



blazing star



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TRI-CITIES FACE GAY RIGHTS VOTES

On April 25 St. Paul, Minnesota voters will go to the polls to vote on a referendum calling for repeal of gay rights laws. They will be followed on May 9 by voters in Wichita, Kansas and on May 25 by voters in Eugene, Oregon. Similar efforts are underway in Seattle, Washington. In California, State Senator John Briggs is planning to introduce a measure that would prohibit both gay and pro-gay people from teaching in the public schools there.

All of these anti-gay efforts have been marked by a striking similarity to the Dade County campaign of Anita Bryant and Save Our Children. It has been reported that Bryant and her group, now called Protect America's Children (PAC), have helped plan strategy for at least some of the above campaigns. Bryant has continued speaking out against gay rights; in a recent interview in PLAYBOY, Bryant again railed against homosexuality and said she was in favor of making homosexual acts a felony punishable by twenty years in prison. The newsletter of PAC also carries much anti-gay material (see insert).

The pro-gay forces are the most hopeful about retaining the gay rights ordinance in St. Paul. There they have won the support of the Democratic Party (called the DFL in Minnesota) and of the St. Paul Labor Council. The Roman Catholic archbishop, John Roach, who had originally opposed passage of the bill, has now come out in favor of the gay rights law. The pro-gay supporters in the other two cities say that they have a much tougher fight.

In all three cities the gay rights forces are attempting to learn some lessons from Miami, in order not to have a repeat of the disastrous results there. There is a major effort to have responsibility shared equally between women and men. This is a result both of the need to fight sexism within the gay movement and to better use the experience gay women have than was done in Miami. Perhaps most important, at least to those of us outside the target cities, is the effort to coordinate activities, particularly fundraising.

On March 13, 1978, Del Martin of San Francisco and Leonard Matlovich of Washington, DC announced the formation of the TRI-CITY NATIONAL DEFENSE FUND. The fund was started for the purpose of raising funds on a national level for the three cities. In order to avoid the national publicity which occurred last year in Dade County, the cities are attempting to keep the issues local. This has severely affected their ability to raise funds. Tri-city will afford lesbians and gay men across the country the opportunity to help the people in these three cities. On announcing Tri-city, Del Martin (founder of the Daughters of Bilitis and co-author of Lesbian/Woman) said: "As Jose Serria used to say in the 50's, 'United we stand - divided they will pick us off one by one.' That's as true today as it was then. Now we must

Protect America's Children Is Against

Child Pornography



Militant Homosexuals



Sex & Violence on TV



"And other evils corrupting America's children."

What Does Sexual Preference Mean?

God never intended man to have sexual relations with other men or animals. If He had, He would never have created woman. That is why homosexuality and other sexual perversions are considered unnatural, unlawful and immoral in our present day society.

So when a person applies for a job, he must meet certain social and moral standards. This applies to Catholics, Jews, Blacks, prostitutes, alcoholics, drug addicts, ex-cons, lesbians, and the list goes on and on.

Reprinted from the Protect America's Children Newsletter

fight to retain our hard won gains we've made. What happens in the Tri-cities affects the civil rights of lesbians and gay men across the country. Give generously. Dig deep into your pockets, it's your own skin at stake." All donations will gratefully accepted and information can be obtained from: Tri-City National Defense Fund, PO Box 3949, Hollywood, CA 90028.

Here in Chicago, Dignity, GAY LIFE, and Renslow and Associates are sponsoring 'Orange Ball 2' to benefit the three cities. Orange Ball 2 will be held on April 16, 8pm at Center Stage, 3730 N. Clark. Tickets are \$5 at the door.

The target cities are also planning an exchange of campaign strategies and materials and are willing to share this with others. Through such efforts they hope to develop better campaigns for gay rights.

Los Derechos Homosexuales en Las Tres Ciudades

El día 25 de abril la gente de St. Paul, Minnesota votará sobre la cuestión de los derechos de las personas homosexuales. Aunque existen en ésta ciudad leyes prohibiendo que se haga favoritismos en perjuicio de los homosexuales hay grupos que quieren abolir éstos reglamentos. Acontecimientos similares seguirán el día 9 de mayo en Wichita, Kansas y el día 25 de mayo en Eugene, Oregon. Además, John Briggs, socio del senado del estado de California, planea introducir un proyecto de ley prohibiendo que las personas homosexuales y sus compadecidos muestran en las escuelas.

Estos esfuerzos contra los homosexuales se asemejan al esfuerzo del condado Dade (Miami) por Anita Bryant y Save Our Children (¡Salve Nuestros Niños!). Ha sido dado de cuenta de que Bryant y su organización, llamándose ahora Protect America's Children (¡Protega los Niños de la América!), han ayudado con el planeamiento de algunos de los esfuerzos susodichos. Además, ha seguido Bryant con su denuncia de los derechos homosexuales y su organización sigue delatando la gente homosexual.

Las fuerzas favoreciendo los homosexuales en St. Paul están llenas de esperanza de retener las reglas actuales. Allí en St. Paul tienen ellos el soporte del partido Democrática y el concejal laborista. El arzobispo católico, oponiendo originalmente los reglamentos, ésta ahora apoyando los derechos de homosexuales. Admiten los fuerzas de las ciudades otras que tendrán una lucha más difícil.

En las tres ciudades las fuerzas apoyando los derechos homosexuales están tratando de aprender de la derrota en el condado Dade para que no vuelva a ocurrir la misma. Además, hay un esfuerzo para compartir la responsabilidad entre las mujeres y los hombres. Ésta acción es un fruto de la lucha contra el sexismo en el movimiento homosexual y también para disfrutar de la experiencia de las mujeres homosexuales. Para nosotros que no estamos en una de las tres ciudades es más importante

coordinar nuestros esfuerzos- especialmente en reunir el dinero. En el 13 de marzo, 1978 Del Martin de San Francisco y Leonard Matlovich de Washington, DC anunciaron la formación de un fondo Tri-City National Defense Fund. Este fondo ha sido acumulado para montar dinero de todas partes del país para las tres ciudades en que se tenta derogar las ordenanzas de los derechos humanos. Para evitar la publicidad nacional que ocurrió el año pasado en el condado Dade hay un esfuerzo en las ciudades para mantener el punto en disputa como una situación local. Por eso ha sido dificultades en acumular dinero en el parte de los apoyadores homosexuales. Tri-city National Defense Fund provee una oportunidad para que homosexuales - mujeres y hombres - en todas partes del país pueden ayudar la gente de éstas tres ciudades.

Del Martin (fundadora de la organización Daughters of Bilitis y una de las autoras de Lesbian/Woman), al anunciar la incorporación del fondo declaró: "Como seña decir José Serria, 'Unidos pedemos - pero divides nes agaran uno per uno.' Durante ese tiempera la verdad y es la verdad haoy. Ahora nuestros tenemos que luchar para retener lo que ganamos. Lo que ocurra en estas tres ciudades tiene que ver con los derechos de todos los hombres y mujeres homosexuales en la nación. Contribuan con generesidad - es para propias vida." Cualquiera donaciones sera aceptada con gracias. Si quiere información favor de escribir a: Tri-City National Defense Fund, PO Box 3949, Hollywood, CA 90028.

Aquí en Chicago, Dignity, GAY LIFE y Renslow and Associates están apadrinando "Orange Ball 2" per las tres ciudades. Orange Ball 2 ocurrirá el 16 de abril a las 8 de la noche en Center Stage, 3730 N. Clark. Las billetas costaran \$5 a la puerta.

Las tres ciudades están planeando un cambio de estrategia y materiales. Con esfuerzos de éste tipe esperan que puedan desarrollar programas mejores para los derechos homosexuales.

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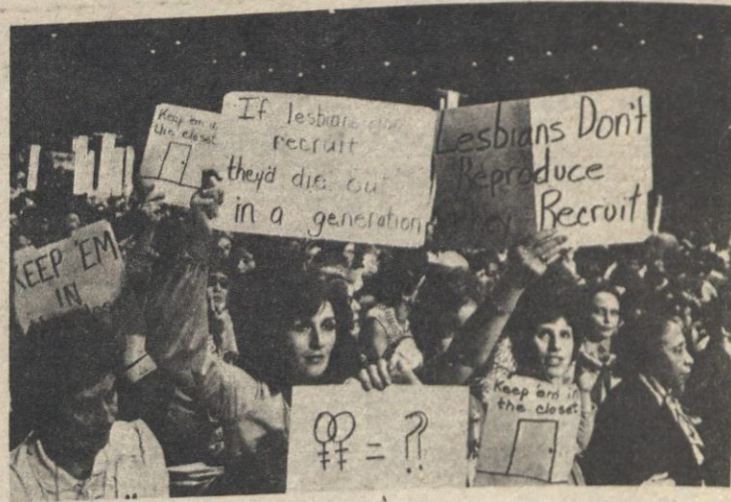
WE ARE EVERYWHERE!

by Eileen Willenborg

When the International Women's Year Conference overwhelmingly approved the pro-lesbian plank of the National Plan of Action, lesbians and their supporters released thousands of balloons over the hall to celebrate the moment. The multi-colored balloons carried the simple statement: "We Are Everywhere". The message to the conference and the nation is that lesbians live in every part of the country; we come from every race, ethnic, and class background; and we are becoming an increasingly visible part of American life.

The victory in Houston has given new impetus to the lesbian liberation movement. There are two new organizations that promise to further the cause, but that need and deserve the support of all of us. The new groups will not succeed unless every lesbian takes seriously her obligation to contribute her energy, time and ideas to help make a National Lesbian Feminist Organization and a new Lesbian Center in Chicago become a reality.

Over the week-end of March 17-19, 135 lesbians from all parts of the country gathered in Santa Monica, California to found the National Lesbian Feminist Organization (NLFO, yet another set of initials to remember!). The organization was started to continue the wave of new awareness of lesbian issues that emerged at Houston. Fighting for legal protection and civil rights for lesbians; struggling to end other forms of oppression, especially around race, class, and age; working for the continued development of lesbian culture; and educating the public in order to dispell the negative, stereotypical image of lesbians and our lifestyle are among the stated goals of the NLFO.



Anti-lesbian pickets at Houston

The NLFO will be a grassroots organization with local chapters in cities and towns across the nation. Each of the states will hold conventions within the next nine months. This will help to create a local communication networks and to build a foundation for the national group. The state conferences will discuss local and national issues and will pave the way for a national ratifying convention to be held in the Spring of 1979 in Minneapolis, MN. (Chicago was not considered because Illinois has not ratified the ERA.)

The convention was not without its flaws, and imbalances in regional and racial representation proved to be the most serious. There were very few Blacks, Latina, Native American or other Third World women to represent minority interests. All Third World observers were given delegate status in a special minority caucus. This was appropriate and underscored the organization's desire to represent all lesbians, especially minority women.

In a nearly unanimous decision, the convention adopted a provision that all future decision-making bod-

ies on the state and national level shall have equal minority representation. There will be an affirmative action committee that will insure that all possible methods of outreach to Third World women is carried on throughout NLFO.

Until a state co-ordinator is found, BLAZING STAR will serve as a communication clearinghouse for the NLFO. We need volunteers to start to plan the state convention. If you are interested in working to make the NLFO's first year a successful one, contact BLAZING STAR at P.O. Box 7892, Chicago IL. 60680, or call 312-342-2398.

En marzo se formo una organizacion nacional de las mujeres homosexuales; este acontecimiento ocurrio durante un congreso en Los Angeles. Alli se propuso d que, para ratificar esta decision, hubiera una convencion en Minneapolis/St. Paul durante la primavera que viene. Para escoger las delgadas y hablar de los puntos en disputa de cada region se propuso que se reunieran congresos en cada estado antes de la convencion de Minneapolis. Si le interesa este proyecto favor de escribir a BLAZING STAR, PO Box 7892, Chicago, IL. 60680.

SEXUALITY: When we were very young...

by Marianne Ruffino

"Daddy, next time we go fishing, can we use some 'master bait'?" From the expressions on my parents' faces, I could tell that 'master bait' was no ordinary fishing technique. "Terry in my cabin at camp, she asked me if I know how to 'master bait', and I said 'no', but she wouldn't tell me what it is."

I was eight years old and had just finished a summer at camp. My father claimed he wasn't quite sure of what it was; my mother suggested we look it up in the dictionary. Webster's offering, "digital stimulation of the genitals," was not much help, but I found out it wasn't something to put on a hook, and it was spelled m-a-s-t-u-r-b-a-t-e. I could use that to do further research on my own. But I still couldn't understand why on earth Terry laughed when I said I didn't know anything about it.

About a year later, I discovered that masturbation was the term for what I'd been doing almost every day since I was about three. So I hadn't invented it after all!! I was crushed. The book called it a 'common practice.' I didn't think it was common at all. In fact, I thought it was rather special. If I hadn't invented it, perhaps I had perfected it, elevated it from 'common practice' to art.

From what I experienced as a child and from what I now hear from other adults, no aspect of childhood is more misunderstood, ignored and/or denied than sexuality. No aspect of sexuality is ignored or denied more than individuality. The social sciences abound with theories about the psycho-sexual development of our species and the factors, syndromes and complexes that make some of us gay. As one who grew up a lesbian and one who was aware of that at a rela-

tively early age, I think it might be of some interest or at least amusement to relate some of what I felt, thought and did as a child.

Among my most vivid memories is the recollection of the Saturday morning I wandered into my parents' bedroom where my father was busily sleeping late. There he was snoring away like a motor-



"All in all, it was a great summer. My breasts started developing, I had my first period, and I discovered my clitoris."

boat, and through the gaping fly of his pajamas, what did I see but zounds! a penis. I dashed to my mother and with much urgency and amazement, informed her that my father's penis hadn't fallen off. "What are you talking about!?" Well, I had seen it, big as life, I wasn't mistaken, "Daddy still has a penis!" After some exchange of questions and answers, my mother learned that I thought everyone, male and female, was born with a penis. At the time of this incident (I was five years old.) I had only seen girls of my own age and women without clothing. All of the infant children of

As I digested that information, it occurred to me that men couldn't masturbate. I went through a period of some four years feeling the most intense pity for the men of the world. Pity, notice, not envy. If there was one thing of which I was glad, it was that I had no penis and had no chance of growing one. As you'll recall, I had discovered an astounding capability of my own genitals, and if there was one thing of which I was sure, it was that anyone with a penis couldn't do it. I would be lying, however, if I said that there was no anger or resentment. One of my greatest ambitions was to gain fame and fortune when I wrote my record-breaking, best-seller book that was to teach the world 'how to.' I was annoyed to think I would make only half the millions I expected. But I was furious because somehow intuition told me my discovery would never get the attention it deserved if men weren't in on it.

(Look for Part II: Puberty and the First Crush, in the next issue of BLAZING STAR)

What's happening.....

during Gay/Lesbian Pride Week

Plans for Gay and Lesbian Pride Week are well underway. Events already scheduled include:

June 16: Candlelight March
June 18: Picnic and Volleyball Game
June 19: Parade Preparatory Meeting
June 21: Movie Night
June 23: Loop Rally in Daley Plaza
June 23: Town Hall Meeting
June 24: Dance

June 25: 9th Annual Parade and Rally

Also several workshops are tentatively scheduled, as well as an Interfaith Religious Service. A special treat this year will be a series of Gay & Lesbian movies sponsored by the Task Force on Gay Liberation of the American Library Association, which will include: "Word Is Out", "Gay U.S.A.", "Sandy and Madeleine's Family", "In the Best Interests of the Children", and fourteen others over a four day period.

This year's Pride Week theme is "Our time has come...", which should provide a wide range of individual, contingent, and/or float options for the Parade. The guidelines for the Parade, and the Parade route will be the same as last year, with a 1 p.m. line-up on the east side of Halsted St., just south of Belmont Ave. This year, the Parade awards will be presented at the Rally, directly following the Parade procession.

Benefits to support these activities are also in the offing. They include activities at Center Stage on May 7, Petunia's on June 4, and the Knight Out on June 17. The Lost & Found and the Music Box have already sponsored benefits.

at Augie's

by Bobbie Carlotta

The past two months at Augie's have been one big blast of activities. It has always been the tradition at Augie's to celebrate individual birthdays with a cake and champagne (donated by the bar). Since there are many Pisces, Aries and Taurus people; Lynn (Augie's owner) has decided that a once a month birthday party will be held at Augie's for each sign of the year. In this way no one will be missed.

It started off with an Irish Pisces Party - a combined party for St. Patrick's Day and all Pisces people. It was a really 'green' bash - green decorations, green drinks, a green cake for one and all, and by 2am a few green folks. On April 15 (Saturday) Augie's will hold a birthday party for all Arians. So join in the fun and let's all enjoy your birthdays. Anyone wishing to have an individual birthday party can just contact the bar or Lynn and all the arrangements will be made for you. I might add that Lynn is a Pisces and yours truly is one also - needless to say we both enjoyed the parties given to us.

The Bowling Banquet will be held on May 28, Sunday, at 5pm at the Courtyard Inn. Anyone one wishing to attend can do so by having ticket money (\$16) in at Augie's by May 11. The price includes unlimited cocktails and dinner (your choice of steak or ribs.) The occasion is really a must for everyone. All the trophies and cash prizes are presented at this event. More news on bowling and other sports activities will be found in the Sports section of this paper.

Augie's will start to open at 3pm on Saturdays and Sundays during the upcoming baseball season. This is to accommodate all the ball players and fans - to cool off your parched throats.

On April 2 Augie's inaugurated a new kind of party - a pajama party for the gay community. Twenty-five dollars was given for the funniest pj's. We were fortunate to have Pat, Jay and Wally of Petunia's as our judges. Many attended, some in costume, some as observers - it was an evening of hilarity.

New staff members at Augie's are Carol Clark who'll work on Tuesdays and Linda Mangano who will be behind the bar on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

around Town

On Saturday April 29 there will be a march and rally for the ERA. Participants are asked to assemble at 12:30pm at State and Wacker with a rally at 2 at the Daley Center. The ERA must be passed by next year and Illinois is one of the crucial states. The National Organization for Women has declared a state of emergency on the ERA. Many groups are actively working to pass it here in Illinois. Your participation in this rally is one step more in helping it pass. Endorsers of the rally include Willie Barrow of PUSH, Clara Day of the Teamsters, Frank Rosen of the United Electrical Workers and many women's and community groups.

The New Alexandria Lesbian Library has relocated to a private residence following the closing of the Lesbian Feminist Center. Membership is open to all lesbians. A membership card entitles the holder to check out books on lesbian lives, art culture, politics, etc; as well as, use of subject and periodical files; and tapes of musical concerts and lectures. For more information call 334-3449 or 327-0334 any evening or weekend.

The Tavern Guild, an organization of gay workers who are associated with the liquor industry, has established the Frank M. Rodde Memorial Building Fund. Through the fund, money is being raised to establish a gay/lesbian community center in Chicago. The center would contain office and meeting space as well as rooms for service and social activities. Over \$10,000 has been raised through benefits and donations. The Tavern Guild is paying costs for administration of the fund. They now are seeking input from the gay/lesbian community on the Center. Both ideas and contributions can be directed to the fund c/o BLAZING STAR
P.O. Box 7892 Chicago, IL. 60680

A new gay referral service for DuPage County residents has been established. Interested people are asked to call 629-0170 and ask for Pat.

at Mountain Moving Coffeehouse

Every Saturday night at 7:30pm there is entertainment and refreshments for women and children at Mountain Moving Coffeehouse. The coffeehouse is located at 1655 W. School. Two major upcoming events are Casse Culver and the Belle Star band from Washington, DC on April 22 and a spring dance and party on April 29. Casse Culver is one of the outstanding feminist musicians of our time. This is her first appearance in Chicago in a while. The dance will feature "Breakwater" an all womens rock and jazz band from Milwaukee. Mark these events on your calendars.

with Chicago Producing Project

The Chicago Producing Project presents a "Spring Festival of Theater" at the American Indian Center at 1630 W. Wilson. Shows are at 8:30 pm. Little Flags Theater will be the first group performing. The theater, from Boston, will present 'The Furies of Mother Jones' a musical dedicated to the legacy of Mother Jones, on April 14 and 15. They will be followed on April 28 and 29 by At the Foot of the Mountain, a women's theater company from Minneapolis. Their plays will be 'The Story of a Mother' a ritual about mothers and daughters and 'Raped.' Last in the series is the Provisional Theater from Los Angeles which will present the musical 'Inching Through the Everglades' on May 5 and 6.

with the New Sounds of 'Something Hot'

by Bobbie Carlotta

'Something Hot' is new entertainment provided to us by Donna Smolka, Cathy DiLeo, Pat Mota and Char O'Neil who have been entertaining our community for several years.

Donna, who is both drummer and musical director, has put together a brand new band and sound, to create new appeal to varied audiences. Band members include Char on rhythm guitar, Richie Woods on bass guitar, Tom on lead guitar and Mary Kay (the Janis Joplin of Chicago) as lead singer.



'Something Hot' band members, left to right: front - Tom and Richie, back - Donna, Char, and Mary Kay.

With Cathy as manager and sound director for the group, Pat handling public relations, and Linda Thomas as the assistant sound manager and photographer, this grouping has the strength to achieve all their goals.

One of their goals is to make audiences as comfortable with and receptive to live music as they are to recorded music, and to expand their bookings to many different kinds of audiences. In the more immediate future they will be cutting a record.

This renewed surge of energy can be attributed to a next too perfect blending of music personalities and talents that compliment each other both on and off stage. Cathy credits this harmony to the efforts of each member to learn to handle conflict. She states, "...there can be no union in any form...until everyone can handle and control conflicts that arise amongst themselves."

Of course much of this would not be possible without Arlene Kubsek and Nadine Dillion as backers and promoters of 'Something Hot.' Their friendship and generosity to the band has been an important source of strength. 'Something Hot' also wants to thank the bar owners who have given them the exposure and opportunity to perform. They also want to thank the bartenders for their many courtesies.

The reception and success of the group has been phenomenal in recent months and continues to rise. They invite audience participation and with most performances receive a standing ovation when they close. Each member of the band is not only talented but highly respected and well liked.

Their next engagement will be at Augie's, 3729 N. Halsted on Sunday, May 7 at 10pm. Please join us there.



SOCIALISM - A NE

"Socialism - A Special Report" was the cover story in *Time* magazine's March 13, 1978 issue. In a lengthy article surveying socialist ideas and practice around the world, *Time* describes socialism as "an ideology that promises more than it delivers." *Time* failed to talk with representatives of American socialism and essentially gave an American capitalist view of socialism. In order to get a socialist viewpoint, Blazing Star talked to Judy MacLean, national leader of New American Movement, a nationwide socialist-feminist organization. MacLean is also a new member of Blazing Star, which is affiliated with NAM.

Blazing Star: Why are you a socialist?
 Judy MacLean: I became a socialist not out of thinking about it, but because I got angry about how much pain I saw in the world. It began for me with the Civil Rights movement, which I saw on TV as a child. To me, the problems black people faced then pointed to a need to change the entire society, but I wasn't sure how to go about it. Later I got active against the Vietnam War. I decided the war wasn't just a mistake but part of a pattern, a pattern of the U.S. defending its rights to interfere in other countries. Still later, with the women's movement, I saw it wasn't just out there in the world with people far away. In my own personal life, where I believed I had some control, the system had programmed me, too. The people who tied this all together the best, who seemed to have the most comprehensive ideas about how to change things, called themselves socialists. I decided to find out what it was all about.

B*: What is socialism for?

J.M.: Broadly, socialism puts the resources of society under democratic control, instead of allowing a few people to own them. It's for solving economic problems, like pollution. We'll never get rid of pollution as long as it is profitable to pollute. Under socialism, we'd use resources to meet our needs - and if we democratically decided we needed a clean environment, we'd use all the means at our disposal, which would be considerable, to produce one. Because all of industry would be under popular control. But socialism is also for solving other kinds of problems. Like rape. In every existing socialist country, with all their many flaws, rape has been stopped. Socialism is for solving these human/social problems, too.

B*: How do you see socialism meeting feminist demands?

J.M.: Socialism hasn't always done that. Every socialist country has made some effort to promote equality on the job,

provide childcare, etc. They've also stopped rape and created a situation where women no longer have to turn to prostitution to support themselves. But there is still a lot of inequality and sexism in those countries. We need to add the American feminist insight that "the personal is political" to socialist theory to really liberate women. Socialists have always understood that women need to have an equal role in the traditionally male sphere of work, government, etc. What they've missed is that men need to be just as big a part of the traditionally female sphere of child-rearing and human-care generally, like care of the old and sick. If you don't try to do both, you'll never really liberate women.

B*: What about socialism and gay liberation?

J.M.: A lot of socialist countries have been very bad on that. Cuba, for example, persecutes homosexuals. It's interesting, though, that in a country like the German Democratic Republic (East Germany) where there was a strong gay liberation movement before socialism, gay people have more rights than in any other Eastern European country. But in terms of socialism here, socialism is about human liberation. If some socialists can't see that gay liberation is an important part of that, they're just wrong. New American Movement has supported gay liberation since it was founded in 1972.

B*: The *Time* article says socialism is not as efficient for economic development as capitalism.

J.M.: You have to ask, development for what and for whom? Look at China and India. Thirty years ago they were very similar - poor, underdeveloped, under the control of foreign powers. Today India remains capitalist, but China had a socialist revolution. In China, there's no more hunger, everyone has a place to live, free health care and the crime rate is negligible. India hasn't solved one of those problems. The poorest person in any socialist country has food to eat. And that's not true of the poorest here in the U.S., the richest and most developed capitalist country. Or take jobs. Under socialism, everyone has a job. Yet 9% of people here are unemployed. So who is all this development benefitting, anyway?

B*: The article says Poland's farm output is poor, because there is no incentive, and people get lazy.

J.M.: That's the biggest wrong idea about socialism, that one about lack of incentive. Only about 5% of Americans have the incentive of profits, the rest

of us have bosses and supervisors to make us work. And those supervisors are a wasted resource, from a social viewpoint. Every American can think of a time when they did community volunteer work, or political activity, or maybe the way they worked during World War II, when they worked not for their personal gain but for the good of the neighborhood, school or country or just to make their life meaningful. And I believe people will work for those reasons under socialism, as long as they can see good results. People lack incentive right now under capitalism. That's why they need so many supervisors.

B*: *Time* rates freedom under socialism at around 0-10 and under capitalism at 80-100 on a scale devised by a Manhattan-based Freedom House."

J.M.: I wish they'd gotten someone more neutral to do that rating. First of all, I'm sure they don't count a woman being able to walk safely down the street at

In Memoriam: Malvina Reynolds

Malvina Reynolds was a singer and songwriter who died last month at the age of 77. She did much of her work during the last 20 years, at an age when most people would be thinking about retirement. Her songs include "Little Boxes," "God Bless the Grass," "We Don't Need the Men," and many others made famous by the singing of others as well as by Malvina herself. The following tribute was written by Kristin Lems, one of the many younger musicians who had been inspired by Malvina's work.

When someone really profound enters your life, they refuse to confine themselves to one context or another. They seep in everywhere; they won't leave you alone; the experience of daily living constantly summons them to your mind. Such was and is Malvina Reynolds for me.

I remember as a young child watching television with my family. Kodak had a magnificent commercial with children- especially little girls- being shown growing-up and moving away from the

family structure. A song was sung in the background, the beautiful, tender "Turn Around". The visual and audio combination made me cry. This was my first recognition of Malvina Reynolds, songwriter.

Malvina was a star in the star-studded days of rage and activism of the 1960's. As that era slipped away, Malvina still stood as a monument of creative conviction, pouring out song after powerful song. Those of us who were in the movement for the long term suddenly found ourselves side-by-side, yet in the tall shadow of the fiery Malvina.

A mythology grew-up around her, sheerly through her abundant energy, great gift for presenting a sophisticated politic in a simple lyric, and her unforgettable appearance. She combined social commentary with wit and love in her songs.

I was fortunate to accompany her in some concerts in the Midwest. It was during this time that I learned of her fragility (her strength was obvious), because she keenly felt the desperation

of feeling time slipping by while she still had so much to say. She keenly felt the handicaps that followed her as an older woman who began to perform in her middle years. Yet the bitterness only flashed and quickly disappeared, because there was too much love in her to dwell on "what might have been" for very long.

But I am comforted because I meet her everyday, coming and going in her songs. They speak to me in everything I do:

"This old world is mean and cruel
 Still I love it like a fool;
 This world; this world; this world."

Her children's song (for all of us children) "Love is something if you give it away, you end up having more; it's just like a magic penny." Her wit is always clear: "making steam in a nuclear plant is like killing a fly with a gun;" We all have our favorites.

Fortunately, the Malvina coursing through my songs and thoughts can never be taken away. She is everywhere present.

-A NEW WAY OF LIFE



and run by a handful of capitalists.

One freedom that would be ended under socialism is the freedom multi-national corporations now enjoy to pollute, to make life and death decisions for people, to pay women and minorities less, and all the rest. The freedom of the heads of large corporations will definitely be curtailed.

B*: Time gives socialism some credit for bringing about equality.

J.M.: Yes, even they have to admit the gap between richest and poorest is far greater under capitalism than socialism. Along with greater equality, I think socialism could bring greater diversity to America, too. If we weren't scrambling in a competitive system all the time, we should be able to develop more different ways of living and relating. Gay liberation would be a part of that. Equality doesn't necessarily mean all the same - it can give a basis for developing healthy differences, too.

B*: Time gives socialism pretty high marks for social services.

J.M.: Yes, they admit socialism's done a good job providing health care, enough food to go around, adequate housing, etc., even in very poor countries. In the U.S. under socialism, we'd have those services, too. But I'd envision all the services decentralized, so there could be lots of local control, and not just run by a big bureaucracy.

B*: Time ends with this: "In his ongoing debate with the socialist, the capitalist is at a disadvantage, unable to compete rhetorically with socialist idealism. In place of state control, the capitalist argues for the unpredictable mechanism of the marketplace. Instead of a noble "new man," capitalism offers only the "old man," whose self-interest in profit... will ultimately benefit the commonweal. When it is assessed this way, it is no surprise that the capitalist reality can be made to sound less appealing than the socialist dream." What do you say?

J.M.: It's no coincidence Time thinks its just a question of a "new man," and that the "new woman" isn't mentioned. But the idea that acting in self-interest benefits the commonweal was a capitalist myth - a myth that's breaking down. The capitalist ideal has been tried and found wanting. Maybe some people doubt that socialism can

solve the problems of the globe any better, but we must try. Socialism is the biggest adventure in the world today, a collective attempt to make the earth livable for human beings.

B*: So how do we get there?

J.M.: There is only one way we'll have socialism in this country - and that's if the majority of people want it. With our high level of technology and literacy, traditions of voting and of majority rule, there is no other way. So the task for socialists now is clear - fight for things that can help us to survive while we get there and persuade more people to become socialists.

B*: Why did TIME run this story now?

J.M.: I think they know people feel a lot of the old ideas aren't working and that people are searching for new values, new ways to live. TIME wants to make sure that in that search, people won't think about socialism.

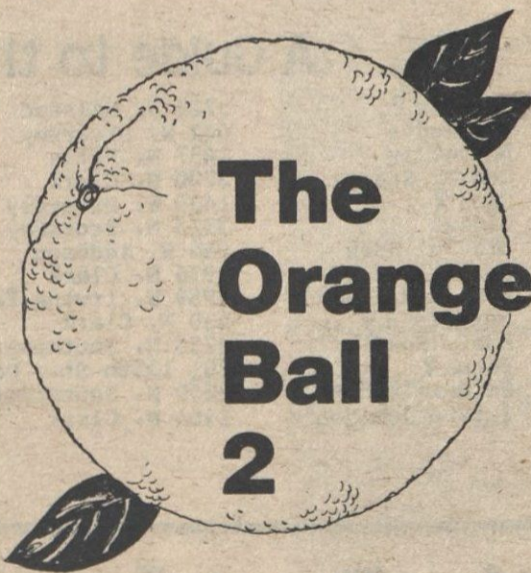
B*: Will that work?

J.M.: I don't think so. If you just look at the New American Movement, you see why. It is mostly made up of young people who came to socialism like I did, through activism. The left tradition in the US was almost stamped out during the 1950's, yet we found our way to become socialists. Conditions under capitalism just create socialists. The idea keeps reasserting itself, one way or another.

Necesita personas para traducir articulos para nuestro periodico. Nos gustaria tener por lo menos una parte de este periodico en español. Tampien estamos interezados en articulos en español para "Blazing Star," especialmente de interes para la mujer latina y si es posible, tambien, al ingles.

Si quiere cooperar con la seccion en espanol de "Blazing Star" llame a 342-2398 or escriba a PO Box 7892.

A Benefit for Gay Rights Referenda Throughout the Country



April 16 — 8:00 pm
at CENTER STAGE
3730 N. Clark St.



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Benefit For Abused Womens Shelter Task Force

Spotlight on the Bars: MUSIC BOX

by Eileen Willenborg

"Stiffs aren't for me" cracked Rhonda Renee with a wry smile, as she explained her decision not to become an undertaker. This is just one of the many unusual jobs Rhonda has tried in her varied career. Her most recent venture has brought her colorful personality to the gay bar scene in Chicago. She opened the MUSIC BOX, a women's bar that welcomes gay men, last December 29. The bar is located at 3735 N. Southport, and is open Monday through Saturday from 11am to 2am, and on Sunday from noon to 2am.

Rhonda, an open and friendly woman, wants her customers to feel at home, 'like they are in their own living room. Everyone who enters is greeted with a hearty welcome from the staff and on occasion Rhonda's 63 year old mother! The bar's manager is Chee Chee Romano, another well-known personality who is best remembered as co-owner of the MS Lounge several years ago. During the day, anyone who orders a sandwich gets their first drink free. Live entertainment is featured every Friday and Saturday night. Kristin Lems, Ellen Dee, and the popular band 'Something Hot' were the attractions during April. (See elsewhere in this issue for more on 'Something Hot').

There is a 'rowdy' pool tournament every other Tuesday night. The Music Box will sponsor a softball team this summer. Rumor has it that the team will be called the 'Music Boxettes' and will ride on the Music Box float in the upcoming Gay/Lesbian Pride Parade. To sign up for the tourney or the team, talk to the bartender.

Rhonda Renee loves to talk to her customers. She held us spellbound and in stitches for over an hour recently as she told us about her many-faceted career, which has run the gamut from Las Vegas showgirl, to mortuary student, to lady wrestler. It is as a lady wrestler that Rhonda has become best known. At 5 feet tall and 100 pounds soaking wet, it is quite remarkable that her career has spanned five years. Rhonda began her career by accident. Five years ago she was working as a bartender when a 210 pound man got too



photo by Laura Cuzzillo

Music Box staff (l to r): Front - owner, Rhonda, manager, Chee Chee, back - Sonny, Gene and Debbie. Missing is Ruth, Monday & Tuesday staff.

rowdy and offensive. There was no bouncer, so Rhonda took matters into her own hands, picked him up and then threw him over three tables. The feat was even more incredible because the man was a professional wrestler. His manager signed Rhonda the next day.

"I was always a tomboy. I got punished almost everyday at school for punching-out the boys. My teachers didn't know what to make of me. I always knew that women are stronger than men. I guess now I'm proving it to other people too."

In addition to her nose and several ribs, Rhonda has broken precedents in her wrestling career. Undeclared for the past eighteen months, she hopes to compete for the world championship in women's wrestling at Madison Square Garden this summer. She is challenging the current champion, a West German woman who has held the title for seven years. She is fighting to get the status of women's wrestling raised in Illinois. "I won't fight at the Amphitheatre (on Chicago's southside) because they pay you peanuts. Over in Wisconsin, they appreciate the lady wrestlers and their skills. You get paid honest prize money up there."

Rhonda says she has been for

women's liberation all her life. She tended bars before it was an acceptable job for women "unless your husband was the owner."

Her most recent wrestling match, five months ago, broke all kinds of barriers in the world of pro-wrestling: she was the first woman ever to fight a man in a recognized, sanctioned match. Her opponent out-weighted her by 110 pounds. But she held her own against him. There was no declared winner in the match. When Rhonda threw the man out of the ring, he pulled her along with him. The crowd erupted and pounced on both of them. The judges disqualified both fighters for being out of the ring too long. Naturally Rhonda didn't like the decision.

When asked if she feared that transsexual men (to women) would invade ladies' wrestling and pre-empt women wrestlers, she minimized the impact such a turn would have for her career. "What's the difference. That person does their thing and I do mine. And my thing is a little bit of everything. I'm always game for a challenge and wrestling a male is a challenge."

When asked what has pleased her most since opening the bar, Rhonda replied without hesitation: "The support from the other bar owners. All of them have helped - Lynn and Bobbie from Augie's, Pat and Jay from Petunia's, Marge and Karen from His 'n' Hers all come in regularly. We are friends. All of us work together, like in the softball league. We don't compete with each other. We all have bars that are different. This gives Chicago lesbians a choice. There are more than enough customers to go around." It is heartening to know that cooperation exists within the framework of the bar scene. Drop by the Music Box sometime. It is a place to relax, enjoy a delicious sandwich, shoot pool, dance or just sit and talk to Rhonda. If you choose the latter, you are in for a real treat.

A Guide to the Bars

Augie's ♀	3729 N. Halsted	929-0929
Big Red's	642 W. Diversey	525-1200
Butterfly	1437 N. Wells	337-9001
Center Stage	3730 N. Clark	935-2900
CK's ♀	1425 W. Diversey	871-2120
Closet	3325 N. Broadway	477-8533
His 'n' Hers	944 W. Addison	935-1210
Knight Out	2936 N. Clark	525-8150
Lost and Found ♀	2959 W. Irving Park	588-9446
Maryiln's ♀	430 N. Clark	337-8421
Music Box ♀	3735 N. Southport	528-1914
Patch ♀	201 155th St., Calumet City	891-9854
Petunia's ♀	2559 N. Southport	477-1336
Tutsie Johnson's	2464 N. Clark	472-8164

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A TALK WITH

DEL MARTIN

Author of Battered Women, Co-author of Lesbian/Woman

April 29 4pm
Center Stage
3730 N. Clark

A Forum for the Gay and Lesbian Community
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For more information call 342-2398.

Saturday Night Fever

by Chris Riddiough

"Saturday Night Fever" is the movie to see these days, so a few weeks ago I tried to get some friends to go. One woman in the group refused; she would not see the film, she said, because it was 'sexist.' Well, I didn't get to see it that night, but a few days later I did go - it seems to me hard to tell if a movie is sexist if you haven't seen it. Now, having seen "Saturday Night Fever," I'd say that woman was wrong. "Saturday Night Fever" is a movie to see - a movie about (among other things) sexism and racism and how they affect the lives of white working class people.

Tony Manero (played by John Travolta) is a young man living in the Bay Ridge section of Brooklyn. He's just out of school, still living with his folks and working in a paint store. The highlight of his week is going to the 2001 disco with his friends on Saturday night. An important part of these Saturdays are the disco contests - Tony is the best disco dancer in town and the crowd stops to watch when he takes the floor. Tony says, at one point in the movie, that he wishes he could get the same high from other things as he does from dancing. But he looks around him at the paint shop and sees himself in the other men working there - twenty years older and still a clerk.

Tony has a regular contest partner in Annette (played by Donna Pecnow), a young woman who has a crush on him and would do anything for him - she almost lives for the chance to dance with him. As Tony and Annette are practicing for the next contest, Tony notices another woman at the disco. He puts the moves on her. She finally agrees to be his partner so Tony dumps Annette for Stephanie. This new partner is an 'older woman (she's at least 21). She's also a former Brooklynite who's made over as a Manhattan secretary - she's taken, in her eyes, a step up in class.

The night of the contest everyone is excited - each couple has their fans rooting them on; shortly before Tony's turn a Puerto Rican couple is on the floor. While Tony's buddies bad mouth their dancing, Tony is getting nervous -he thinks the Puerto Rican couple are better than he. Tony and Stephanie win, but Tony feels it's not a fair win and winging just because he's white is not the way Tony wants to win. He walks out giving the cash prize and the trophy to the Puerto Rican couple. Outside the disco he says, "Why can't we all just get together? Instead we dump on the Spics, because we get dumped on. My father gets dumped on at work, so he comes home and dumps on my mother." That in one sentence is one of the best statements about how racism and sexism work to keep people apart.

The movie winds up with Tony turning to Stephanie for support and friendship. She says to Tony "Do you think you can stand to be friends with a girl?" And Tony replies, "I don't know." Another reflection of Tony's recognizing the problems that sexism poses for relation-

ships between men and women. But another implication of the scene is that Tony, too, will move to Manhattan.

"Saturday Night Fever" shows a lot about how people are kept apart, kept fighting each other over race and sex. And about how people are allowed a few highs, like Saturday night disco dancing, but the rest of their lives can be dull and gray and empty. Tony is different from his buddies because he understands some of this. Even though he too gang rapes his former dancing partner and fights the Puerto Rican gang, he knows there's something wrong there. And that at least is a first step. For the rest of his friends - well they haven't come much farther than the guys in West Side Story, 15 years ago. It's the Tony's of the world that give you hope that things can change.

Tony also sees that winning disco contests is not enough to make his life meaningful - he's gonna get older and be just another paint store clerk. What "Saturday Night Fever" proposes as a solution is a move to Manhattan - where the sun shines and people are more human - or so it would seem from the movie. This is the film's biggest flaw. Moving to Manhattan (or New Town or wherever) is not going to put meaning in your life; being a paint store clerk is pretty much the same everywhere.

What the film doesn't talk about is how working class people can actually get together to make better lives. But maybe that's another film.

If you haven't already, go see "Saturday Night Fever" - if nothing else it'll make you want to be a better disco dancer.

* * * * *

What did you think of "Saturday Night Fever?" What did we miss in this review that you think should be put in? What do you agree and disagree with? Let us know for our next issue; write Blazing Star, PO Box 7892, Chicago 60680.



Stephanie (Karen Lee Gorney) and Tony (John Travolta) of "Saturday Night Fever"

WORKING

Chavez to Speak on Stevens Boycott

On Sunday April 30, Caesar Chavez, the president of the United Farmworkers, will be in Chicago for the first time in many years. He and Sol Brandzel, Co-Manager of the Chicago and Central States Joint Board of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union, will be guest speakers at a program at St. Scholastica High School, 7416 N. Ridge at 2 p.m. The UFW and

the ACTWU are also sponsoring a two-act play, entitled "Pass It On", presented that afternoon by the Labor Theatre of the Actors Equity Association. A union wine and cheese reception will follow the program.

The UFW has recently won victories after long strike and boycott efforts directed at non-union lettuce, grapes and Gallo wine. They are now doing support

work for the ACTWU J.P. Stevens boycott. Stevens has abused, harassed and fired workers for union activity. Stevens is the number one labor law violator in America. ACTWU has called for a boycott of all J.P. Stevens products. The AFL-CIO has pledged full support. The UFW is also continuing its efforts to organize farmworkers and is expanding its operation to Texas and Florida.



'Union Maids' Nominated

This spring the film, "Union Maids" was nominated for an Academy Award. It is a movie about women union organizers in Chicago in the '30's. It features three Chicago women, Stella Nowicki, Kate Hyndman, and Sylvia Woods, describing their union activities. An interview with Stella appeared in BLAZING STAR, Vol. 3, No. 7.

"Union Maids" is one of several fine films that depict the activities of labor organizers. "Harlan County", a film about a mineworkers' strike in Kentucky, won an Oscar last year. "Union Maids" was filmed by Julia Reichert and Jim Klein (both members of NAM) and Miles Mogelescu. Congratulations to them for their fine achievement!

Let's Get These Boycotts Clear!

Many groups are asking people to boycott different products in order to support the rights of the group. In order to help everyone keep aware of the status of these boycotts, BLAZING STAR will be printing a summary of boycotts that are presently in effect. Additions or corrections should be sent to us.

Boycott	Organizing Group	Reason for Boycott	For More Info.
Florida citrus	Gay and Lesbian Coalition	Gay rights	GLCMC P.O. Box 11493 Ch'go, 60611
J.P. Stevens	Amalgamated Clothing & Textile Workers Union	Workers' rights to organize	ACTWU, 333 S. Ashland, Ch'go, 60607
Coors Beer	AFL-CIO and various gay groups	Workers' rights	NAM, 3244 N. Clark, Ch'go 57
Nestle's products	INFACT	Stop use of inferior products in Third World	INFACT, 1701 University Ave., Mpls., MN 55414
States that have not passed the ERA	N.O.W.	Help pass ERA	N.O.W., 53 W. Jackson, Ch'go 60604

AA-74290

SPORTS

Bowling

The Augie's bowling league is now coming down to the wire; there is an exciting battle over first, second and third place. Augie's is the only bar with a league - six teams in all. This is the third year for the league. President and Secretary/Treasurer is Olga Flannagan and Vice President is Bobbie Carlotta; Assistant Treasurer is Bedi. Captains of the six teams are Bobbie, Kathy Conway, Z Rodriguez, Olga, Bedi and Bobbie Carlotta. At the end of the season prizes are given to all players with special awards going to the highest bowlers and number one team. Bowling is held at the Playdium on Clark at 6:30pm on Thursdays.



photo by Laura Cuzzillo

Augie's bowler, Donna, shows her follow through as she picks up a strike.

Karate

Four women karate students are in search of a woman instructor. Their teacher is leaving the country. They are green and yellow belts in sho ba kan, but are willing to switch styles. If you are interested, please call Judy at 871-7700.

Lesbian Center

On April 8 it was decided at a meeting attended by over 100 women to start a new lesbian center in Chicago. The participants discussed the various functions that such a center would fill, including open meeting space, a place for social activities, referral and counseling services, and a communication center. No policy decisions were made at the meeting. Questions of fund-raising, operating policies, and other fundamental issues will be taken-up at the next meeting, which will be on Sunday April 16 at 4 p.m. at Mama Peaches Restaurant, Barry and Sheffield streets.

Pool

Pool tournaments are now being held at both Augie's and the Music Box. At Augie's the tournaments are held on Sunday's at 6:30pm. There is a \$3 entry fee. The tournament is held as a round robin with a \$50 first prize and a \$10 second prize. The Music Box tournament is held on Tuesday nights with a similar arrangement. Pool is also played on other nights on a first come first serve basis.



photo by Laura Cuzzillo

Augie's Bowling League officers: President Olga Flannagan, left, and Vice President Bobbie Carlotta.

Softball

Get out your baseball togs and equipment, folks, the season is about to start. Teams are being sponsored this year by several of the bars including Augie's, the Music Box, Petunia's, and CK's; all of them will be playing in the league at Athletic Field Park at Addison and the Kennedy. Play there begins on Sunday afternoon, May 7. The competition, fun, and involvement - for both players and fans - makes this one of the most exciting times of the year. Before the season starts, teams will be holding try-outs and practices. There will be a baseball meeting on April 16 at 8pm at Augie's for women interested in being on the Augie's team. For more information on joining a team and for playing schedules, contact one of the above named bars.

Watch these columns for reports on this year's softball season.



photo by Laura Cuzzillo

Andrea and Marsha shoot a game of last pocket at the Music Box.

(Sports news compiled by Bobbie Carlotta and Chris Riddiough)



photo by Laura Cuzzillo

Softball season is coming up: this scene from last season's games reminds us what it's about.

blazing star: who we are

BLAZING STAR is a newsletter for the lesbian community. As lesbians and bisexual women who are active in the women's movement, we want to educate all women about the oppression that people face because of their sexual preference. We also want to keep our sisters informed about local and national events that affect us. BLAZING STAR is produced by an all-women's chapter of the New American Movement. NAM is a socialist-feminist

organization of women and men throughout the United States. BLAZING STAR: Chicago Women's Chapter of NAM works on such projects as lesbian organizing and women's rights. We are working for the passage of gay rights legislation and the Equal Rights Amendment. Any woman who is interested in working with us on these projects is welcome to join us. Write BLAZING STAR, Post Office Box 7892, Chicago 60680; or leave a message for us at 342-2398.

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