

# The Gazette

LEXINGTON GAY SERVICES ORGANIZATION, INC. DECEMBER 1979

## MARCH ON WASHINGTON

On Sunday, Oct. 14, 1979 the largest national group of gay men and women assembled for political action marched down the streets of the nation's capitol. We were marching to demand an end to repressive legislation and attitudes and in support of the federal gay rights bill now pending in Congress. We were also marching to demonstrate to a national audience----via television and radio----that gay people from across the nation and from all walks of life could unite together and stand up for our rights. There were approximately 75,000 of us---young and old; rich and poor; black, white, brown, yellow and red; men and women and----perhaps most gratifying---- a fair number of parents of gays marching out of pride over their gay offspring.

There were about twenty-five men and women in the Kentucky delegation. While most were from Louisville and Lexington, there were also gays from Bowling Green and Owensboro. The parade was sectioned off by geographic region; Kentucky was in the middle to rear of the marchers. In addition, the march was led by children, older people, and handicapped persons to insure a moderate pace; therefore, the parade was fairly slow in getting under way. The organizers did a good job in getting everyone in line and in helping us pass the time while waiting to march. One entertainer favored the crowd with his rendition of "Give me that old lesbianism" (to the tune of That Old Time Religion).

Once underway, the march lasted for well over two hours. We were aligned in rows of eight and more than stretched throughout the entire two-mile route; the head of the parade reached the rally site next to the Washington Monument while the

tail of the parade had yet to leave the staging area. Supportive crowds lined the route at both the start and the finish and gave everyone a boost. In addition, supporters of the march--ranging from socialists to libertarians--were busy working the crowd and one had to be careful not to accept more literature and pamphlets than one could reasonably expect to carry--much less read. There were only a few counterdemonstrators, who kept their distance.

Once at the rally site one could easily be overwhelmed by the sheer numbers of gay people and supporters gathered under the Washington Monument. Gays had come from as far away as Alaska and Canada as well as other distant states and countries. Each state or delegation had a banner of some sort and the assortment of colors and people made for a spectacular sight. A large number of speakers addressed the crowd; their different attitudes and styles blended together after a while and the central message was GAY IS GOOD. We know this and with more work and effort on our part no person or group will be able to ignore this fact any longer. Speakers included Robin Tyler, Eleanor Smeal, Kate Millett and Rep. Ted Weiss, A sponsor of H.R. 2074--the federal gay rights bill. Music followed the speeches and included songs by Tom Robinson, a British rock singer and gay activist.

Once the march and rally were over and the participants had returned to their respective cities and states, it was almost as if the event had never occurred; coverage of the event by most of the major media was light to moderate. Much of the coverage centered around conflicting reports of attendance. Crowd estimates ranged from 25,000 (national park service) to 250,000 (some march organizers and participants). At least a couple of essen-

tial points seemed to get glossed over. First, it took a good deal on the part of many of the participants in this particular march even to show up in the first place; many had to return home to places that are less than enthusiastic in their support for gay rights. Second, this represented (along with the lobbying visits at Capitol Hill the next day) the first concerted attempt at influencing the United States Congress and educating individual Congress-people to gay concerns and grievances. The National media, by and large, did not seem attentive to these points.

But, of course, it is easy to lose some sense of perspective when one is part of an event so overwhelming as the gay march on Washington was. The news media probably gives inadequate coverage to any number of important movements across the country; the important thing is that tens of thousands of gay people did march and rally in Washington and do intend to continue to press our demands on our government. Equally important, we met gay brothers and sisters from all across America; we exchanged information, attitudes, and we came away from the experience a little more unified and a little more determined. . . .and a lot less alone. In the thoughts of one speaker: Gay epeople aren't just as good as everyone else; we're better. We've had to be just to survive all these years and to keep on going.

#### DISCHARGE UPGRADING BROCHURE

The American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California is distributing a brochure which explains how lesbians and gay men with less than honorable military discharges may have their discharges upgraded to honorable if they apply before Jan. 1, 1980. For a copy of the brochure, send 20¢ to: ACLU Gay Rights Chapter, 633 So. Shatto Place, L.A., CA 90005.

#### ANTIGAY MCDONALD RESOLUTION

The following is an official transcript of the "McDonald Resolution", House Concurrent Resolution 166; submitted to the House July 4 1979:

Expressing the sense of the Congress that homosexual acts and the class of individuals who advocate such conduct shall never receive special consideration or a protected status under law.

Whereas homosexual individuals have over the last several years pressed their conduct and behavior strikingly before the eyes of the public in an attempt to gain legitimacy, acceptance, and recognition under law; the need has arisen for this great legal body, the Congress of the United States, to finally address this class and their conduct.

A man's abomination against God may well be at times a matter solely between his maker and himself in the pursuit of his eternal salvation.

It also can be stated that no man should ever hold malice toward another based upon this irreconcilable conduct.

Nevertheless, it is unequivocally clear that consensual sodomy and other homosexual acts should never be accepted as legitimate in this Republic, nor should the class of individuals who advocate such conduct gain special consideration or a protected status under law.

The idealism of this Republic that is embodied in its codes, protected under its laws, and emulated by its institutions would be clearly debased by the acceptance of such action.

The time has come, America, to turn our hearts back to God and away from the secular humanism that has led us to this day in our history. Let us finally have this turning take place with this issue and let it begin here and now. Be it, therefore, Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of the Congress of the United States that

homosexual acts and the class of individuals who advocate such conduct shall never receive special consideration or a protected status under law.

#### STRIDENTS FOR A THEOCRATIC SOCIETY?

A new lobbying organization called Christian Voice has started an anti-gay campaign in Congress, and is using the religious broadcasting networks to reach up to a million voters a week. Christian Voice is the first legal lobbying effort against gay civil rights. Other groups, such as Anita Bryant's Protect America's Children are supposedly restricted from direct lobbying activity in order to maintain a tax exempt status. Christian Voice claims a million dollar campaign fund and expects to have a million supporters in its first year. More than 70 million Americans say they are "born again" Christians, and as Christian Voice's co-founder has said, "If Christians unite...we can pass any law or amendment. And that is exactly what we intend to do."

It was at this group's urging that the McDonald Resolution in Congress is being considered. (See preceding article).

#### I LOVE A PARADE....

Washington was ours for the entire weekend and we were going to be gay with a vengeance. The Holiday Inn where my brother, three of his friends, and I stayed (Can you imagine five queens in one room? It's a wonder we didn't tear each other's eyes out!) was quickly converted into a gay resort. . . or should I say last resort. They say the best surprise is no surprise; apparently the second-best is charging three times what they quote over the phone. Anyway, the other gays started trick(l)ing in by mid-morning on Friday. At first we were hesitant to wear our buttons and other "ob-

vious" signs (as if they were really necessary to distinguish us--most of us looked like Christmas trees with our keys, earrings, lambda necklaces and handkerchiefs), so we had to rely on our gay radar. As is was explained to me, gays emit high frequency beeps which only bats and other gays can hear; it worked remarkably well. By the afternoon, we started arriving in force and there were herds of us roaming (cruising) the streets. We now felt secure enough to wear our buttons, which were guaranteed to at least prompt a smile or "hello" from brothers and sisters passing from the opposite direction. This was a welcome change from the usual stares one gets while walking the streets.

During the daylight hours, the places to hit were the art galleries of course. If it was artsy, it was bound to be hot. And if a bit of shopping for that special souvenir for that special someone back home was in order, the cutesy boutiques were a must. If you were looking for a portrait of the Pope (halo optional), you were in luck. Or if you wanted a more compact Pope--token the t-shirts or buttons were just the thing.

Unfortunately, the key word of the weekend was money. I believe it would have been possible to be quarter and "dollared" to death. There were the standard March t-shirts and buttons, but also an awesome variety of other articles: flags, brochures, newspapers, official programs, lambda jewelry of every imaginable form, etc. Perhaps the worst of it was the pink triangles, which came in various sizes to suit your mood. I really am surprised someone didn't think to sell small bundles of wood and kitchen matches for that "Inquisition look." And at every gay establishment there was the contribution box, "all the proceeds" of which went to the march. I really didn't mind all of this though; I kind of considered it a gay Gatlinburg. But the most flagrant abuse of gay clientele came from the bars. Although they normally do not charge

a cover (I'm assuming this because they used a Magic Marker to check that you paid; you can imagine how chic El Marko all over your hand looks.), they were charging two dollars until 1 a.m., then raised it to three. This didn't even entitle one to a drink. I am reasonably sure none of this money went to the March; if so, they had no signs or notices to that effect. And the bars were so crowded! It took up to an hour to get into some (and it was quite cold outside, too.) More than a few people cruised the waiting line and didn't make it as far as the bar.

Monday was rather sad. We weren't so obvious any longer and just about everyone had gone his/her merry way. Practically every person on the subway going back to the airport had come for the March, so we had some nice conversations. The feeling of unity had not totally dissipated. As a matter of fact, I met a guy from San Francisco who had some friends in Lexington (take heart, gay Lexington, they know we're here.)

All in all it was a most moving weekend and well worth the time, effort and money, regardless of the fact that a bankruptcy trial is in the offing.

Joe Lincoln

#### BOOK REVIEW

Under the Rainbow- Arnie Kantrowitz  
(William Morrow & Co.)

Arnie Kantrowitz's search for that illusive "inner core" is the basic premise of Under the Rainbow. Kantrowitz carries us along on that search through his childhoos, adolescence, college years, his fears of his feelings, his family relationships, his work with GAA, his lovers, his communal living experience, his experimentation with drugs, his visit to Europe (perhaps the best written chapter), but most of all he takes us on the search of a person finding himself.

In some ways the book is like the WIZARD OF OZ (a running metaphor through the book), with its crazy, warm, wild, wicked characters, all scrambling to unscramble themselves--usually by magic. It's like a life that is taken into the "rabbit hole" or "over the rainbow" and swirled and twisted to a place where you meet beautiful and frightening people and laugh and cry at the beginnings and endings of relationships but finally you find more peace "in your own backyard."

There is a recognition that under the rainbow is a good place to be and that over the rainbow is at best a fleeting visit that lacks substance.

Until I had finished the book I didn't know where the twister was taking me. I frequently felt depressed and angered by the Oz-like characters. Although joy presented itself, it seemed always surrounded by dread and dark attempts of trying too hard. Over and over I was confronted with value questions. Not that they were labeled as such but my own values and sense of morals were confronted, questioned and attacked. The book is good material for such personal investigations.

Kantrowitz is an English professor and some very common literary themes run through the book. The search for truth, the battles over social injustice, the struggle for peace and honesty, efforts to distinguish between truth and honesty, and the gnawing fight (which is no fight at all) to know a Higher Spirit. All of this, in the context of growing up gay, smoothly flows into a very readable book.

Because of my failure to realize I was on a journey which was, indeed, a man's search for self, I didn't really feel a closeness to Arnie until the final chapters of the book. I found myself saying, "Where is the substance to this man?" At times he seemed so mindless. But, of course, the substance was there; it was just scattered all over the place. Upon

finishing the book I was able to connect to the substance which had begun to fall into place, each small shred made from past experiences, struggle, pain, bits of joy, and mostly from turning to appreciate the man. Just an ordinary man struggling, waiting, wondering, through his own particular search and able to write quite well about the process he followed.

Interestingly and sadly it has been similar failures that have kept me from closeness with a rather large number of people.

This is one of those books that should be read in its entirety. The real power of the book comes only when it is considered as a whole. Half-traveled journeys are usually unfulfilling.

Doug Burnham

#### POP

Robert Palmer - Secrets

With each album, Palmer has come closer to hitting the rock/pop mainstream but never has he been more on the bull's-eye than with this album. Palmer's distinctive style, encompassing blends of R&B, pop, and rock, all meld into a cohesive and accessible musical form. In addition to his own material, Palmer interprets Todd Rundgren's "Can We Still Be Friends?" Palmer's singing is razor sharp and expressive and the playing by Palmer's band rocks solidly. The production, like the album's contents, is clean and intelligent. Solid band backup. Best cuts: "Bad Case of Loving You", "Jealous", "Can We Still Be Friends", "Under Suspicion", "Love Stop".

#### POP

Southside Johnny and the Asbury Jukes

This veteran group's first for Mercury is a high-powered blend of

rock, blues and jazz. Catapulted along by Southside Johnny's gutsy vocals, this album never lets up for a minute. Though it is Johnny who is the focal point of attention the entire group is outstanding. Notably, guitarist Willy Rush and the horn section add dimension to the ten songs. The band proves itself to be as good with a ballad (Wait in Vain) as on the uptempo numbers which dominate the L.P.

#### POP

Melissa Manchester - Arista

Manchester's eighth album for the label has her tackling some spicy rock-oriented tracks in addition to her trademark ballads. "Pretty Girls", the first single from the set has Manchester at her lusty best, while another uptempo rocker, "How Does It Feel Right Now?" also shows more spark and spunk than past Manchester releases. But the best cut on the album may be a mellow, softly sung version of "Whenever I Call You Friend" which she co-wrote with Kenny Loggins and which he made into a top five single a year ago. Tower of Power horn section augments a six-man rhythm section on several of the cuts.

#### POP

Nicolette Larson - In the Nick of Time

Ex-backup singer Larson, who scored a big hit with Neil Young's "Lotta Love" is back with a strong second set. The production value on the LP is superb as is the musicianship provided by some of L.A.'s first rank sidemen. Larsons throaty, husky vocal style is intact as she ranges over rock, pop, and jazz flavored tunes. Strings and horns embellish the final product, one that should not be missed.

I

Am I proud that I'm gay?  
Am I proud that I have blue eyes, or  
that my hair is blond-brown, or  
that my teeth are straight?  
I believe the question is more one  
of not being ashamed of my in-  
clinations, rather than pride.  
I am not ashamed that my lover has a  
moustache, dark curly hair, and  
stubble on his cheeks by the end  
of the day.  
I am not ashamed that my love for  
him is physical and passionate.  
I am not ashamed that he loves me,  
too. . . and shows it.  
If this is pride, then yes, I'm  
proud.  
But it seems so obvious.  
Joe Lincoln .

II

Only three hours to get ready before  
I have to go out.  
Hope I can make it in time.  
My nails are clipped, I've shaved,  
my beard is trimmed.  
Oh, God, didn't I use the last of  
the conditioner this morning!  
No, I think there's enough left.  
Let's see, guess I'll get my  
shower. . . maybe think of what  
I'm going to wear while I'm in  
there.  
This humidity! My hair will never  
dry. . . well, what's left of it  
anyway.  
At least I did the laundry this  
week.  
Should I go butch or queen or butch/  
queen?  
Are these jeans too tight?  
Impossible.  
Probably not tight enough.  
Hmmm. If I wear this shirt, it will  
make me look tanner. I need all  
the help I can get.  
Which earring? The sapphire should  
do.  
How in the hell do you fold this  
handkerchief anyway? That's not  
right; it looks like I've got a  
sheet stuffed back there.

There, that's better.  
Where did I put that necklace?  
Right in front of me.  
If it had been Anita, it would have  
prayed for me.  
Cigarettes, lighter, bracelet, keys,  
wallet, rings, change, watch,  
comb, sunglasses.  
Don't tell me I'm ready.

God, I hate going to the grocery.

Joe Lincoln

SHORT TAKES

Lesbian and gay male patients  
at Boston City Hospital's Inten-  
sive Care Unit will be able to be  
visited by their lovers under a  
new hospital policy. Previously,  
patients could only receive visits  
from immediate family members.  
After some discussion about what  
to call their lovers, the hospital  
decided on the term "significant  
others."

GCN (via LC)

The Swedish government has pas-  
sed a new bill which declares dis-  
crimination against homosexuals  
illegal.

GCN (via LC)

CALENDAR

Jan. 7th - Monthly business and  
planning meeting at 8 p.m. at the  
Walton Avenue Center - 183 Walton.

Jan. 6th & 20th - Rap group, at  
1 p.m. at the Southland branch of  
the Public Library - 521 Southland

The Lexington Gay Services organi-  
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