

It's Time

Newsletter of the National Gay Task Force • Vol. 7, no. 2 • February-March 1980

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY RESULTS



HOPING TO CLOSE WINDOWS. Jan Oxenberg of the National Association of Lesbian and Gay Filmmakers, Lynn Campbell of Women Against Pornography, NGTF's Lucia Valeska, and Jane Roberts, fund-raiser for the movie project of *Rubyfruit Jungle*, at the January 22 press conference concerning the controversial film "Windows." Photo by Lynne Reynolds.

Kennedy Pledges Support

PROMISES EXECUTIVE ORDER AND SUPPORT FOR PLATFORM PLANK

Senator Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) announced that he would sign an executive order banning discrimination against homosexuals in government employment and services if he is elected president. The National Gay Task Force said that Kennedy also pledged to support a plank in the Democratic platform that would support the rights of gay men and lesbians to full participation in the social, economic, and political life of the nation.

"We regard this as a significant commitment," NGTF Co-Executive Directors Charles F. Brydon and Lucia Valeska said. "This is the first meaningful commitment to gay rights from the Kennedy campaign. Many gay Democrats will look more favorably on his candidacy as a result." Brydon and Valeska said that Kennedy's commitments were substantially the same as pledges made by California Governor Edmund J. Brown at a gay rights fundraiser in Washington last November.

Although NGTF has yet to receive a formal response to its survey of presidential candidates from the Carter/Mondale campaign organization, White House officials have already committed the administration to a serious review of our request for an executive order. "We take them at their word," Valeska and Brydon observed.

With the Kennedy and Brown pledges it is almost certain that the Democratic convention will hear and debate a resolution on gay rights. Efforts to get a similar platform plank in 1972 and 1976 were stalled in committee.

"The importance of an executive order is not merely symbolic," Brydon and Valeska pointed out. "A number of federal agencies still have specific bars against even low level gay employees. It is an irrational and unwarranted intrusion into the private lives of citizens."

Redefining the Family

GAYS BEGIN UPHILL FIGHT TO ACHIEVE RECOGNITION

The White Conference on Families is now in full swing across the country and will continue with scheduled events taking place through August 1980. The National Advisory Committee, from which gay people were excluded, continued to hold regular meetings in Washington. Two issues being discussed which are a major concern to NGTF are the problem of right-wing takeover of state-level conferences (and delegate selection by state) and the committee's delineation of criteria and the process for selection of at-large delegates to the three major regional conferences: Baltimore (June 5-7), Minneapolis (June 19-21), and Los Angeles (July 10-12).

Four of the national-level hearings have already taken place in Connecticut, Washington, D.C., Michigan, and Washington State. Lesbians and gay men have testified at each hearing. NGTF Board members testified on the Task Force's behalf at the Washington, D.C., hearing in November. They stressed that gay families share many of the attributes that characterize straight families, and that a broad definition of the family could easily include both homosexual and heterosexual relationships. Carolyn Handy maintained that a serious problem results from misinformed or antagonistic state government agencies that automatically refer gay youths to often homophobic psychiatrists or insensitive juvenile court judges who label gay youngsters as "incorrigible" and fault their equally unenlightened parents as if the child's homosexuality—and not the crime—were at issue. Franklin Kameny pointed to the so-called "family fanatics" who raise the traditional (heterosexual) nuclear family so far above its true merit (which is not at issue), and in so doing denigrate other equally viable family units, such as gay families

(continued on page 3)

Report Submitted at January Board Meeting

The National Gay Task Force Membership Survey was mailed in November 1979 and by the end of the year about 37% of the surveys had been returned completed to the NGTF office. This unexpected high return was a clear indication of the membership's interest in the future of NGTF. At the January 1980 Board of Directors meeting held in New York City, the results of the survey were presented. The Membership Survey Committee consisted of the following members: Michael Greenly (chair), Charles F. Brydon, Andrew Garfinkel, Linda Guthrie, Jeff Johnson, Andrew Rubinfeld, and Ginny Vida.

The results of the survey will provide invaluable information for the NGTF co-executive directors, the staff, and the board of directors. First, and of greatest importance, the survey results reveal the strengths and the weaknesses of the Task Force. By analyzing these areas, it is possible to get the most out of membership development, fundraising, public relations work, and advertising. Second, the members' attitudes toward the priorities and the issues affecting gay men and lesbians—and more specifically NGTF's role regarding these matters—will guide NGTF in the political arena in the 1980s. Third, a close study of the survey reveals a vast wealth of talent and commitment on the part of the members. The future use of this essential resource will not go overlooked.

What follows is an abbreviated version of the Board meeting presentation of the survey results. It should be noted that these figures represent the tabulation of one out of three returned surveys, and that just over 37% of NGTF's nearly 10,000 members responded.

Regarding demographics, the majority of the survey respondents are male (85%), white (95%), and single (85%). The average age is 38 years. About 45% of the members live alone; 36% have same-sex partners. Although over 90% are non-parents, those who have children have full custody rights (52%), shared custody rights (30%), or no custody rights (18%). The educational status of the membership is surprisingly high: 83% have completed college, and the largest single group (45%) are those who have completed graduate or professional school. About 70% of the members have not served in the military; just over 2% have received less than honorable discharges. Forty-two percent claim no religious affiliation; 57% regard themselves as Democrats and 13% as Republicans. Nearly half (49%) of all NGTF members live in three states: New York (25%) California (19%), and Illinois (5%). Over two-thirds reside in an urban environment;

54% rent their housing. The occupations tend to be professional (35%), educator (15%), and managerial (15%). Fifteen percent of the members belong to labor unions. The average yearly income is quite high: about 47% of the members earn over \$20,000, and 21% over \$30,000.

Regarding membership, the top two reasons for originally joining NGTF were "a national gay rights group is needed in addition to local groups" and "want to help end double standard that favors heterosexuals and discriminates against homosexuals." Members renewed their membership predominantly for the same reasons. Most current members originally heard about the Task Force in the gay media (46%); this is an important indication of the effectiveness of NGTF's advertising. When asked why friends have not joined NGTF, a plurality (43%) of the respondents chose "[they] don't understand what NGTF is or does." In its attempts to reach new members, NGTF must be not only more visible and vocal but clear about what kind of organization it is and what kinds of work it does. Just under two-thirds (63%) of NGTF's members belong to other lesbian or gay organizations, primarily political (60%) and social (37%). When asked how they would assist NGTF in membership development, one-third (33%) said they would help *directly* by hosting get-togethers, staffing membership tables, and paying costs for an NGTF ad in a local newspaper.

On the issues, NGTF members gave the following responses. Keep in mind that most members responded to the survey in late November. In the 1976 presidential election, 65% voted for Carter and 19% for Ford. When asked who they would most likely (as of November 1979) support for president in 1980, 34% chose Kennedy, 18% chose Brown, and 14% chose Carter. The issues that NGTF members feel the most strongly about are: "right of openly gay men/lesbians to teach in public schools," "expanded use of solar power," "Equal Rights Amendment," and "right of gay men/lesbians to adopt children." The top NGTF priorities, according to the members responding to the survey, were: "promoting gay rights legislation," "promoting a positive lesbian/gay male image in the media," "working with federal agencies to eliminate antigay policies," and "challenging antigay discrimination in the courts."

The responses to the questions relating to NGTF's news publications all pointed to a revitalization of the newsletter, *It's Time*—something that is already in the process of change as the new format for the newsletter and the Action Report indicate.



EYE TO EYE. The cover photograph of JEB's portrait album reviewed in this issue of *It's Time*.

NATIONAL GAY TASK FORCE

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LETTERS

"I haven't time to waste"

I would like to join NGTF. Please excuse me if I get a bit carried away. I hope you don't think I'm crazy but I have only recently become fully aware that I am a lesbian, and I feel so free deep down inside, and I am so proud and happy, that I need to share it. My awareness of my homosexuality grew slowly and gently over the past five years—almost like an evolutionary process, naturally and irreversibly. It was a most enjoyable and interesting growth experience. Any doubts that I may have had disappeared completely just this past September. It wasn't until I landed in the hospital for a few weeks in December that I began to rethink all of my values, needs, and goals. Strange as it seems, sickness sometimes helps one to put things in proper perspective. I'm 38 years old—I haven't time to waste in the closet. I am anxious to come out but I need to make new friends. I need to develop a sense of purpose and a feeling of belonging through involvement in the community. Joining NGTF is one of the first steps toward that goal. Thanks for bearing with me—

name withheld
New York City

Dear Members and Friends:

As the 1980 presidential campaign gathers momentum and interest, we would like to point out two important referendum battles to be held in California on June 3rd: the city of San Jose and Santa Clara county.

Last August, both the Board of Supervisors of Santa Clara County and the San Jose City Council, approved ordinances prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in employment, housing, and public services. This past fall, however, religious fundamentalists gathered the necessary signatures to force public referenda on both ordinances (which cover approximately 800,000 people in San Jose and unincorporated areas of Santa Clara County). Once more, our rights and the protection of those rights are being questioned; and once more we must do as much as possible to defeat an anti-gay initiative that would deny us those rights.

Just as NGTF members contributed to the campaigns in Dade County, Seattle, Eugene, Wichita, and California (the Briggs initiative), we want to urge you to consider supporting the campaigns in Santa Clara County.

Enclosed with this newsletter is an appeal from the Santa Clara Valley Coalition for Human Rights. Please take a look at their flyer and consider supporting their campaign, or we should say *our* campaign because the rights of lesbians and gay men everywhere are challenged by these referenda.

Also, a word about the irregularity of the arrival of your copy of *It's Time*. You are all probably aware of the lack of sufficient staff at the NGTF office and the great dependence on the time and energies of volunteers. The justified complaint that the newsletter arrives too late is still very much a matter requiring further adjustment of the several volunteers' schedules that must be coordinated to get *It's Time* out on time. Please bear with us for a few months. We are trying to make the newsletter not just a report of what NGTF is doing but, rather, a forum for the issues that concern lesbians and gay men across the country. We welcome your letters, your photos, your articles, and most of all your suggestions and your patience.

Charles F. Brydon
Lucia Valeska

1979 Audit

This issue of the newsletter contains the official audit of the National Gay Task Force for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1979. This audit is required by our by-laws and the laws of New York State, and is our commitment to informing our members about NGTF financial activity. Even if you don't normally review financial documents, we urge you to read this report carefully (on back page).

Last October, we wrote to you about the difficult financial situation faced by NGTF. Although revenues had grown each year, they had not grown fast enough to meet the program commitments which NGTF had undertaken during the past two fiscal years. A deficit resulted as shown in the deficit balance in fund category. In response, NGTF reduced expenses by 10% in its current budget to remove this deficit and to generate the working capital which had been exhausted. As a result of careful budgeting and the positive response of our members, we are pleased to report that as of late February our balance in fund is now \$1,499. in the red. Our financial condition has improved and, as a consequence, the immediate crisis is behind us. This is no small accomplishment and we are encouraged. However, we have some distance to travel before we are restored to full fiscal health. We must restore the working capital fund. To do so will require continued restraint in spending and your help in building new membership. We can do it!

Charlie Lucia

BOARD MEETING • JANUARY 25-27

Heard and discussed results of the Membership Survey

Raised general membership fee to \$30 (see article in next issue)

Reconstituted Board Personnel Committee

Changed by-laws to allow for Board elections every other year rather than every year (see article in next issue)

Discussed aspects of racism

"Cruising" and "Windows"

After many tension-filled weeks of demonstrations at the film sites last summer in New York City, and a subsequent national educational campaign against the film, "Cruising" opened nationwide on February 15.

On February 4, Lucia Valeska present at the New York press conference and preview of the film noted that "while the finished movie amounts to a pallid rendition of [Director William] Friedkin's original ambitions . . . the overall message is that it is both physically dangerous and psychologically devastating to be gay or in the proximity of gay people." Because the film industry's quiet practice of informal censorship long kept lesbians and gay men invisible on both sides of the camera, Valeska pointed out that the movie's "immediate effect will be destructive, unless the gay community intervenes and takes concrete steps to turn the situation around."

NGTF took action to coordinate the numerous protest attempts by various groups and individuals across the country by outlining several ways in which local gay groups might effectively protest the film's release in their neighborhood. NGTF relayed this information to newly-formed

coalitions from Boston to San Francisco. These groups planned and engaged in actions such as demonstrations, picketing, petitioning, holding educational forums, and distributing leaflets to theater audiences.

A similar situation developed around the film "Windows," a "romantic thriller" whose plot features a psychotic lesbian killer who hires a man to rape her best friend with whom she is secretly in love. The equation of lesbianism with psychotic violence is an old and very tired stereotype. And the film's treatment of rape is equally unreal.

The National Gay Task Force joined with the National Association of Lesbian and Gay Filmmakers to protest the mid-January release of the film. Using the "free" publicity available due to the large amounts of money United Artists is pouring into the advertising campaigns for both films, NGTF and NALGT—as outlined at a January 22 press conference—will maintain a stance of educating the public about the realities of homosexuality and the damage sensational and grossly misrepresenting films such as "Cruising" and "Windows" can have on gay men and women.

PROFILE:

Born in Frankfurt-am-Main, Germany, Richard Plant has been an author, teacher, screenwriter, opera librettist (*Lizzie Borden*), and essayist. Today he is an acknowledged authority on the persecution of homosexuals by the Nazis. Richard Plant is also a member of the National Gay Task Force because it is "a force for good, a unifying medium" in the struggle for gay liberation.

Dr. Plant began his work on the fate of gays in the concentration camps after fleeing Germany in 1933. He worked off and on—and in obscurity—for almost forty years. A 1975 lecture at a conference of the Gay Academic Union was the first inkling most of the gay community or the general public had of this aspect of the Holocaust; an excerpt of his work-in-progress appeared in the February 1977 issue of *Christopher Street*. Since then, Dr. Plant has continued his research; in addition he has served as a consultant for the current Broadway drama *Bent* which is set in Dachau.

Now living in New York City, Richard Plant is impressed by the diversity of the gay rights movement in the United States. The homogeneity of the gay emancipation movement in Germany in the 1920s was, perhaps, its fatal weakness. According to Dr. Plant, Germans now look to the United States for leadership in the fight for gay and lesbian liberation. Our natural allies, he feels, are other minorities and women, other persecuted segments that are "part of the pluralism of America."

Family

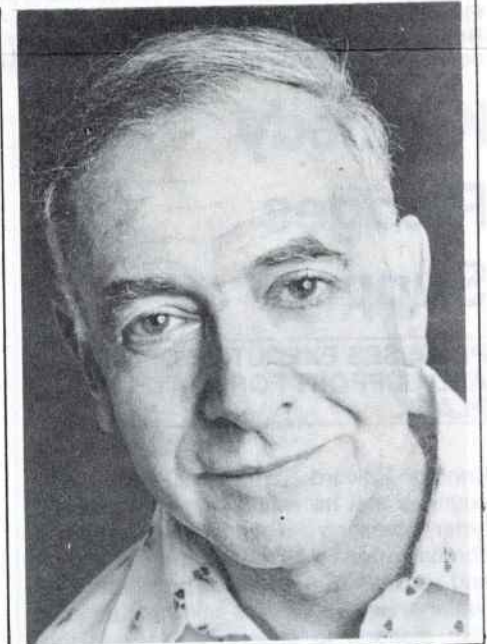
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State Activities

Virginia, South Dakota, and Oklahoma have already held state conferences, and the New York conference, among others, is well-organized coalition of anti-feminist, anti-abortion, and anti-gay forces. Oklahoma has suffered under a similar attack from an ultra-conservative coalition. Many state conference coordinators are attempting to avert the same situation in their own states by instituting rigorous control over local activities and the delegate selection process. The remedies chosen are of debatable value and of concern to NGTF. Gay organizations and individuals may also fall under the current catch-word classification of "well-organized, special interest group." While liberal states may consistently block only the efforts of ultra-conservative groups under the new "tightening-up process," more conservative states may consistently prohibit gay participation with the same device. NGTF plans to take a strong position in support of democratically run state and national conferences. If this means that NGTF will have to be as organized as the right wing in order to ensure lesbian and gay participation, then so be it. Any long run gains for gay rights and visibility will be dependent on a high level of organization in any case.

Future Role

To date NGTF has played a significant role in conference activities. Former NGTF staff member Ron Gold's participation in the coalition and his "Family Memorandum" have received national commendation from many distinct quarters. Lucia Valeska's participation in one coalition meeting and the Wingspread Conference in Racine, Wisconsin, where state coordinators were briefed by coalition members, reinforced NGTF's initial goal of high visibility for lesbian and gay concerns in the conference. As the conference proceeds, however, NGTF staff may be unable to keep up with the demands generated. Unless NGTF gains additional support for its efforts, remaining conference activities will take place without significant NGTF input.

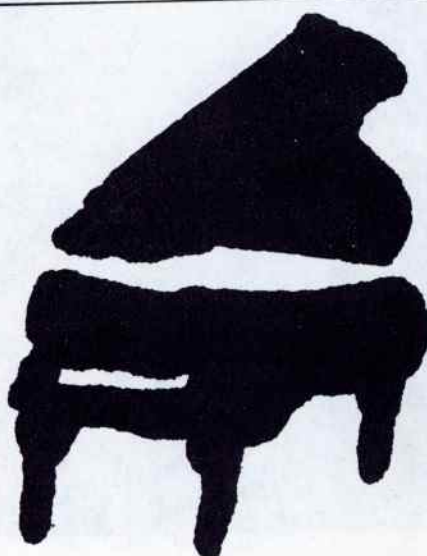


NEED OF THE MONTH

- Camera for taking photos for *It's Time*

NEW YORK AREA MEMBERS

Do you work nights or afternoons? Are you unemployed or in school or independently wealthy? If you have spare daytime hours during the week, NGTF needs you. We are seeking volunteers to commit four hours a week (more if you can) to help out in our office. We need dependable, friendly people to receive visitors, answer phones, and perform various clerical tasks. We'd like you to commit yourself to a regular four-hour time slot for a three-month period (renewable, of course!); hours are 10-2 and 2-6, Monday-Friday. If you're interested, contact Judy Burns at 741-5800 and we'll set up an interview.



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ACTIONREPORT

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION/REPORTS ON RESULTS

DAVID STEIN, EDITOR

FEEL FREE TO REPRINT ANY ITEM BELOW—BUT PLEASE CREDIT NGTF.

BREAK OUT THE BUBBLY

The legal monopoly on the pleasures of oral and anal sexual intercourse long enjoyed by married couples in New York State was finally broken on January 24 when the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court for Western New York declared the state's "deviate sexual intercourse" law unconstitutional. The five-judge panel unanimously overturned the "consensual sodomy" conviction of Syracuse man Ronald Onofre for making love with another man in the privacy of his own home. At present the ruling applies only to the twenty-two counties—which include the cities of Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, and Ithaca—over which the court has jurisdiction. But if the district attorney in Syracuse decides to appeal the decision to the Court of Appeals, New York's highest court, the "sodomy" statute could be invalidated for the entire state. At this writing, a final decision whether to appeal had not been made.

Mr. Onofre was represented by Ms. Bonnie Strunk of Syracuse and Ms. Margot Karle of New York City. Ms. Karle is president of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, which has been publicizing the case and raising money for the defense costs, and also represents NGTF in our suit against the U.S. Bureau of Prisons to give inmates access to gay printed materials. Although the attorneys expressed some surprise over the favorable ruling by the Western Appellate Division, known as a "conservative" court, they have felt confident all along that the statute would be invalidated by the Court of Appeals. "We're hoping for an appeal," Lambda Executive Director Ed Glorius told us, "because we think we'll win."

The Appellate Division's ruling was based on the constitutional "right to privacy" that has been outlined by various U.S. Supreme Court decisions in recent years. "Personal sexual conduct is a fundamental right," the judges stated, "protected by the right to privacy because of the transcendental importance of sex to the human condition, the intimacy of the conduct, and its relationship to a person's right to control his or her own body. The right is broad enough to include sexual acts between nonmarried persons and intimate homosexual conduct." Ms. Karle commented to *Gay Community News* that this "is the broadest, most affirmative statement of the right to privacy we have seen in any decision involving sex between adults." Thomas F. Coleman of the National Committee for Sexual Civil Liberties, which filed a friend-of-the-court brief in the case, sees the New York decision as a sign of "growing judicial recognition of the right to sexual privacy" and thinks that it "can be used as a precedent in states where other litigation of a similar nature is pending, such as Pennsylvania and Oklahoma."

For more information about the January decision in *People v. Onofre* and its possible appeal, or to make a tax-deductible contribution in aid of this essential gay-rights effort, write Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc., 22 E. 40th St., New York, NY 10016; (212) 532-8187.

ANTI-MARCH MARCH

A pro-gay inter-religious worship service and a press conference are planned in response to the anti-gay "Washington for Jesus" march scheduled this spring in the nation's capital by the right-wing coalition One Nation Under God. The worship service is tentatively scheduled for Monday, April 28 at eight in the evening, the location to be announced. The press conference, highlighting One Nation Under God's threat to the U.S. Constitution, is set for the following day at the United Methodist Building, 100 Maryland Avenue, N.E. (across from the Capitol). A statement responding to the Washington for Jesus march will be presented at that time. National gay and lesbian leaders are planning to participate. For more information, write or call Adam Debaugh, Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, 100 Maryland Ave., N.E., Suite 210, Washington, D.C. 20002; (202) 543-2260.

PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

Several gay publications have carried reports about a policy change concerning support for gay rights by Amnesty International—winner of the 1977 Nobel Peace Prize for its work on behalf of people imprisoned, tortured, or otherwise persecuted for expressing beliefs of which their governments disapprove. Unfortunately, the reports have not always been accurate, either exaggerating or understating the degree of AI's commitment to the principle of gay equality.

What happened was that at AI's 1979 International Council Meeting, held in Belgium last September, a resolution was passed "recognizing that the persecution of persons for their homosexuality is a violation of fundamental human rights." However, the council did not accept the recommendation of several national Amnesty "sections" (including the U.S.) that anyone imprisoned simply for homosexual behavior as such should be considered a "prisoner

of conscience" eligible for "adoption" by an Amnesty chapter. Rather, the council affirmed that "anyone imprisoned for the advocacy of homosexual equality... [or] on charges related to homosexuality, where this can reasonably be assumed to be a pretext for repressing advocacy of homosexual equality... could be considered as a prisoner of conscience" (emphasis added). Although this was the first time AI has explicitly expressed support for gay equality, there has been no actual change in its policy, since the organization's charter commits it to support the free expression of any "political, religious or other conscientiously held beliefs" that do not involve the advocacy of violence.

The International Council Meeting further recommended that AI's International Executive Committee "ask one or more national sections jointly to prepare an overall study of the problems involved in the possible acknowledgement of persons imprisoned solely because of their sexual orientation or nature as prisoners of conscience and present that study to the ICM in 1981 or 1982." After this is done, presumably the question of broadening AI's support for imprisoned lesbians and gay men will be raised again. In the meantime, it is expected that the 1979 ICM resolution will encourage AI chapters around the world to concern themselves with the cases of persons imprisoned or persecuted for advocating homosexual equality, whether or not these persons are themselves gay. For more information about AI, please write to Amnesty International U.S.A., 304 West 58th Street, New York, N.Y. 10019; (212) 582-4440.

GAY SCIENCE

In 1978 the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the very large and prestigious interdisciplinary association of professional scientists, passed a resolution affirming that a scientist's work should be evaluated independently of his or her sexual orientation. The following year the National Meeting of the AAAS included a scholarly symposium on methodological problems of research on homosexuality, and at the 146th National Meeting, held this past January in San Francisco, there was a symposium on "Problems Arising from Homophobia in the Scientific Workplace." A panel of six lesbian and gay scientists gave presentations to an audience of about fifty.

One of the symposiasts, clinical psychologist Allan Malyon of Los Angeles, called attention to an anti-gay book, Helen Singer Kaplan's *Disorders of Sexual Desire*, that carries a cover blurb quoting a highly favorable review in *Science*, the journal of the AAAS, without attributing it to the individual reviewer, thus implying endorsement by the AAAS as a whole. Bruce Kiernan, director of the AAAS Human Rights Office, promised to investigate the possibility of legal action against the publisher of the book.

After the symposium, there was an informal meeting of participants at which a new group, the National Organization of Lesbian and Gay Scientists, was established. For information, please write to Jeffrey Escoffier, 3195 16th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103. [GCN]

On a related note, there is in preparation an anthology of essays "exploring the experience of gay men and lesbians who are students and professionals in the sciences" edited by Michael Young and Larry White. Potential contributors should write to Messrs. Young and White, P.O. Box 1137, Chapel Hill, NC 27514, for a detailed prospectus. Please include an indication of your particular scientific background and proposed area of contribution.

IGA/USA

The Dublin-based International Gay Association (IGA), which has thirty-five member organizations in twenty countries, has opened a U.S. liaison office in Washington, D.C. The aims of the year-and-a-half-old group are "to apply concerted political pressure on governments and international bodies in the pursuit of gay rights; to maximize the effectiveness of gay organizations by coordinating political action on an international level; to promote the unity of gay people throughout the world by the collection and distribution of information on gay oppression and liberation; [and] to work for the liberation of gay people."

Although the IGA is primarily an organization of organizations, individuals are also encouraged to join to help promote its goals. For information, write or call the International Gay Association Liaison Office, c/o the Gay Community Center/DC, 1469 Church Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005; (202) 234-6268.

YOUR input is essential for the continued usefulness of the "Action Report." If you have comments, suggestions, or relevant news information, please write to David Stein, c/o NGTF, 80 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10011. Please understand that letters usually cannot be personally acknowledged.

Book Reviews

EYE TO EYE:
PORTRAIT OF LESBIANS, by JEB.
Glad Hag Press, 1979.

Reviewed by Susanna J. Sturgis

JEB's *Eye to Eye: Portraits of Lesbians* is, among many other things, an intimation of how much we have been missing, we who have grown accustomed to seeing our reflections either grossly distorted or confined within our homes and communities. JEB, a lesbian-feminist photographer and activist whose work has appeared in *Sister Wisdom*, *Off Our Backs*, *Our Right to Love*, and elsewhere, has helped with this collection to restore us to ourselves.

The intense, tender cover photograph of Kady and Pagan eloquently introduces the book's multidimensional theme of "eye to eye." Here it is two women within a picture looking into each other. In other photographs, notably those of Chris, Wendi, and Lenora, it is the viewer/reader that the subject reaches directly with her urgency and her challenge. In her forward, Joan Nestle of the Lesbian Herstory Archives remembers "the half-glance and the lowered lid" of our hiding days. No longer: here we do the difficult and radical thing of meeting each other's eyes and not looking away. We see the infinite diversity of courage and beauty in the women portrayed; we even begin to trust the same qualities in ourselves.

Visual and literary images of women have been too frequently airbrushed, unrippled by signs of strength, struggle, or growth. We often learn to praise most highly the reflections that are easy to look at. Some of JEB's most powerful photographs are not easy at all; they reach much deeper into us than most images do. I cannot forget Claudia, inches away; she seems to pause in a momentary calm between passed and anticipated turbulences. There is Connie, the sun in her face, her hair blowing back—in a wheelchair: an uncompromising insight into a struggle and an isolation about which I know very little. The whimsy of the bow tie around Lenora's neck yields to the seriousness in her strong, unwavering eyes, her grim, determined mouth.

These lesbians and the others in *Eye to Eye* are far beyond "pretty": they embody a beauty that is not traditionally allowed to women, a beauty of who we are and what we are doing rather than what we look like. These women share the experience of having met themselves eye to eye; JEB is showing us some of the many ways that we lesbians are centering ourselves and taking control of our lives. Jane's whole body concentrates on her work; her arm moves with her saw. The portrait of Joan working above the ground on the telephone wires speaks clearly of perseverance, pride, and hard-earned triumph.

Particularly impressive to me is the unself-conscious easiness that these women have with their physical selves. How rarely do we see women's bodies that are not on display for male judgment or titillation, as "beauty" queens, advertising come-ons, artist's models, or objects of fantasy. Here are women working stripped to the waist, claiming a freedom allowed only to men; here are sun-splashed Darquita and Denyeta sharing a moment of tenderness in one of the loveliest mother-daughter pictures I have ever seen; here are the sensuous lines of Flo's arm reaching over a gnarled altar with a lit candle. Their strength, their skilled and dirty hands, their nakedness, their love for women: all of these defy the years of societal conditioning that have concealed us from each other.

The passage from Adrienne Rich's "Transcendental Etude" that opens this book and gives it its title declares "a whole new poetry beginning here." It is not an extravagant claim for *Eye to Eye*, which like good poetry sparks connections and insights that were not imagined before. Many of JEB's portraits overcome the conventional limits of photography: each image, each single, captured instant embodies a history and suggests a future. Judith Schwarz's fascinating introduction provides a historical context for JEB's achievement; the "Notes on Quotes" section at the end of the book is an annotated resource guide for further exploration. The inclusion of quotes and interview excerpts by many of the lesbians in the portraits and the titling of each photograph simply with the location, the year, and the subject's name allows each woman the individuality and integrity that seem often to fall by the wayside in the name of Art.

(Susanna J. Sturgis is an expatriate New Englander and lesbian-feminist activist now living in Washington, D.C. She contributes to *Off Our Backs* and *The Blade*, the gay community newspaper of Washington and Baltimore.)

Gay Parents

by Linda Guthrie

Traditionally, gay parents have been a minority within a minority. For a variety of reasons, many gay parents have not been given the support and understanding they need, not only from the larger heterosexual world, but even from within the gay community. To straight society, the terms "gay" and "parent" often are seen as antithetical, as many people have bought the myth that gay people can't or have no desire to have children. Within the gay community, there has often been a lack of consciousness regarding the special concerns of gay parents, concerns ranging from the need for child care at gay events to help in dealing with the enormous emotional and economic burden of a custody battle.

Nowhere is society's homophobia more tragically shown than in the courtroom where decisions involving children's lives, as well as those of their parents, are often made on the basis of one judge's prejudices. The standard that is used in custody decisions is called "in the best interests of the children." This means that a judge is supposed to look at all the relevant facts concerning both parents, and make a determination of custody based on which home would best serve the children's needs. Unfortunately, many judges assume that placement of children in a heterosexual home is the best possible placement, regardless of the children's desires or the parenting ability of the parents. For many judges, "gay" automatically implies an impairment of ability to parent.

Until fairly recently, most gay parents did not openly fight court battles, knowing that there was virtually no chance of winning. While the vast majority of cases where homosexuality is an issue still lose, the last couple of years have shown some groundbreaking "wins" for gay parents. Given the difficulties involved, NGTF feels it is vitally important that every lesbian/gay parent be equipped with the most up-to-date information concerning the legal ramifications of a custody fight, the best methods of "attack" should a court battle take place, how to find a lawyer who is competent and sensitive to the special issues involved, etc. To help fill this need, NGTF has compiled a 30+ page booklet entitled the "Gay Parent's Support Packet," available for \$3. This packet contains a selection of statements from various professionals in the fields of psychiatry, psychology, and sociology, affirming that a gay parent's right to custody should be based on parenting ability, and not on sexual orientation. These letters have been used successfully as evidence in some court cases. Other sections of the packet deal with issues to be considered (legal, financial, and psychological), studies that have been done with children of gay parents, material on the use of expert testimony, a lengthy bibliography of related studies and readings, and summaries of various cases that have been won. In addition, we have a selection of official decisions issued in various custody wins which can aid lawyers in determining the best strategy to use in a particular case.

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February 1980

Municipality	Year(s) Enacted	Municipal Employment	Public Accommodations	Employment	Housing	Education	Real Estate Practices	Credit	Union Practices	Affirmative Action Program
Alfred, N.Y.	5/74	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Amherst, Ma.	5/76	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Ann Arbor, Mi.	7/72		x	x	x		x	x		
Aspen, Co.	11/77	x		x	x		x	x	x	
Atlanta, Ga. (E.O.)	7/71	x								
Austin, Tx.	7/75	x								
Berkeley, Ca.	10/78	x								
Boston, Ma. (E.O.)	4/76	x								x
Champaign, Il.	7/77		x	x	x			x	x	
Chapel Hill, N.C.	9/75	x								
Columbus, Oh.	1/79		x		x			x		
Cupertino, Ca.	2/75	x								x
Detroit, Mi.	1/79	x								
East Lansing, Mi.	5/73		x	x						
Hartford, Ct.	4/79	x		x						
Iowa City, Ia.	5/77		x	x						
Ithaca, N.Y.	9/74									x
Los Angeles, Ca.	5/77		x	x	x	x	x			
Madison, Wi.	3/75		x	x	x		x			
Marshall, Wi.	4/75		x	x	x			x		
Minneapolis, Mn.	4/74	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Mountainview, Ca.	3/75	x								x
New York, N.Y. (E.O.)	1/78	x								
Ottawa, Ont.	4/76	x								
Palo Alto, Ca.	8/74			x	x					
Portland, Or.	12/74	x								
Pullman, Wa.	4/76	x								

Municipality	Year(s) Enacted	Municipal Employment	Public Accommodations	Employment	Housing	Education	Real Estate Practices	Credit	Union Practices	Affirmative Action Program
San Francisco, Ca.	7/78		x	x	x					
San Jose, Ca.	8/79	ORDINANCE	SUSPENDED	-	REFERENDUM	PENDING	JUNE 1980			
Santa Barbara, Ca.	8/75	x								x
Seattle, Wa.	10/75	x		x						
Sunnyvale, Ca.	12/74	x					x			x
Toronto, Ont.	10/73	x								
Troy, N.Y.	1/79	x								x
Tucson, Az.	1/77	x	x	x	x				x	
Urbana, Il.										
Washington, D.C.	11/73	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Windsor, Ont.	3/77	x								
Yellow Springs, Oh.	7/75		x	x					x	

County	Year(s) Enacted	Municipal Employment	Public Accommodations	Employment	Housing	Education	Real Estate Practices	Credit	Union Practices	Affirmative Action Program
Hennepin Cty., Mn.	11/75	x								x
Howard Cty., Md.	11/75		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Ingham Cty., Mi.	6/78	x								
Minnehaha Cty., S.D.	2/75	x								
San Mateo Cty., Ca.	2/75			x	x					
Santa Clara Cty., Ca.	8/79	ORDINANCE	SUSPENDED	-	REFERENDUM	PENDING	JUNE 1980			
Santa Cruz Cty., Ca.	7/75	x								x

State or Province	Year(s) Enacted	Municipal Employment	Public Accommodations	Employment	Housing	Education	Real Estate Practices	Credit	Union Practices	Affirmative Action Program
California (E.O.)	4/79	x								
Pennsylvania (E.O.)	4/76	x								
Quebec	12/75		x	x	x					

(E.O.) denotes that the ordinance was mandated by an Executive Order

States with no restrictions on adult consensual sex acts: Alaska, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, Wyoming

Financial Records and Transaction of the National Gay Task Force, Inc., for the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 1979

EXHIBIT A

THE NATIONAL GAY TASK FORCE, INC.
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT SEPTEMBER 30, 1979

ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Petty cash	\$ 100.00
Cash in banks:	
Regular account	2,183.84
Special account	450.19
Savings account	2,171.98
North Community State Bank	4,323.00
Accounts receivable	5,992.31
Total Current Assets	\$ 15,221.32
Other Assets	
Deposits Receivable	250.00
Plant and Equipment (at cost)	8,674.96
Less: Accumulated allowance for depreciation - Note 1	(2,004.52)
Total Plant and Equipment	6,670.44
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 22,141.76
LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL	
Liabilities	
Accounts payable	\$ 26,461.64
Capital	
Balance in fund	(4,319.88)
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL	\$ 22,141.76

Note 1 - Depreciation is computed using the straight-line method over a ten year period for the office equipment.

EXHIBIT C

THE NATIONAL GAY TASK FORCE, INC.
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FINANCIAL POSITION
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 1979

Uses of Funds	
Working capital from operations:	
Net loss	\$ 31,623.85
Less: Depreciation expense	511.97
Net Decrease in Working Capital	\$ 31,111.88
Sources Causing Net Change in Working Capital	
	9/30/79
Current Assets:	
Cash	\$ 9,229.01
Receivables	18,962.68
Prepaid taxes	207.83
Total	28,399.52
Current Liabilities:	
Accounts payable	26,461.64
Net Change in Working Capital	\$ 31,111.88

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Board of Directors
 The National Gay Task Force, Incorporated
 80 Fifth Avenue, Room 1001
 New York, New York 10011

I have examined the financial records and transactions of THE NATIONAL GAY TASK FORCE, INCORPORATED for the fiscal year ended September 30, 1979, and have prepared from the books of account the following financial statements:

EXHIBIT

A Balance Sheet as at September 30, 1979
 B Statement of Revenue and Expenses for the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 1979
 C Statement of Changes in Financial Position

My examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and accordingly included such tests of the accounting records and such auditing procedures as I considered necessary in the circumstances.

In my opinion, the accompanying Balance Sheet (Exhibit A), Statement of Revenue and Expenses (Exhibit B), and Statement of Changes in Financial Position (Exhibit C) present fairly the financial position of The National Gay Task Force at September 30, 1979, and the results of its operations for the fiscal year then ended, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

H. Gerald Schiff
 Certified Public Accountant

New York, New York
 January 2, 1980

EXHIBIT B

THE NATIONAL GAY TASK FORCE, INC.
STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 1979

Revenues	
Contributions and donations	\$ 38,982.19
Restricted contributions	170,974.00
Memberships	5,218.34
Private benefits	5,500.74
Pamphlet sales and other revenues	155.41
Interest income	3,056.15
Fees	4,887.52
Direct resale items income	37,200.00
Grant income	-
Total Income	\$ 266,871.01
Expenses	
Salaries	100,306.25
Office supplies	10,414.93
Postage and mailing services	32,278.43
Printing and duplicating	16,962.76
Transportation	21,229.19
Food, lodging and entertainment	2,456.02
Telephone	28,842.60
Rent	13,966.53
Office and equipment maintenance and rentals	1,731.38
Advertising	3,086.54
Consultants fees	7,846.55
Audit and accounting fee	500.00
Legal fees	1,934.60
Payroll taxes	4,261.73
Bank charges	527.96
Depreciation	513.57
Insurance	3,213.16
Contributions	671.00
Delivery expenses	20,266.57
Restricted fund expenses	790.15
Books and subscriptions	1,670.88
Merchandise, seminars, seminars	4,692.82
Direct resale expense	4,337.66
Graphic services	2,235.83
Service bureau	2,247.72
Staff training	65.00
Moving expenses	4,676.14
Music project expenses	448.48
Total Expenses	\$ 295,494.86
Net Revenues or (Loss)	\$ (31,623.85)
Balance in Capital Fund, October 1, 1978	\$ 27,303.97
Net Revenue (Loss) for the Year	(31,623.85)
Balance in Capital Fund, September 30, 1979	(\$ 4,319.88)