. ... O-O-O, eliminating the major danger. The drawback is that with both kings castled on the same wing, a draw is a greater possibility, and to finish "in the money" in an Open tournament, one must play for a win - especially in the opening rounds.

- | | |
|-----------|------|
| 12. | O-O |
| 13. R-N1 | P-N5 |
| 14. NxN | BxN |
| 15. N-K2 | P-Q4 |
| 16. N-Q4 | B-N2 |
| 17. P-R5! | Q-R4 |

17. ... PxP invites a vicious attack starting with, 18. P-N6 (but not 18. B-QB4, N-K4! or 18. N-B5, N-K4 or 18. NxP, PxN; 19. QxN, B-Q4).

18. K-N1 N-K4

18 ... PxP loses instantly to 19. N-N3 or 19. NxP.

- | | |
|-------------|-------|
| 19. P-N6! | QPxP |
| 20. PxRP ch | KxP |
| 21. Q-N2 | B-KB3 |
| 22. PxP | QR-Q1 |
| 23. B-K2 | |

23. B-KN5 is met by 23. ... R-KN1

- | | |
|------------|--------|
| 23. | N-B3 |
| 24. N-B3 ? | P-N6! |
| 25. P-R3 | PxP ch |

If either pawn takes pawn, then 25. ... N-N5 is crushing.

26. KxP Q-R5 ch ??

At this point both were in time trouble and Benko blunders. The obvious 26. ...N-N5 ch wins easily with 27. K-N3, B-B3 or 27. PxN, BxP ch, or 27. K-B1, BxP.

27. K-N1 Q-N6

Now 27. ... N-N5 can be met by N-N5 ch.

- | | |
|-------------|------|
| 28. N-N5 ch | K-N1 |
| 29. B-QB1 | N-K4 |
| 30. QR-B1 | K-R1 |
| 31. P-R6 | N-N3 |
| 32. PxP ch | KxP |
| 33. RxB | |

33. N-R7 wins.

33. KxR DRAW

After 34. ... K-N2; Q-R1 wins outright, If 34. ...K-K2, then Q-N5 ch and white wins easily, but as white had only on minute left and 17 moves to make, a draw was agreed.

THE STONEWALL RIOTS
THE GAY VIEW

The Stonewall was very likely raided, as the police said, because it had no license and violated fire and other regulations. Yet it had been allowed to operate in this manner for about three years. It seems strange the police hadn't closed it sooner.

As it was, the Stonewall was allowed to become a Village institution, as familiar to homosexuals as the Washington Arch is to tourists or the Washington Square fountain to folk-singers. When something becomes that well established, the police cannot pretend not to know what it is (unless they want to admit that they are incompetent or plain stupid), and they cannot expect to raid it without causing hard feelings and risking a reaction.

Nor can the police be credited with much forethought in raiding a highly popular bar at the height of one of the busiest evenings of the week. Surely a more sensible plan would be to go in early in the evening, before the place is crowded, or on a night early in the week when no large crowds are on hand. Smart visits to crowded bars by police officers who order everyone around, empty out the bar, and seize the management and a few customers (only those in drag these days) may bolster the egos of the police officers and give them a sense of power and importance, but such displays of power also create hostility toward the police from citizens who find them a little pretentious, to say the least.

Coming on the heels of the raids of the Snake Pit and the Sewer, and the closing of the Checkerboard, the Tele-Star and other clubs, the Stonewall raid looked to many like part of an effort to close all gay bars and clubs in the Village. It may be true that the Checkerboard and Tele-Star died without police assistance. (It is said that the woman who managed the Checkerboard came in one night, ordered all the customers out of the place, cleaned out the cash register and called the police to get rid of those customers who stayed around.) It is very likely that the Sewer and the Snake Pit were raided because they had no licenses, as the police said.

But how are the people in the street and

the customers of the places to know that? The police don't bother to explain or send press releases to the papers (and when they do, the papers make it seem that the bar was raided because it was gay). The police seem to think the citizens should just accept their actions, but homosexuals are paranoid about the police, and with good reason. They have not been out of the entrapment business long enough for anyone to trust them, and the old bar raids of the early 60s are still fresh.

Since 1965 the homosexual community of New York has been treated quite well by the City Administration and the police have either reformed or been kept in line by Lindsay and Leary. During the Wagner years we all had the old slave mentality. We didn't know what it was like not to be mistreated, expected to be mistreated, and accepted harassment when it came.

Now we've walked in the open and know how pleasant it is to have self-respect and to be treated as citizens and human beings. There's no possible way to make us accept the "old way" again, and any sign, no matter how tentative, will be vigorously fought by the homosexual community.

Should a moralist or a backroom politico succeed John Lanasa, he had better take a lesson from the Stonewall riots and eschew any "clean-ups" or the sort Robert Wagner used to gain headlines and to enforce his brand of morality (or immorality). The homosexual community has tired of the old "We Walk in Shadows" routine. We want to stay in the sunlight from now on. Efforts to force us back into the closet could be disastrous for all concerned.

The above, while a true evaluation of the situation, does not explain why the raid on the Stonewall caused such a strong reaction. Why the Stonewall, and not the Sewer or the Snake Pit? The answer lies, we believe, in the unique nature of the Stonewall. This club was more than a dance bar, more than just a gay gathering place. It catered largely to a group of people who are not welcome in, or cannot afford, other places of homosexual social gathering.

The "drags" and the "queens", two groups which would find a chilly reception or a barred door at most of the other gay bars and clubs, formed the "regulars" at the

-more-

The gay view . . .

Stonewall. To a large extent, the club was for them. Should Harry's, or Julius's, for example, be closed for any reason, the middle class "respectable" customers would find another place to meet, drink and socialize before the night was over. Apart from the Goldbug and the One Two Three, "drags" and "queens" had no place but the Stonewall. (And the first two will close shortly because the buildings have been sold.)

Another group was even more dependent on the Stonewall: the very young homosexuals and those with no other homes. You've got to be 18 to buy a drink in a bar, and gay life revolved around bars. Where do you go if you are 17 or 16 and gay? The "legitimate" bars won't let you in the place, and gay restaurants and the streets aren't very sociable.

Then too, there are hundreds of young homosexuals in New York who literally have no home. Most of them are between 16 and 25, and came here from other places without jobs, money or contacts. Many of them are running away from unhappy homes (one boy told us, "My father called me 'cocksucker' so many times, I thought it was my name"). Another said his parents fought so much over which of them "made" him a homosexual that he left so they could learn to live together.

Some got thrown out of school or the service for being gay and couldn't face going home. Some were even thrown out of their homes with only the clothes on their backs by ignorant, intolerant parents who'd rather see their kid dead than homosexual.

They came to New York with the clothes on their backs. Some of them hustled, or had skills enough to get a job. Others weren't attractive enough to hustle, and didn't manage to fall in with people who could help them. Some of them, giddy at the openness of gay life in New York, got caught up in it and some are on pills and drugs. Some are still wearing the clothes in which they came here a year or more ago.

Jobless and without skills -- without decent clothes to wear to a job interview -- they live in the streets, panhandling or shoplifting for the price of admission to the Stonewall. That was the one advantage to the place -- for \$3.00 admission, one could stay inside, out of the winter's

cold or the summer heat, all night long. Not only was the Stonewall better climatically, but it also saved the kids from spending the night in a doorway or from getting arrested as vagrants.

Three dollars isn't too hard to get panhandling, and nobody hustled drinks in the Stonewall. Once the admission price was paid, one could drink or not, as he chose. The Stonewall became "home" to these kids. When it was raided, they fought for it. That, and the fact that they had nothing to lose other than the most tolerant and broadminded gay place in town, explains why the Stonewall riots were begun, led and spearheaded by the "queens".

This, then, is another problem for the whole community, and not just the gay community. These young people must be helped. Young homosexuals and "queens" need places to socialize as much as older and more "respectable" homosexuals do. The victims of society's prejudice and hostility toward homosexuality need help and must get it somewhere. If it is true that the Stonewall was run by "underworld figures", as many claim, we have seen a horrible example of society ignoring a serious social problem and handing youths with problems over to organized crime for "help".

The police may make their statements about enforcing the law and fighting organized crime, but unless the laws are made more realistic and the community accepts some responsibility for the homosexual and his needs, the poor cop is going to have to take the abuse for society's mistakes and irresponsibility.

dl.

* * *

THIS MONTH

Date: August 13 - 8:15 P.M.
Place: Freedom House, 20 West 40th St.
TOWN HALL MEETING
Topic: Riots, Civil Rights, Trees for Queens, etc.
Donation: \$1.00

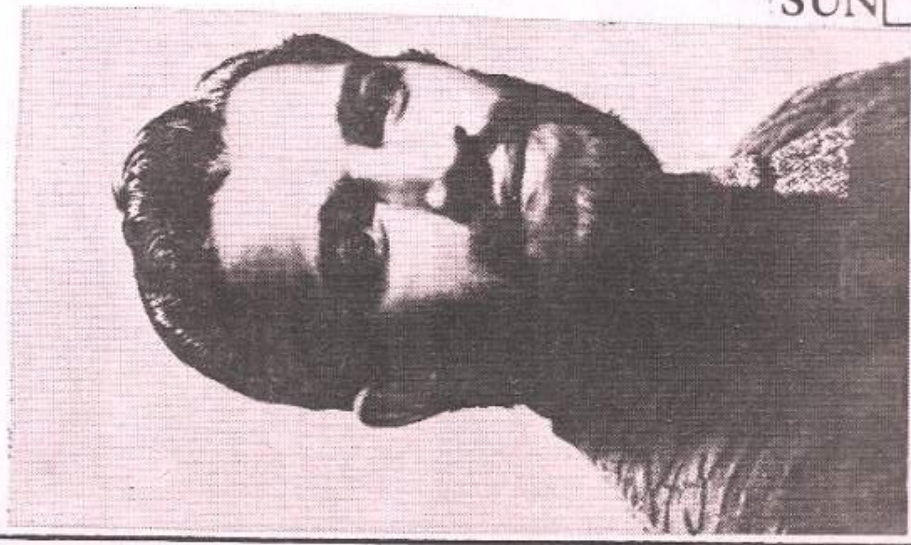
The meeting will be devoted to reports of what has happened to date, and to making plans for the future.

* * *

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FEDS CAN'T FIRE GAYS

A U.S. Court of Appeals has ruled that federal Civil Service employees can't be fired merely because they're gay. By a 2-1 decision handed down on July 1, the court held that homosexuality is only a ground for dismissing an employee if it can be shown that his homosexuality affects his job performance or the efficiency of his department.

The case in question involved a NASA employee who was arrested in 1963 by a morals squad officer after a homosexual rendezvous with another man. The NASA man denied homosexual conduct, but NASA investigators pursued the case and the employee was discharged for "immoral, indecent and disgraceful conduct."

The man applied for reinstatement to the Civil Service Commission and the U.S. District Court, but lost both appeals. The U.S. Court of Appeals, in a decision written by Chief Judge David L. Bazelon, joined by Judge J. Skelly Wright and opposed by Judge Edward A. Tamm, reversed the lower decisions. The next step, if there should be one, would be the U.S. Supreme Court. There is some doubt that the government will appeal the case and risk getting beaten again.

Judge Bazelon's opinion chastised the government for trying to justify the dismissal of an employee "merely by turning its head and crying 'shame'." A protected federal employee, the judge noted, can only be fired for "such cause as will promote the efficiency of the service." Even though a man is a homosexual, there is no proof that his dismissal would have "promoted the efficiency of the service." The man's own supervisor, the judge wrote, called him a "competent employee" performing "very good work."

"The notion that it could be an appropriate function of the federal bureaucracy to enforce the majority's conventional codes of conduct in the private lives of its employees is at war with elementary concepts of liberty, privacy and diversity," Judge Bazelon continued.

The government had argued that it sufficed simply for the Civil Service Commission to make the judgment that the homosexual conduct was "immoral." Bazelon answered, "A pronounce-

ment of 'immorality' tends to discourage careful analysis because it unavoidably connotes a violation of divine, Olympian or otherwise universal standards of rectitude."

The lone dissenter, Judge Tamm, recently replaced Warren E. Burger, the new Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Tamm continued Burger's tradition of dissenting from the two liberal judges of the Court of Appeals.

Judge Tamm claimed the court majority "violates the judicial cloister" by substituting its own judgment for that of the Civil Service Commission, and "rushes out, robes flying, into the forbidden area of administrative discretion." Bazelon and Wright, Tamm said, ignored "reality" to "pursue exotic ideas lurking in the legal underbrush."

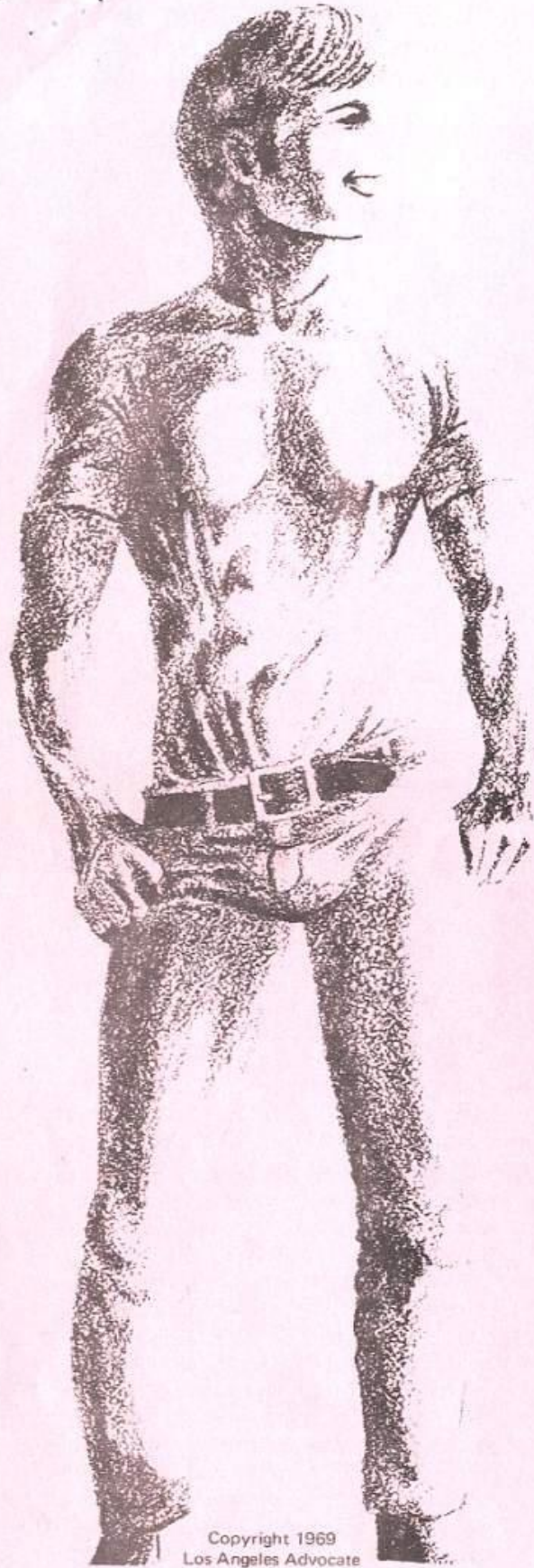
In 1967, the Lindsay administration removed municipal discrimination against employment of homosexuals, except where homosexuality might interfere with the employee's job performance.

The welfare Department held out and continued to fire known homosexuals, but a federal court recently brought this hold-out department to heel. (MSNY newsletter, June, 1969). The New York State Civil Service claims never to have had a policy of discrimination, and few clear-cut cases of any New York State discrimination have come to light.

* * *

BARRY GRAY PROGRAM

Did anyone hear the Barry Gray program a couple of weeks ago, during which someone is supposed to have said that mayoral candidate Mario Proccacino would get the gay vote? That's the way we heard it, but when we tried to check with Gray's producer, Judith Morris, she insisted that Barry made the crack and it wasn't supposed to be taken seriously. Our informant said there was some discussion among the guests, but when we asked Miss Morris, she got very huffy and said to "forget it." Would any self-respecting homosexual vote for Proccacino???



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GAY POWER seems to be the newest cry in the city as a result of the Stonewall bust - and lest we forget, it took the swishy, fem queens to start the ball rolling. I'm all for it as long as the movement is disciplined, organized and done within the law. I don't want my bleached head busted and I don't want my fans' heads split open, either.....Speaking of bleached hair, I was positively miffed that at the gay liberation meeting held last month in the Village, my beautiful light ash brown dye job painstakingly done just the evening before, was bleached blonde by the strong British TV lights when they decided to tape the meeting.....The unofficial reason for the BEACH PARTY cancellation was that the Parks Dept. read my July column and refused to let me on the beach in my band-aid bikini. Such a waste of butch masculinity!!!!.....To my amazement, I found there are several discussion groups for transvestites already in existence, the New York one headed by EVE BROWNE a well-known TV. They are mainly friendship groups, but they are popular. I've received only one bite re: the TV club (from Leslie, whose story was written up in a recent issue of PLEASURE), so I've decided to open up the discussion group to all homosexuals regardless of their scene. The first meeting will be in October on a Thursday evening - possibly in the Village - and will meet every other week to see how it is received. MSNY needs a discussion group, with the gay person now beginning to protest his situation as a second-class citizen. Also, there are thousands of gay guys and gals who do not wish to be involved in a militant way, and I think MSNY has lost touch with these individuals. I know I've blasted the WSDG and other groups, but I'll just have to swallow my words and forever hold my piece -- oops, peace. (Well, I'll do both).....The WSDG is moving to the Church of the Holy Apostles on Aug. 6 since the CORDUROY CLUB has closed. Bernie, by the way, has informed me that he will try to re-

open the club on his own. The CORDUROY was a financial success but a social flop... During the Christopher St. riots I met a former, young, dedicated MS worker who left the movement on account of "falling in love." And besides he's become extremely conservative. I still wonder why most homosexuals leave the movement when they find themselves a lover.....Several of the planks in the LIBERAL PARTY's platform this year include legalization of marijuana and abolition of the private consensual sex act laws. Regardless of what some people say, vote for JOHN LINDGAY this year and if you can, volunteer for his campaign at his groovy HQ at a former dept. store site on 52nd & 5th Ave. The male workers there are sexy and I've already made out.....I was deeply saddened by the death of JUDY GARLAND. And Harriet Van Horne's column was so depressing when she took on the role of amateur psychiatrist by asserting that we liked Judy because our lives were wrecked at an early age beyond repair just like hers. I loved Judy because she sang from the heart and made loneliness a beautiful thing. The recent book on her life left me positively outraged on account of its inaccuracies and misinformation. The television tribute to her was good because of our own loveable JUDITH CRISI's presence. I've been asked if Judy was gay. JUDY was a total woman capable of anything. Her many friends included well-known homosexuals and many not so well-known. I do not intend to sensationalize her death. Rest in peace, Judy, you deserve it after being used most of your life. Amen.....I visited the area in Queens that was destroyed by the straight vandals, many times before the destruction. The bushes there were populated by no more than fifteen people and most of them were under 21. They were mostly neighborhood kids who had no place to go to make out, and the only ones who made noise were those latent queens who were rejected..... Avoid the men's room at the WARWICK HOTEL - a phony "cop" may shake you down. My informer advises me that he works at the nearby parking lot. We could stop him if someone would press charges..... Since no one has ever mentioned it, did you know that the RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL is quite cruisy??....Mucho trouble on the PROMENADE in Bklyn Heights now but usually only after midnight. There have been several stabbings and muggings....Didn't our

D.D.....

sexy Exec. Director go to HARRY'S BACK EAST after the last monthly forum? With Dick L.'s lover away for two weeks, I imagine he was looking for a little excitement. Dick complains that he knows everyone. Socially or sexually???.....OUR FRIEND IRMA has broken up her love affair because she says it interferes with her trips to the CONTINENTAL and the SAUNA. She claims she made a few dollars on the side recently. That's pretty good for such an old queen.....Have you heard of the new card game called FIRS ISLAND? In it the QUEENS are wild....AVA-GRAPH Films is currently making a new color nude film about the BIBLES, of all things. I will star as John the Baptist but I'm wrecked that I'll have to lose my head.... I DID NOT ENDORSE THE FILM "STUD FARM." The endorsement, as published in our newspapers, came from our legal adviser, who happens to like young numbers. The film does mark a breakthrough for nude male films but you can get more excitement by buying a physique magazine that you can look at several times. The real sad thing is that the star's basket is NEVER shown in the raw. And the admission price at these theaters is exorbitant. Five dollars is just too high. When I saw the film, I flew down to the tearoom and met several real studs there. I understand activities there have become rampant.....Aren't the newspapers a real camp? The film has been retitled "STUDY FARM", "DUDE FARM", etc., depending upon what paper you read. Also, the words for "selective audiences," "in the life adults only", "for very liberal-minded adults only." Why don't they just come out and say for GAY AUDIENCES only?.....I have not seen "MARY'S TRADES." These are the AMG films and are mostly the same thing. Gerard Malanga's MALE MAGAZINES shows more action and a few erections. For the price, I'll stick to the baths....."MYRA BRECKINRIDGE" has finally been cast with RAQUEL WEICH in the title role...."BARBARA" -- the first group orgy film, was recently shot out at Cherry Grove. It will not be shown in this country....."THE GAY DECEIVERS" is now playing at the DEMILLE and features two youths trying to avoid the draft by pretending to be homosexuals. I saw it during a preview and laughed myself sick.....The porno book store on Court St. in Bklyn was showing MALE color films with wild activity. But

the place has now been busted, so it's too late, fellows....Do go see MIDNIGHT COWBOY. It's a sad story but the acting is superb and it's well worth a visit....Saw an interesting gay play at the PLAYBOX called SWEET TOM. About a hustler whose activities are recorded by a plainclothesman voyeur. The play was important in that it showed that many of the plainclothesmen were indeed voyeurs and got sexual thrills from their jobs. The TRANSIT AUTHORITY should see this play.....A cute blonde male usher at the OH! CALCUTTA! show wears a bathrobe to escort you to your seat. He said he was constantly being groped by the patrons. One couple offered him \$100 to strip to the raw right in the aisles but he declined. He is cute and juicy.....Our own PUDGY ROBERTS appeared on the DAVID FROST show doing his GORILLA strip. Pudgy is planning several road shows and will call one of them "THE MATTACHINE.".....visited the Christopher St. docks the other night and saw several of my fans there.....On the way back I dropped into the OPULENT ERA GALLERIES run by Frank Cianflone at 102 Christopher. Frank now is selling the Newsletter as well as his antiques. If you saw D.D. sent you and are especially nice to him, you will get a discount as well as a surprise. Good cruising there, too.....Our next big fund-raising event will be the annual nallowe'en Ball on November 1.....Put the Discussion Group on your calendar and let's make it a big success. See ya next month.....

* * *

BOYS OUT OF JAIL

Those who were at the special meeting on July 16 at St. John's-in-the-Village will remember that we took up a collection, which totalled \$105.00, to try to get two boys out of jail who had been arrested during the rioting. Dick Leitsch turned the money over to one of our lawyers, who then took the necessary steps to get the two out on bail. They still have to stand trial, but at least they are out of jail, and will be defended by Mattachine lawyers.

* * *

WILD OSCAR went to London for a couple of weeks - hence no column this month. But he'll be back.

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