Los Derechos Homosexuales

En las Tres Ciudades

El día 23 de abril la gente de St. Paul, Minnesota votará sobre la cuestión de los derechos de los homosexuales y las personas homossexuals. Aunque existen en esta ciudad leyes prohibiendo que se haga favoritismo en perjuicio de los homosexuales hay grupos que quieren abolir estas leyes. Unos estipulan que se seguirán las leyes del estado de Wisconsin, pero otros aspiran a que la ley sea abolida.

En estas ciudades hay apoyo al movimiento de derechos homosexuales. En St. Paul hay una asociación de los derechos de los homosexuales que ha estado luchando por estos derechos. En Minneapolis hay una asociación similar que ha estado luchando por los mismos derechos. En St. Paul hay un grupo de mujeres que ha estado luchando por los derechos de las mujeres y en Minneapolis hay un grupo de hombres que ha estado luchando por los derechos de los hombres. En estas ciudades hay un grupo de personas que ha estado luchando por los derechos de los homosexuales y en las tres ciudades hay un grupo de personas que ha estado luchando por los derechos de las mujeres y en las tres ciudades hay un grupo de personas que ha estado luchando por los derechos de los hombres.

En las tres ciudades las fuerzas apoyando los derechos homosexuales están tratando de aprender de la derrota del congreso de 1976 para que no vuelva a ocurrir la misma. Además, hay un esfuerzo para compartir la responsabilidad entre las mujeres y los hombres. Este esfuerzo es un frente de la lucha contra el sexismo en el movimiento homosexual y también para disfrutar de la experiencia de las mujeres homosexuales. Para nosotros que estamos en una de las tres ciudades es muy importante coordinar nuestros esfuerzos especialmente en respetar el dinero.

En el 13 de marzo, 1978 el Ministro de San Francisco y Los Ángeles, Methodist de Washington, DC anunciaron la formación de un fondo Tri-City National Defense Fund. Este fondo ha sido acumulado para atraer dinero de todas partes del país para las tres ciudades en que se tenta derogar de las leyes de los derechos humanos. Para evitar la violencia nacional que ocurrió en el año pasado en el condado hay un esfuerzo de las ciudades para mantener el poder en disputa como una situación local. Por eso hay dificultades en acumular dinero en el país de los apoyadores homosexuales. Tri-City National Defense Fund provee una oportunidad para que homosexuales - hombres y mujeres - en todas partes del país pueden ayudar la gente de éstas tres ciudades.

Del Ministro (fundadora de la organización) Delberta de Bilitis y una de las autoras de Lesbian/Gay, al anunciar la incorporación del fondo declaró: "Como sólo dice José Martí, 'unidos pedimos - pero dividos se agradan uno por uno.' Durante este tiempo la verdad es en la verdad hay. Algunas personas tenemos que luchar para respetar lo que ganamos. Lo que ocurre en estas tres ciudades tiene que ver con los derechos de todos los hombres y mujeres homossexuals en la nación. Contribuyen con generosidad - es para nuestra vida."

Cualquiera donaciones será aceptada con gracia. Si quieres información para escribir a: Tri-City National Defense Fund, PO Box 3549, Hollywood, CA 90028.

En Chicago, Los Angeles, GAY LIFE, y SANE y Asociados son auspiciando 'Orange Ball 2' a beneficio de las tres ciudades. Orange Ball 2 será en abril 14, 5pm en Center Stage, 3730 N. Clark. Puestas en UD en el doble.

Los Target ciudades son también un cambio de campaña estratégicos y materiales y son willing a share this with others. Through such efforts they hope to develop better campaign for gay rights.
by Eileen Willensky

When the International Women's Year Conference overwhelmingly approved the plank calling for the National Plan of Action for Women, and their supporters released thousands of balloons over the hall to celebrate the moment. The multi-ethnic crowd 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 various race, ethnic, and class backgrounds; 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 Liberation Organization and a new Lesbian Lesbian in Chicago become a reality.

Over the weekend of March 17-19, 130 lesbians from all parts of the country gathered in Santa Monica, California to found the National Lesbian Feminist Liberation Organization (NLFCO), yet another set of initials to remember. The organization was started to continue the wave of new awareness of lesbian issues that emerged in Houston. Fighting for legal protection and civil rights for lesbians is struggling to end other forms of oppression, especially sexism, racism, class and age, working for the continued development of lesbian culture; and education is all in order to dispell the negative, stereotypical stereotypes of lesbian and gay life. Activists agree that they are among the stated goals of the NLFCO.

The NLFO will be a grassroot 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 network and to build a foundation for the national group. The state conventions will discuss local and national issues and will pave the way for a national raflying convention to be held in the Spring of 1979 in Minneapolis, MN. (Chicago was not considered because Tiltonia has not ratified the NLFCO.)

The convention was not without its flaws, and taboos remain in regional and racial representation to be the most serious. There were very few blacks, Latins, 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 inappropriate and underscored the organization's desire to represent all lesbians, especially minority women.

So, a nearly unanimous decision, the convention adopted a provision that all future decision-making bodies on the state and national level shall have equal minority representation. There will be an affirmative action committee that will ensure that all possible methods of outreach to Third World women is carried on throughout the country.

Until a state coordinator is found, BIZARRE STAR will serve as a communication clearinghouse for the NLFO. We need volunteers to start to plan the state coming out. If you are interested in working to make the NLFO's first year a successful one, contact BIZARRE STAR at P.O. Box 7892, Chicago IL 60680, or call 312-654-0562. 

En serio se formo la organización nacional de las mujeres homosexuales; asentamos la revolución democrática en congreso en los Angeles. Allí se proponía que, para ratificarse esta decisión, hubiera un congreso en Minneapolis/St. Paul durante la próxima primavera. Faltaban delegadas y hablar de los puntos en disputa de cada región se propuso que un reconstructor congreso en cada estado antes de la convención de Minneapolis./. Si le interesara este proceso favor de escribir a BIZARRE STAR, P.O. Box 7892, Chicago, IL 60680.

SEXUALITY: When we were very young...

by Marianne Ruffino

"Buddy, next time we go fishing, can we use a bigger hook?" From the expressions on my parents' faces, I could see how much they detested fishing technique. "Terry in my cabin at camp, she asked me if I know how to set a trap, and I said 'no', but she wouldn't tell me what it is."

It was Mother's birthday, and I had just finished a summer at camp. My father claimed he wasn't sure if it was, but 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-t-t-r. I could use that to do further research on my own. But I still couldn't understand why my mother was so embarrassed when I said I didn't know anything about it.

A year later, I discovered that masturbation was the term for what I'd been doing almost every day since I was a little girl. So I bought a book and invented it after all!!! I was crushed. The book called it 'a common practice,' I didn't think we would accept it.

In fact, I thought it was rather special. If it hadn't invented it, perhaps I had perfected it, elevated it from 'common practice' to 'art.'

From what I experienced as a child and now what I hear from other adults, no aspect of childhood is the misunderstood, ignored and denied more than sexuality. No aspect of sexuality is ignored or denied more than individually.

The mental sciences abound with theories about the psycho-sexual development of our species and the factors, symmetrical or otherwise, that make some of us gay. As one who grew up a lesbian and one who was aware of the all-rela-

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

Among my most vivid memories is the recollection of the Saturday morning I wandered into my parents' bedroom while my father wasbusily sleeping in the living room. There he was snoring away like a motorboat, and through the gaps fly of his pajamas, what did I see but sounds! a penis! I was astonished and excited, but with much urgency and amazement, informed her that my father's penis hadn't fallen off. What are you talking about? I did and it was, big as life, I wasn't afraid, 'Buddy, if I didn't have a penis, I would have one, you're sure 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 the neighbors were exposed to me and it occurred to me that men couldn't masturbate. I went through a period of some four years feeling the most intensive pity for the men of the world. Pity, notice, not envy. If there was anyone in whom I had no pity, he was a boy whom the I had no pity for, and I had no pity for. One who didn't think that the penis was one of the world's marvels. How could he? I was annoyed to think that I would make only half the millions: I expected. But I was fortunately because somehow intuition told me my discovery would never get the acceptance it deserved if men weren't in it on it.

"All in all, it was a great summer. My breasts started developing, I had my first period, and I discovered my clitoris."
during Gay/Lesbian Pride Week

Many gay and lesbian organizations are planning a variety of events as the Gay/Lesbian Pride Week is well underway. Events already scheduled include:

- June 16: Candlelight March
- June 18: Picnic and Volleyball Game
- June 20: National Gay/Lesbian Liaison Committee's Annual Meeting
- June 21: Movie Night
- June 22: Flow Rally in Daley Plaza
- June 23: The Naked Men's Miracle
- June 24: Dance

June 25th's 5th Annual Parade and Rally also several workshops are tentatively scheduled, which will be held alongside the official events. The goal is to provide a wide range of individual, contingent, and/or official events for the Parade. 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 route will be followed directly by the Parade procession.

Benefits to support these activities are also in the works. They include activities at the Center Stage on May 7, Patagonia on June 4, and the Out on June 5 at the West Park's Music Box, which has already sponsored benefits at Augies

by Bobbie Carlotta

The past two months at Augies have been full of activities. It has always been the tradition at Augie's to celebrate birthdays with a cake and champagne (donated by the bar). Since there are many Pieces, Aztec and Taurus people, Augie's (Augie's a vow) 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 Pieces Party - a combined party for St. Patrick's Day and all Pieces people. It was a really 'green' bash - green decorations, green food, green drinks for one and all, and by 2am a few green folks. Oh, on April 15th, Augies will hold a birthday party for all Arians. So join in the fun and let Augie's know by noon April 15th if anyone wishing to have an individual birthday party can just contact the bar. Hours and Sundays during the upcoming baseball season. This is to accommodate all the baseball fans who have off your parched throats.

Augie's is a gay bar that has inaugurated a new kind of party - a 'drag' party for the gay community. Twenty-five dollars was given away, and the top drag was 'Jill'.

New staff members at Augie's are Carol Clark who will work on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

around Town

On Saturday April 29 there will be a march and rally for the ERA. Participants are asked to assemble at 11:30pm 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 PVM, Clara Day of the Feminists, I'm Rosie 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 area; periodicals and of magazine collections and的研究. For more information call 334-3649 or 327-0304 any evening or weekend.

The Tavern Guild, an organization of gay workers who are associated with the labor industry, has established the Frank N. Hodde Memorial Building Fund. Through the fund, money is being raised to establish a gay/lesbian community center in Chicago. The center will contain of 10,000 square feet of space and will house a meeting space as well as rooms for service and social activities. Over $5000 has been raised through individual and corporate contributions. Contributions can be directed to the fund c/o BLAZING STAR F.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 Brewing Coffeehouse

Every Saturday night at 7:30pm there is entertainment and refreshments for women and children at Mountain Brewing Coffeehouse. The coffeehouse is located at 1635 W. School St., Stock. Two major upcoming events are Gause Culver and Shanghai Steves. Gause Culver is a star band from Washington, DC on April 21 and a spring dance party and with Gause Culver is one of the outstanding musicians of our time. This is her first appearance in Chicago in a while. The dance will feature "crock- water" all women 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 Players Center at 1635 W. Wilson. Shows are at 8:30 pm. Little Feet Theater will be the first group performing. The theater, from Boston, will present "The Pursue of Rocker Jones" musical dedicated to the memory of Mother Jones, on April 16 and 17. They will be followed on April 28 and 29 at the Fest of the Mountain, a women's theater company from Minneapolis. Their play will be "The Story of Mother's" a play about mothers' and daughters' and "Raped." Last in the series is the Prov- ince Theater from Los Angeles which will present the musical "Living Through the Everglades" on May 3 and 4.

with the New Sounds of 'Something Hot'

by Bobbie Carlotta

'Something Hot' is new entertainment provided to us by Donna Smola, Cathy Blaine, Pat Bata and Chry O'Hallan 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 Dar on rhythm guitar, Richlie Bouds on bass guitar, Tom on lead guitar and Cary Keenan (of the band 'Jilpi' of Chicago) as lead singer.

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

One of their goals is to make audiences as comfortable 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 in a most perfect blending of music personalities and talents that complement each other both on and off stage. Cathy credits this harmony to the efforts of each member to learn to handle, the structure. The states, 'when you can no union in any form... until everyone can handle and control consisted among themselves.'

Of course much of this would not be possible without Arlene Kuberek and Nadine Dellm as back 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 audiences to participate with and most performances receive a standing ovation when they close. Each member of the band is not only talented but highly respected and well liked.

The next engagement will be at Augie's, 3279 N. Halsted on Sunday, May 1 at 10pm. Please join us then.
"Socialism - A Special Report" was the cover story in Time magazine's March 13, 1978 issue. In a lengthy article about the exciting ideas and the people around the world, Time describes socialism as an alternative that promises more than it delivers. Time failed to talk with the large majority of American socialists and essentially gave an American capitalist view of socialism. In order to get a socialist viewpoint, a socialist talked to Judy McLean, national leader of the New American Movement, the nationwide socialist-feminist organization. McLean is also a member of the Blazing Star, which is affiliated with RAF.

Blazing Star: Why are you a socialist? Judy McLean: I became a socialist not out of thinking about it, but because I got angry about how much pain I saw around me. 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 way to change the entire society, but I wasn't sure how to go about it. Later, after I got active against the Vietnam War, I decided this 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 an issue 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.

Blazing Star: What is socialism for today? J.M.: Broadly speaking, socialism puts the resources of society under democratic control, and by allowing a few people to own them. It's for solving economic problems, like pollution. We also have to get rid of pollution as long as it's profitable to pollute. Under socialism, we'd use our resources to meet our needs — and if we democratically decided we needed a different 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, even if it's only just beginning, rape has been stopped. Socialism is for solving social/special problems, too.

Blazing Star: How do you see socialism meeting feminist demands?

J.M.: Feminism 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 prostitute to support themselves. But there is still a lot of inequity and sexism in these countries. I think we need to add the American feminist insight that "the personal is political" and that socialist theory to really liberate women.

Socialists have always understood the work women need to have an equal status in the traditionally male sphere of work, government, etc. That's why they're against the traditional family, and that's why they're generally, like care of the old and sick. If you can't get money to do both, you'll never really liberate women.

Blazing Star: 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 countries like the German Democratic Republic (East Germany) where there was a strong gay liberation movement under socialist control. In some countries, gay people have more rights than in any other Western European country. In terms of socialism here, socialism is about human relations. Socialists can't see that gay liberation is an important part of that. They're just wrong. New Americans have supported gay liberation since it was founded in 1971.

Blazing Star: The Time article says socialism is not as efficient as economic development as capitalism.

J.M.: You have to ask development for what end and for whom. Let's look at the U.S. and India. Thirty years ago they were very similar — poor, underdeveloped, with no control of foreign power. Today India remains capitalist, but China has a socialist revolution. In China there's no more hunger, everyone has a place to live, the fear of war and the crime rate is negligible. India hasn't solved one of these 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. On the other hand, under socialism, everyone has a job. Yet 6% of people here are unemployed. So who is all this development benefiting, anyway?

Blazing Star: The article says Poland's farm output is poor, because there is no incentive, and people are therefore lazy.

J.M.: That's the biggest wrong idea about socialism, that there is a lack of incentive. Only about 1% of people there have the incentive of profits, the rest 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 radio and music of the 1960's. As she was slipped away, Malvina still stood as a monument of creative conviction, pouring out our song after powerful song. Those of us who were in the movement for the long term paragraph found ourselvesside-by-side, year in and year out. The song that I will give you is one of her songs, "The Morning Song." A wry, strong, honest song, shallerly through her abundant energy, great gift for presenting a complex subject in a simple lyric, her unforgettable songwriting and her unforgettable speaking supplemented the social commentary with wit and with wisdom.

I was fortunate to accompany her in some concerts in the Midwest. During this time I saw that her songs expressed her dignity (her strength was obvious), but she rarely felt the desperation of being a housewife, that she still had so much to offer. She lovely 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 can't forget the times I met her, the coming and going of her songs. She speaks to us in everything: "This old world is mean and cruel. I still love it like a doll. This old world; this world; this world; this world.

Her children's song (for all of us children) "Love is something if you give it, you end up having more; it's like a magic penny." Her wit is always there playing a part in a mean and cruel world, a part in a world with all our favorites.

Fortunately, the Malvina covering through her songs and thoughts can never be taken away. She is everywhere present.
A NEW WAY OF LIFE

A Special Report

and run by a handful of capitalists.
This 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: Tim gives socialism some credit for bringing about equality.
J-M: Yes, even they have to admit the gap between rich and poor 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.

C: 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 US under socialism, we'd have those services, too. But I'd envision all services decentralized, so there could be lots of local control, and not just run by a big bureaucracy.

D: Tim ends with: "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 the 'bureaucracy,' capitalism offers only the 'old men,' whose self-interest is in profits - will ultimately benefit the commonweal. When it is assessed this way, it is no surprise that the capitalist ideal reality can be made to sound less appealing than the socialist dream." What do you say?

J-M: It's no coincidence Tim thinks it's just a question of a "one man," and that the "one 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.

E: 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.

F: 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.

G: Will that work?
J-M: I don't think so. If you just look at the No 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.

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Spotlight on the Bars: MUSIC BOX

by Eileen Willenberg

"Trifles aren't for me" cracked Rhonda Renee with a sly 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 scene in Chicago. She opened the MUSIC BOX, a women's bar that welcomes gay men, last December 28. The bar is located at 3735 S. Southport, and is open Monday through Saturday from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m., and on Sunday from noon to 5 p.m.

Rhonda, an open and friendly woman, wants her customers to feel at home, "like they're 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 Choe 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. Kritic Lenie, Ellen, and Choe Chee Romano are "Marching But! worn the attractions during April. (See elsewhere in this issue for more 'Something But!')

The Music Box 'roody' pool tournament every other Tuesday night. The Music Box will sponsor a softball team this spring. Renee has it that the team will be called the 'Music Roxettes' and will ride in the Music Box float in the upcoming Gay/Lesbian Pride Parade. To sign up for the tournament or the team, talk to the bartender. Rhonda Renee loves to talk to her customers. She had us spellbound and in stitches for over an hour recently as she spoke about her many-faceted career, which has run the gamut from Las Vegas showgirl, to pony-taunt student, to lady wrestler. It is a lady wrestler that Rhonda has become best known. Rhonda is tall and 100 pounds soaking wet. It is quite remarkable that her career has spanned 5 years.

Rhonda began her career as a model. Five years ago she was working as a bartender when a 250-pound woman named women's liberation all her life. She tended bars before it was an acceptable job for women "unless you had an educated husband." 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 outweighed 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, she pulled her long hair with him. The crowd roared and pounded 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 women (to women) would invade Ladies' wrestling and pre-empt women wrestlers, Rhonda exclaimed the impact such a turn would have for her career. "That's the difference. That person does change thing and I do mine. And my thing is a little bit of everything. I'm always gone for a challenge and wrestling a sake 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 us have helped - Lyne and Bobbie from Angie's, Pat and Jay from Petunia's, Karen from R&P, and Renee's. The social club, the hard work, the fun, the competition. We do compete for our customers, and we are friends. All of us work together, live in the softball league. We can't compete with each other. We all have bars that are different. This gives Chicago's lesbian a chance. There are more than enough customers to go around." It is heartening to know that competition exists within the framework of the bar. It is a place to relax, enjoy a delicious sandwich, drink pool, dance or just sit and talk to Rhonda. If you choose the latter, you are in for a real treat.

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"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 people are "sexist." Well, I didn't get to see it that night, but a few days later I did — it seems to me hard to tell if a movie is a disaster 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 about (among other things) sex 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 201 disco with his friends on Saturday night. An important part of these Saturdays are the disco contests — Tony is the best 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 Daphne Zuniga), 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 pushes the moves on her. She finally agrees to be his partner as Tony dumps Annette for Stephanie. This new partner is an older woman (she's at least 21), who is 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 huddle had 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 vising 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. "Because the disco says so," Tony replies. "We can all just get together? Instead we dump on the blacks, because we get dumped on at work, so he comes home and dumps on my sister." That is one sentence is one of the best statements about how racist and sexist and racist and sexist to keep people apart.

The movie winds up with Tony turning to Stephanie for support and friendship, the 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 sexist poses for relationships 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 it shows how life is very few highs, like Saturday night disco dancing, but the cost of those few highs is a life of dull and gray and empty. Tony is different from his buddies because he understands some of this. Even his friends who have two gang rapes his former dancing partner and the Puerto Rican couple, he knows that there's something wrong there. And that at least is a first step, for the rest of his friends — will they haven't come much farther than the guys in West Side Story, 15 years ago. It's Tony's 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 — share 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; beauty is better. 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. Perhaps we haven't arrived yet...

"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 about? How do you agree and disagree with? Let us know for our next issue; write Blastin' Star, PO Box 7882, Chicago 60680.

Let's Get These Boycotts Clear!

Many groups are asking people to boycott different products in order to support the larger group. In order to 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: Automotive J.P. Stevens boycott Stevens has closed, bazaar and fired workers for union activity. Stevens is the number one labor law violator in America. ACTWU has called a boycott of all J.P. Stevens products. AFC-CIO has pledged full support for an auto workers' boycott of all J.P. Stevens products. ACTWU is also continuing its efforts to organize farm-workers and expanding its efforts to organize farm-workers and expanding its efforts to organize farm-workers and expanding its efforts to organize farm-workers and expanding its efforts to organize farm-workers.

Florida citrus Gay and Lesbian Coalition Gay rights
J.P. Stevens Amalgamated Clothing & Textile Workers Union Workers rights to organize
Coors beer AFL-CIO and various gay groups Workers rights
Nestle's products INFECT Drop use of inferior products in Third World
States that have not yet passed ERA N.O.W. Help pass ERA
N.O.W.

For More Info: GLCMC P.O. Box 11493 Chicago, IL 60661 ACTWU, 333 S. Bach, Chicago, IL 60607 INFACT, 1701 University Ave, Mpls., MN 55414 N.O.W. 53 W. Jackson, Chicago, IL 60605

"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 Nydham, and Sylvia Stakem, describing the union activities. An interview with Stella appeared in Chicago Reader, Vol. 1, No. 9.

"Union Maids" is one of several film make to strict the activities of labor organizers. "Harlan County," a film about a miners' strike in Kentucky, won an Oscar last year. "Women's Faces" was made by Julia Reichert and Jim Klein (both members of the ACLU Women's Rights Project). Congratulations to them for their fine achievement.

On Sunday April 30, Caesar Chavez, the president of the United Farmworkers, will be in Chicago for the first time in many years. He'll be speaking at the Special Frontier Conference of the Chicago and Central States Joint Board of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union. All are welcome to attend this program at St. Scholastica High School, 7415 N. Ridge at 2 p.m. The UVW and the ACNW are also sponsoring a two-act play, entitled "Papa, It's On," presented that afternoon by the Labor Theatre of the Actors Equity Association. A union wine and cheese reception will follow the program.

The UVW 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 closed, bazaar and fired workers for union activity. Stevens is the number one labor law violator in America. ACTWU has called a boycott of all J.P. Stevens products. The AFC-CIO has pledged full support for an auto workers' boycott of all J.P. Stevens products. ACTWU is also continuing its efforts to organize farm-workers and expanding its efforts to organize farm-workers and expanding its efforts to organize farm-workers and expanding its efforts to organize farm-workers.

"Working" Chaz to Slake on Stevens Boycott

Chris Kiddough

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Sports

Bowling

The Angie’s bowling league is now coming down to the wire; there is an exciting battle over first, second and third place. Angie’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 Kelly, Captains of the six teams are: Bobbi, Kathy Downey, T. Rodriguez, Olga, Bobbi 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 Playland on Clark at 6:30pm on Thursdays.

Pool

Pool tournaments are now being held at both Angie’s and the Music Box. At Angie’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.

Softball

Get out your baseball bats and equipment folks, the season is about to start. Teams are being sponsored this year by several of the bars including Angie’s, the Music Box, Patna’s, and OK’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 time 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 Angie’s for women interested in being on the Angie’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.

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 karate and are willing to switch styles. If you are interested, please call Judy at 871-7700.

Lezian 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 meetings, socialize, a place for social activities, referral and counseling services, and a communications center. No policy decisions were made at the meeting. Questions of funding, operating policies, and other fundamental issues will be taken up at the next meeting, which will be on Sunday, April 16 at 4 pm. It Frank Juchem Tower, 6th and Throop streets.

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 affects 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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