ABORTION RIGHTS UNDER ATTACK

by Ricky Judd

Abortion rights confrontations have once again become major news items across the country. News reports are filled with accounts of Right-to-Life (R-T-L) legislative battles. Proposed federal funding cuts, and even numerous bombings of abortion doctors' offices, have made the issue a household topic.

Chicago has not escaped this R-T-L plague. Three months ago, a R-T-L-minded group of citizens in Chicago's City Council by a full half of the Council's members passed a proposed state constitutional amendment. The resolution called for: transecutive license requirements which would affect closed down the majority of abortion clinics in Chicago because of increase in abortion for women under eighteen years of age. However, the proposal only affects women who are married. It has extensive counseling procedures as well as a week-by-week description of fetal development and widely inflamed warnings of the dangers (both physical and emotional) of abortion.

This resolution was quickly made - with no hearings and no publicity. In fact, Pro-Choice forces had much difficulty finding out about this would be happening.

The Chicago Women's Health Task Force (CHWTFT), a group of women, who are concerned about reproductive rights and women's health, was the first to make the issue known. For the past year, CHWHTFT has been sponsoring Chicago's annual Women's Resource Fair. This year, the theme was "Making Choices, Women's Perspectives on Reproductive Rights and Abortion." The fair, which took place on Saturday, April 14th, was attended by over 3,000 people.

The fair included a variety of workshops and speakers on reproductive rights and women's health issues. One of the highlights was a panel discussion on "Women's Choices and the Future of Abortion." The panelists included Dr. Jane_obs, a former member of the Board of Directors of the National Abortion Rights Action League, and Dr. Alice Kushner, a member of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

The panelists discussed the importance of reproductive rights and the need for access to abortion services. They also talked about the impact of anti-choice legislation and the role of women's groups in advocating for reproductive rights.

One of the panelists, Dr. Kushner, emphasized the importance of women's choice in making decisions about their bodies. She said, "We must support women's right to make decisions about their own bodies, and to choose the medical care that is best for them."

The fair also included a variety of other events, such as a women's health fair, a women's rights march, and a women's rights concert. The fair was a success, and the organizers plan to hold it again next year.

In summary, the Chicago Women's Health Task Force (CHWTFT) has been advocating for reproductive rights and women's health for many years. Their efforts have resulted in the Chicago Women's Resource Fair, which has become an important event in Chicago. The organization continues to work towards ensuring that women have access to reproductive health care and that their choices are respected.
Summer In the City

by Chris Riddell and Ellee Williams

"Our time—summer in the city Back of my neck getting dirty and grime..."

Summer is finally here, though it looked for a while like it may never arrive. We all look forward to summer—vacations, swimming, softball, picnics. But summer in the city can be a drag, especially if you are young. Summer in the city may mean looking forward to swimming and softball but not having a pool or a park nearby.

Chicago: The Youth

The parks in the city are supposed to be public places for recreation. The Chicago Park District has an annual budget of about $70 million for upkeep, improvement and programming, among other things. But what kind of facilities and programs do they offer? There are some shining classes offered at the city's 72 pools, but this is hardly adequate to meet the recreational needs of the city's 1.2 million youths. The parks also offer softball leagues throughout the city. The catch to this is that a team must come up with a $200 (or more) reinsurance fee. What group of teenagers has that kind of money? How many teenagers will pay that kind of money to sponsor a team?

Looking at the parks district, one cannot help but think that what you see is not always what it seems. Yes, the parks are supposed to be recreation centers, but what are the results? What kind of recreation is going on here? To see that most of the facilities (and the best served ones) are in white, well-to-do areas, that the people who live in these areas have enough money to send their children to the parks and athletic clubs. The kids at Back of the Yards are often left to play in the streets or on grass-littered streets. To teenagers the frustration of the summer is increased by the lack of jobs. Many kids need to work to help their parents with expenses or just to support themselves. A job would provide some of the problems that result from too much unstructured time.

The highest jobless rates in the city are among youth in the 16-20 year age bracket. In some black and Latino neighborhoods, unemployment is as high as 40% of the youth. Federal, State and City programs offer some summer jobs for these youth, but most of these jobs are for boys. Young women do not have equal access to the limited jobs available through government funding.

What impact does this rather depressing situation have on Chicago's young people? Many of them turn to street gangs because gangs at least offer them something to do. A sense of purposelessness and alienation is replaced by social activities and peer recognition which comes with gang membership. But the gangs are clearly no solution to the problem of youth or lack of neighborhood facilities.

For gay kids, summer can present even more problems. Whether they're out or not, there are few social outlets for gay teenagers. They face the limitations of all kids, but have the added problem of not having many ways to get together with other gay kids. Many gay adults are wary of working with or just being friendly to teenagers because that's often looked on as "recruitment" by society as a whole.

Dissertation in the Parks: Women Desire Fair Play

For women and young girls the opportunities for recreation are often even more limited. We are not supposed to be interested in active recreation, but in more feminine pursuits—like playing with dolls or playing bridge. Recently we've begun to attack this idea and work for better opportunities for women to participate in sports. But this isn't always easy and sometimes even young girls have to fight for a chance to participate in sports. In the last few years there have been several examples of this. Tina Mizzaro, a young Chicago girl who wanted to play football, but the authorities thought it was too dangerous. Only after a long fight was she able to go to Michele Emmer's a hockey player from Wisconsin who was not allowed to play with her team against a Canadian boy's team. And Nancy Wynn from Detroit wanted to play in the Little League a few years ago. She was prevented from playing because she would not wear a boy's athletic supporter in her uniform. The Little League insisted that if all players had to wear them, then there are just a few examples of what girls have to go through to participate in sports.

"It's not much fun for adult women. Just a few years ago, a woman was beaten with a baseball bat by a man from a man's softball team. Her team was supposed to be playing against the diamonds, her team was playing. He got so angry about having to give up the diamonds to a bunch of women that he hit her with the bat. Of course, things aren't always that extreme, but there's a lot of discrimination. A report from the Chicago Park District states that 50,000 people playing softball: only 8,000 are women. In some instances entry fees for women's teams are higher than for men's. In most schools and parks, women are lucky to get any facilities at all, much less equal ones. Schools spend lots of money maintaining, upgrading, outfitting and fielding boys' teams. Girls' teams—where they exist—get little. Most parks when they have women's softball at all, squeeze us into the worst time spots, giving priority to men's softball and boys' Little League. Even when we do get leagues we often get unequal treatment. Frequently, women only get to play 3 innings to men's 7. If at least one park, the women's league isn't even guaranteed a first-time game; if the men get there, the women have to leave the diamonds! In the parks (though this is true for men also) there is a great confusion about dates—when do teams start signing up? When does league play begin? Who's the final date for rosters? What are the fees? These vary from park to park, and often no one is quite sure which is which. The lack of Little League and equal sports programs in the parks will continue to be a problem with inadequate facilities in the parks, men's and women's games will have very poor training in sports. Many women might enjoy playing softball, but they feel they're not good enough. But men weren't born knowing how to play. They were taught, and people invested a lot of time and money to teach them. The lack of childcare also means it is difficult for many mothers to play. It's hard to focus on a fly ball when your three-year-old is screaming on your head. If all these handicaps don't keep women out of sports, often the general attitude that sports aren't feminine will. Young girls who could compete with boys in Little League may be held back by their parent's fears. Or they may not care to deal with the hassles of managing and commuting. High school girls may get laughed at or labelled tomboy for playing sports.

Our final handicap face is getting teams together. While men may be able to get a company or local tavern to sponsor their teams without any trouble, these same companies and taverns may be reluctant to sponsor a women's team. Many women do not work outside the home, which makes it even harder to get a sponsor. It's also difficult to get a team together when you're newly housewife. In your daily routine you may not see enough women who would want to play. And even if you do work outside the home, your schedule will often be no lighter than a man's—if on top of working you do all of the housework and take care of children.

We believe that women and girls should have equal sports facilities, equal training, and equal treatment with men and boys. At present, the lack of Little League and equal sports programs in the parks will continue to be a problem with inadequate facilities in the parks, men's and women's games will have very poor training in sports. We have a real fight on our hands to win the kinds of programs we want.

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At WICCA

"If you want to do right, hire a woman." Womans-owned and operated businesses are flourishing in Chicago. What has been missing is a way to list prospective customers new about the range and quality of services available. Other than an occasional advertisement in local newspapers or magazines, these businesses lack exposure and many would be able to earn more of their existence.

But this gap is soon to be filled. Women in Crisis Care Act (W.I.C.C.A.), a city-wide women's referral service and crisis line, is currently adding a referral desk listing women-owned and operated businesses in the metropolitan area. After the new service has been in operation for a while, the catalog of businesses will include feedback from W.I.C.C.A.'s callers who have been patterned in the enterprises on file.

The new directory will include women who offer such services as: artists - astro

DOONESBURY

And Elsewhere

Congratulations to Pennina on her second anniversary. A big celebration for this will be held on March 15th. Other recent events at The Lesbian Center, complete with a raffle of items donated by a variety of businesses and groups. More information on the second anniversary event can be obtained by calling The Lesbian Center.

The NSMS will serve as a national focal point for the community and the gay community which will enable us to provide some concrete services to thousands of people who have limited access to existing resources.

A main objective of the switchboard is to help callers identify local resources which are more than needed. This more people will be utilizing existing resources as a result of the NSMS. These services will also be free to refer after-hours calls to the NSMS.

The NSMS is an important service project, it is rewarding to see the growth in the number of people who are taking advantage of the NSMS.

Because of the high cost of WATS lines ($100,000 a year), the NSMS will have a budget of about $20,000 annually.

Since the NSMS is a national service project, fundraising is proceeding on a national scale. A campaign of the gay community, business associations, social groups, and individuals is being sought. Benefits will be held throughout the country for the project in conjunction with local services. Intercommunity institutions and individual support will also be solicited.

For further information contact: David Palmer, Save Our Human Rights Foundation, 415-121-2222.

An official of the United Steelworkers of America charged Sunday that several women who refused the sexual advances of their colleagues at U.S. Steel Corp.'s giant Gary Works have been penalized.

Frank F. Felix, general counsel of the Local 666 Committee Against Discrimination, said his union will press for new legislation in Indiana and Illinois as well as at the federal level to protect workers against such harassment.

One of the victims, Patricia Joyce, 20, was fired last year, 29, just 40 working hours before her probationary employment period was to have ended. In a signed statement she gave to the union, Joyce said, "I believe I was discharged because these forms believe they have control of me - 14 new women employees, especially black women employees. When I tried to go along with their ways, they decided to get rid of me."

With the Writers' Conference

Women's Press has announced that planning for the 5th annual Lesbian Writer's Conference is underway. The conference will be held in Hyde Park and is tentatively scheduled for mid-September.

Over 1,500 women have attended the conference in the past four years - featured speakers and workshop co-ordinators have included Alva Keating (Isabel Miller), author of 'Atone for and Sarah, Lesbian activist and poet, Marsha Shelly, novelist Valerie Taylor, biographer Barbara Grier (Grace, Daimon), academic and editor Berta Hodge, Chicago writers Andrea Medina and Kathleen Thompson, authors of A

At the Library

The New Alexandria Lesbian Library is a lending and resource library for Lesbians. If you have over 1,000 circulating volumes and nearly complete holdings of more than 75 different newspapers, magazines, newsletters of interest to Lesbians. Subject and general files and non-circulating reference sections contain materials which are impossible to find elsewhere.

Membership in The New Alexandria Lesbian Library is open to all Lesbians upon payment of an $8.00 yearly fee.

The Library is currently housed in a private residence. There is ample room to browse at your leisure, listen to tapes, research the files, check out books, and move a top a

Call 327-6534 or 334-3649 any evening or weekend for an appointment to stop by.

Rave and area poets Claudia Scott, Verna Greer and Peripole Page.

The three-day conference will follow the format of prior years, with a keynote address by a principal speaker on Friday night followed by a full day of workshops on Saturday and an evening of entertainment.

The conference will conclude with readings of works in progress by conference participants on Sunday afternoon.

For further information as details are available, please send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Maria Kuds, WOMANPRESS, Box 5970, Chicago 60659.
Profile: AUGIE

by Bobbie Carlotta

Augie is one of the true assets to our community. I walked with Augie down memory lane starting with the mid-60's to the present. Augie spoke seriously about the social implications of our lifestyle and the problems she faced in the 1960's.

Being raised in the neighborhood of North and Halsted, she would frequent some of the bars in that area, which at that time were the “Variety,” "Big Lou’s," "Shrimpy’s," and the "VolleyBall." Naturally Augie became aware of the lifestyle led by the women who went to the bars. Curiosity was her first reaction, as it is in most cases...

Coming from a very closely-knit Italian family, Augie did what most Italian young ladies do—married and had a baby. She did what was expected of her; raised her son and performed a typical role of a married housewife. Augie left the North and Halsted scene for those next two years. After struggling for over a year, her husband, not meeting with his responsibilities, left Augie on her own. At this time in her life Augie was in financial stress. She had to work and raise her child by herself. Constantly working and struggling to exist, which left no time for personal happiness, she began to look at her life in review. She became drawn to the lifestyle she had left behind.

Being the Taurus she is—stubborn and a mountain of determination—she had to experience her own feelings in this matter. Even knowing the repercussions that would arise from family and friends, Augie became aware of the pressures that were encountered by these women.

Among them were the dress code, which was limited—either you wore a dress or pants. The police constantly harassed the women because of this. Back then, that led to jail. Many of the women were in hard drugs, which of course led to many forms of hustling to support their habits.

So Augie started being aware of the persecution and the suffering these women encountered. Not only with the police, but with family, friends, and society as a whole. Of course this was not the accepted life then. You were frowned on, pointed at, you were really considered a freak.

As I talked with Augie, I could see and feel the pain and torment she felt for these women. I even noticed a few tears, for the past touched Augie deeply.

Yet she decided to suffer whatever consequences she must, to live her life her way. Augie expressed how much better it is today, because of different social groups, who have helped make society more aware and understanding. Today you can live most anywhere, but back then you were confined to certain areas. Recreation today is not solely limited to just a bar. Jobs then were one thing; either you hustled or you worked in a bar. Today you don’t have those situations; there are fewer limitations today. It is a much freer lifestyle.

Augie also feels that through these experiences the older crowd paved the way for the younger generation of today. It was a hard fight, and a long battle, but they stood firm in their beliefs.

I asked Augie if she would go through this again if she had to. Her answer was loud and clear—“Yes! Yes! Because I am where I wish to be at.”

August and Donna, early 1960's

We come to the 1970's now, and the changes were happening for the better. Augie and Donna (her friend of 9 years) watched and were both aware of this.

Their timing was perfect—their idea was far greater—a club for women. At this time, the "In Between" owned by Pat Foster of "Petronia's") was for sale. So Augie and Donna bought the bar, and felt that this could make this bar into a meeting place, where women wouldn’t be hassled by anyone, and to give women a chance to communicate with each other on a one-to-one basis. A good bar service and a sanitary, comfortable, and enjoyable atmosphere were of the utmost importance to Augie and Donna. Of course, Augie's white-glove treatment of the bar and liquor was well appreciated by her clientele.

On Nov. 1, 1973, Augie and Donna rededicated the bar. The decor was unmistakably Augie and Donna. This was accomplished in five days.

The name "Augie's Club" was not originally their first choice. When they had gone downtown to obtain the license and to re-name the bar, the name they put down on their application was already in use, so Donna came up with the name of "Augie's", as this was her nickname through the years.

So on Nov. 8, 1973, "Augie's Club" had its grand opening. This was to be the christening of the now infamous "Augie's." The first two years were filled with many problems, some expected, some not. Both being novices in the bar business, they had to learn how to deal with friends and acquaintances who were now on the other side of the bar. "Augie's" was the first bar of its kind, that was created for, open to, and catered only to the personal enjoyment of women.

This took many long hours of hard work, patience and understanding by both Augie and Donna. I might also add that Augie and Donna worked their own bar the first two years.

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Sexuality: When We Were Very Young

by Marianna Roisman

Correction

Readers of the first part of this article published in Blasting Star, Vol. 4, No. 3, April 1979, understandably noted the error in the second paragraph from the end. The rest of that paragraph should have read:

"All of the infant children of my parents’ family, and others, have been brought up in the same household. There is no prejudice among the children, and the love and respect all of us share."

In the first part of this article on childhood sexuality, I related memories of my earlier years, from approximately three years to nine years old. If there was anything conspicuous in its omission, it is likely to be the lack of mention of others, other peers or adults. The phenomenon described in the article occurred in one child’s experience.

The lack of realization of the problems of sexuality can be attributed to the way in which the information was presented. It seems that there is a need for more discussion of these issues and the way in which sexuality is presented in different cultures.

With David Simmons, a period of some ten years began. It was a period during which we were both perfectly natural to those around us, regardless of what felt unnatural to me. I did exactly what I expected of me in spite of my feelings and thoughts. For it was my sad situation that David Simmons remained friends, but my heart belonged to Noreen Connors.

The lack of mention of others in my relationship with other girls and boys is my awareness. I remember not only the lack of men but directly, but somehow I knew that the feelings I had for Noreen would have been encouraged had they been for David. They were for Noreen and not David would have liked it. The lack of expression in any way, verbally or otherwise, I believe, as the tender age of twelve, a shocker. I had no malice ends. I had no reason for the other’s lack of energy, and maintaining proximity to Noreen. More than almost anything else, I thought of how to get into the same tent on Girl Scout camping trips. How to get along with them for the same team in gym class, how to get placed near them when making arrangements, and how to get a seat next to Noreen Connors in the lunchroom. All the time, I made sure no one noticed, and I held on to David Simmons. That was until the day I was also(Transform)

I don’t want to finish without mentioning the section on “The Spectrum of Lesbian Experience” which includes essays by Thad Sambol and working class women. I was particularly struck by the story of a Puerto Rican lesbian named Jolene Rivera, who describes the tension faced by her and other Puerto Rican lesbians who have to choose between their commitment to lesbian feminism and the Puerto Rican community. Well, there’s more, much more, in this book. It’s unique in that nothing of this nature exists. It’s unfortunate that it’s not as expensive as it is ($13) but perhaps we can look forward to a paperback edition. In any case, it’s a book worth having and reading and passing on to friends, family, and anyone else who wants or needs to know about lesbians.
Spotlight on: Jane Addams Bookstore

Their store, originally opened in one crowded, cramped room in the YWCA building at 37 South Wabash, has grown in less than 2 years to three good-sized rooms filled with women's graphs, arts and crafts as well as all the latest records from the growing network of women's music composers and performers. In addition to the new and used books on women, there are also old children's books (as well as current non-secular children's materials), illustrated books, mysteries, science fiction, cookbooks (old and new), and increasing numbers of old, out-of-print lesbian novels (unfortunately, these are all too quickly sold). One room offers plenty of seating around a variety of old school desks and tables, where the browser can relax over a cup of tea, coffee or cider and enjoy some of Nancy Finke's well-organized parties (carrot or zucchini cake, ginger cookies, brownies, meringues). Dance and yoga and fresh fruit complete their menu.

If the store does not stock a particular item they will happily order it for the only exception being those in-print-only items, such as Alan Dohlin's or Linda Shear's recordings, which are sold only through the New Alexandria Lesbian Library. One of the store's unique features is that it offers a free book-of-the-month club for those rare or out-of-print titles most of us have been looking for for years. A variety of resource materials are available for parents and teachers, gay group coordinators, women's studies and lesbian literature programs.

Finke and Faraci are long-time friends who risked this venture in 1975 with the hope of eventually being able to support themselves. Their labors are supplemented by a number of 'Jane Addams Irrigators', women who believe in the bookstore and work odd days and hours in return. This is particularly valuable, as the proprietors frequently pick up a portion of their store and hire in other women for various seminars and conferences or performance in town to help with the store.

Customers questions or special order requests are always welcomed by the staff. Photo by Elaine Weiss
by Chris Riddington

Residents of three more cities have voted to repeal gay rights laws. Brach city: St. Paul, Minnesota, Wichita, Kansas, and Eugene, Oregon—voted by an almost two to one margin or greater. The defeats in St. Paul and Eugene were especially shocking since "homosexuals have a reputation for losing."

In St. Paul, gay rights activists had garnered more than 30,000 signatures supporting a gay rights ballot issue and the Roman Catholic archdiocese, the St. Paul Labor Council, the Urban League and the mayor and other officials. Shortly before the vote on the referendum, Anita Bryant came to St. Paul and added her voice to the speakers urging voters to support gay rights. Enthusiastic gay rights supporters rallied to protest her appearance; the 1,000 people at the rally constituted only one of the largest demonstrations in St. Paul history.

In related action, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld a North Carolina sodomy law which had been upheld against gay men. Last year the court upheld a similar Virginia law. It has also allowed to stand a Washington state school board firing of a gay teacher.

Even more immediate threats to gay rights have appeared on the horizon. A referendum on gay rights laws has been scheduled for July 26 in Seattle/Washington and positions for such a referendum are being circulated in Madison, Wisconsin. In California, State Senator John Briggs has apparently succeeded in placing on the ballot an initiative that would affect jobs of gay public officials. The initiative, to be voted on in November, would prohibit gay people and gay rights supporters from being in any California public schools, or similar gay law has been passed in 16 states.

It is becoming increasingly clear that these attacks on gay rights are not isolated incidents. Rather, they are a coordinated effort to repeal gay rights laws and to attack gay rights activists. The attacks have been spearheaded by Anita Bryant. Bryant traits are often the target of the attacks. In spite of Bryant's efforts, the American Civil Liberties Union defends the right of the American citizens to organize and support gay rights groups.

Here's How You Can Save America's Cities from the Special Privileges of Homosexuals

Dear Friend:

I'm writing you this urgent emergency letter today because God's ministers are fighting a battle worse than the Holocaust.

I'm telling you about the nationwide effort going on to enact in every city 'special privileges' to gay people and without shame. I know you don't believe in the right to sin either, and because you're a friend of mine, I'm asking you to support the sudden flurry of laws to protect homosexuals.

I need you to send $50 or more right now to help me get St. Paul and other cities well on their way to abolishing gay rights and sin in their communities.

And that is why I'm writing you today because you have the conviction of Jesus Christ to put down such filth.

Dade County was only a beginning of God's plan to bring morality back to America. St. Paul is another city God intends to nourish back to decency and it is important to His overall plan because it represents a very liberal state in the South. By winning in St. Paul it will prove that as a nation America stands united against immorality, no more can the militant homosexuals blame the Dade County success on the reasoning that it was in the fundamental South—The Bible Belt. St. Paul will then become a major turning point in our spiritual battle against immorality—...from there 'Protect America's Children' can go on to other victories. That's why I'm trusting in you for a special gift to save our children in St. Paul and Wichita from homosexual perversion.

And so to set up a fund to help other cities with their predicament. Anything you can send—$25, $50, $500 or maybe even $100—will give God another way of speaking to His people through 'Protect America's Children'.

P.S. The "Protect America's Children" fund is nationwide.

St. Paul holds our crucial point of 'Protect America's Children's' fight against homosexuality just like when our forefathers fought for freedom from King George the Tyrant. Many men were lost in the struggle and they paid for liberties with their blood. Think about how much more you can do by supporting a city for God.

Are you going to let America be completely taken over by city by city from evil forces? I pray not.

When I see the militant homosexuals acting in private or marching for their special privileges, I see the men of Saddam and Gomorrasah waiting to attack the angel—"...and Satan was forthwith seeking to tem the fear of God out of our children into believing homosexuality, lust and pornography are right and respectable."

You can see how the weight of your decision to help St. Paul, Minnesota affects you and your family and all American cities.

I am confident that you will act immediately with your usual generous gifts to 'Protect America's Children,' which will be used to help St. Paul, Wichita, and several other cities facing the questions of homosexuality.

In the future, we hope to help cities throughout America to put decency and morality back into their communities.

By helping St. Paul today you are helping to save your own city or town protect itself. Because God is using 'Protect America's Children' to fight the militant homosexuals nationally and locally. And, as well as being help homosexuals overcome their perceived liberties?

So please, do your part today in 'Protect America's Children' PAC. It is clear that these attacks are also linked up with anti-KKK and other right-wing causes.

Gay & Lesbian Pride Week Special Insert

P.S. I have already sent Reverend William Chapman, a member of the 'Protect America's Children's Board' to assist St. Paul's citizens in their fight to repeal the ordinances.

Time is running out. The cities need our help right now. I have forwarded some seeds to St. Paul with faith that you will support me.

Please send your gift to me immediately!

And remember St. Paul in your prayers as well as Wichita, Kansas and other cities fighting the militant homosexuals.

In other interviews and reports from 'Protect America's Children' PAC, it is clear that these attacks are also linked up with anti-KKK and other right-wing causes.

In the Playboy interview Bryant attacks Jews as well as homosexuals and the literature of PAC contains statements that are only slightly veiled examples of racist and anti-Semitic material. In Seattle, the opponents of gay rights are linked with groups that have been involved in attacks there on Native Americans.

Gay rights supporters across the country are attempting to plan a strategy to overcome these attacks. Campaigns so far have been waged on the basis of an appeal for human rights. But clearly these efforts have failed. The Tri-City Defense Fund has been coordinating efforts to raise funds for cities facing gay rights referenda, while the National Gay Task Force is planning a major public education campaign.

Locally the Committee on Chicago Gay Rights Legislation is beginning to work on the passage of gay rights bills in the Chicago city council. The committee projects that introduction of the legislation will take place next spring. In the interim, committees have been set up to build community support, work with the media, and work within the power structure.
Gay people and historians are re-discovering that 'gay life' has been around for a long, long time. Books, articles, and even official public documents provide us with ample evidence of conscious resistance by gay men and women to the restrictions placed upon them by a homophobic society. Forums and seminars were held throughout the latter half of the 19th century and the early decades of the 20th century so that scholars could debate the issue of 'sexual inversion' as homosexuality was called. Psychologists, physicians, sociologists and political activists wrote long articles about the subject.

A copy of Friendship and Freedom, a paper published by the Chicago Society for Human Rights, appears prominently in the photo of a collection of early homosexual emancipation periodicals.

Both men and women were authors as well as case-history subjects of the surviving documents. The earliest records of a gay social organization in New York dates from 1897. It was called the Circle Hermaphrodite and met weekly at the Parkside Hall, an infamous gay bar of the period. Letters as early as 1859 urged organized resistance to homophobia (fear) of homosexuals in this country and spoke of a visionary society in the future where it shall be customary in all directions, in the houses and streets to see many affection, the departing brother or friend shall shake the remaining brother or friend with a kiss. I will Whitman's Leaves of Grass. 1860

One of the earliest references to bisexuality in print was in a pamphlet by Edward Carpenter, a socialist leader of the English homosexual emancipation movement and a correspondent of Walt Whitman. In 1895, he wrote Homosexual Love and Its Place in a Free Society which he published thru the Manchester [England] Labour Press. In this defense of homosexual-
Homosexuals have had to face throughout history. Chicago was the location of the first known gay rights organization in the United States. In 1924, a group of men under the leadership of Harry Gerber, formed the League for Human Rights. Gerber became familiar with the German homosexual liberation movement during World War I. The German leader was Dr. Magnus Hirschfeld, who in 1897 founded the Scientific Humanitarian Committee, which served as a model for the American group. On December 10, 1924, the State of Illinois granted the Society a charter as a non-profit organization. According to the charter, the object of the group was to promote and to protect the interests of people who by reason of mental and physical abnormalities are abused and hindered in the legal pursuit of happiness which is guaranteed them by the Declaration of Independence. The charter goes on to say that the organization will work to educate the public by dissemination of facts according to modern science.

The Society for Human Rights was faced with problems from the beginning. Most homosexuals asked to join refused because of fear of exposure. There were never more than 15 members. Two issues of a magazine "Friendship and Freedom" were published to present homosexuality in a positive light to the general public. Despite his efforts, Gerber could not get the support from authorities, especially doctors and psychologists, that he felt was necessary if the Society was to have any real impact. Finances were an ongoing problem that never were adequately addressed.

The State authorities had not checked the Society very closely before they granted the charter. However, they soon discovered what the goals of the charter were really referring to. They began to harass Gerber, and in 1925, arrested him and two other organizers on trumped-up charges of forcing "family men" to perform homosexual acts against their will. The men were arrested without warrants, an obvious violation of civil rights. Gerber managed to present homosexuality in a positive light to the general public. Despite his efforts,
This Year’s Events

Chicago’s 9th Annual Gay & Lesbian Pride Week, with the theme “One Time Has Come,” is less than two weeks away. The Gay & Lesbian Pride Week Planning Committee recently announced its final plans concerning the events of the week. Pride week begins with a Candlelight Vigil on Friday, June 24 at 8:00 pm at the Lincoln Park Free Forum (south of the farm at the Lagoon). The vigil will have speakers who will commemorate gays persecuted throughout history. Sunday, June 26th, is the annual Picnic and Volleyball Game at 2 pm in Lincoln Park (located east of the Lagoon at Cannon Drive, south of Diversey). Bring your favorite picnic lunch.

A Parade Preparatory Meeting on Monday, June 19th at 7:30 pm at 615 West Wellington (local hall) will discuss issues concerning the Parade, including parade lines, marshals’ duties, etc., and will end the film of past Pride Weeks. All Parade participants are asked to have a representative present at this meeting. Workshops will take place on various evenings during the week, including Tuesday, June 20 when the Sunday Evening Writers Group will meet at 615 West Wellington at 8 PM performing a reading of its works (poetry, fiction, essays). For info on other workshops see the Pride Week Schedule. This issue. The Loop Rally in Daley Plaza is scheduled for Friday, June 24 at 1 pm with guest speaker, Valerie Taylor, along with local legislators. That evening, a Town Hall Meeting, co-ordinated by the Coalition, will be held at 7:30 pm.

The annual Dance this year titled “Summer Magic,” will take place on Saturday, June 24 at 8 pm at 615 W Michigan. Tickets are $3.50 ($4 doors) and will include a fresh fruit table along with the best sound equipment and DJ’s around. The Clouds Room, with sweeping views of the city, will be decorated in all white for the occasion.

The 9th Annual Gay & Lesbian Pride Parade on Sunday, June 25th, will follow the same route as last year with a 1 pm lineup on the east side of Halsted, just south of Belmont. At 2 pm the Parade will step off with the loud hailer, color guard contingents, cars and floats representing businesses, organizations and individuals. As always, the Committee is concerned with the safety and well-being of Parade participants. For this reason, they want to reiterate the following guidelines as established by the city permit. These include no alcoholic beverages, no drugs, no animals, no balloons, and no loud music or bands. This year the Parade Marshals will be wearing purple armbands, and I.D. badges. Members of the Pride Week Planning Committee will be wearing yellow lanyards with “Pride Week Committee” stenciled on the back. If there are any questions or problems during the Parade, marshals and Committee members can help.

Friday
June 16
8:30 pm
Candlelight Vigil – commemorating Gays persecuted through history - at Lincoln Park Free Forum, south of farm at Lagoon.

Saturday
June 17
Open! Visit your local Gay business or Gay group.

Sunday
June 18
2 pm
Volleyball Game – Lincoln Park at Cannon Drive, east of the Lagoon near Diversey. Bring a picnic lunch.

Monday
June 19
7:30 pm
Parade Preparatory Meeting - 615 Wellington, 6th Floor Pride Week films

Tuesday
June 20
8 pm

Wednesday
June 21
6:30 pm
Movie Night - Pre-admission. Movies courtesy of Little John’s. Time and place to be announced

Thursday
June 22
8 pm

Friday
June 23
1 pm
Mr. Windy City Contest & Gay Chicago Awards part of door proceeds to Pride Week Committee. Radisson Hotel, 505 N Michigan.

Saturday
June 24
8 pm
Loop Rally in Daley Plaza – guest speakers include Valerie Taylor and local legislators

Sunday
June 25
2 pm
Rally and awards follow parade in Lincoln Park.


blazing star

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 women about the oppression that people face because of their sexual preference. We also want to keep our members informed about local and national events that affect us.

We are writing for the passage of gay rights legislation and the Equal Rights Amendment. Any women interested in working with us on these projects is welcome to join us. Write BLAZING STAR, Post Office Box 7801, Chicago 60680; or leave a message for us at 342-2398.
SUMMER IN THE CITY
continued from page 2
Who Really Runs the Park?
Chicago's motto is "God's city in a garden" and a lot of play is given to the
parks. They're supposed to be for the people; but when you go down to it, you find
that they're not. The park district is very difficult to
get any information out of—it took
several calls to get information on just the
budget—which should be public. On trying
to find out what entry fees were for softball
teams, one park said they couldn't "divulge
that information." You'd think they were
trying to get information on the CIA and not the
Chicago Park District.

The distribution of facilities is not equal
either. For example, Humboldt Park, one
of the city's biggest parks, has no softball
leagues. Taylor Park on the city's west side
has no softball for adults. These parks are in
Latino and Black neighborhoods.

Sometimes what park facilities are available can't be used. Last summer the
police shut kids out of the park in Palmer
Park; softball games in a park on the
northwest side.

Square and wouldn't allow them to play
softball. Calling the police, the park district
and the aldermen brought no results. No one
would take responsibility. For women the
parks can be outright dangerous:

The parks are supposed to be for
the people, but to much of the time they're not.
Who really runs the parks?

We decided to check out how much money
the Park District has and how it gets spent,
as we could figure out how to get funds for
crimes. Anyone with an understanding
of short boxes and Chicago will already suspect
that Chicago's parks are in the interests of
big business by rich men closely
connected to the Democratic machine. It
makes me angry that our tax money
goes spent on yachts for rich people instead of
on parks and services for Chicago's citizens.

The Chicago Park District has a budget of
about $70 million a year. There are 4600
acres of park land but not all of that public
property is readily available to the public.

Small private clubs like the Lincoln Park
Gua Club, the Tennis Club and the Chicago
Yacht Club rent land from the Park District
for very small fees and keep 'em open to the
public only open to those who have a big boat
or a very big vision to read small signs.

The Sun Times recently exposed the lavish
bowling clubs that were exclusively using
Park District land by making sure only their
members had keys to the doors. Their
guests included all rich, older white men. How
many more things are there that they've
hidden. There's a soccer field on the lake,
which is kept open by the convention of private businessmen at the
cost of $300,000 to the Park District. Now
there's talk of building a small airport in the
lake. Chicago ranks 37 out of 54 major cities
in recreation land available to its citizens. It's
hard enough, less that half of our
parkland is in residential areas and readily
available to most people. New parks are
built in high income areas like Lincoln Park,
while parks in working class areas like Humboldt, Douglas and Washington are
chopped up to build schools.
The Chicago Park District contains a
proposed construction of high rise apartments down the lakeshore at 47th
Street, locating an even more lakefront
parkland. What all this means is that your
tax money finances really nice parks for upper
income people who live close to the lake and average to lowkey for the rest of us.

In the average person this doesn't
seem very logical. Most people would not
spend their recreation income on the
downward social lifestyle of their rich neighbors. But for
men on the Park Board they're their own rich neighbors.

Patrick O'Malley, the president of the
Park District, used to be on the Board of Directors of
the Stone Container Corporation, which is the ITT
subsociety in Chicago. ITT is also a member of the
Board of the Michigan Avenue National Bank and the
Michigan Avenue Finance Group, not to mention the Chicago
Planning Commission. He sits with 13 other corporations and
city communities.

This means he's in a position to make a lot of
money. As a book director he can profit from
the mortgage and interest paid on the
high risk development, then get a planning commission. Banks and financial
groups are closely tied in with real estate
and property values go up when there's
some parkland around. Land itself is very
valuable. The Railroad Equity Board, of
which he's also a member, plans how the old
tracks are going to be used, and who's
not going to use. They decide who can build what
housing, who can afford what that leaves a lot of room for
influence.

O'Malley's City Committee makes the decisions in the public profit from
profit. Just an average guy like me and your
neighbor, right? What's it worth?

O'Malley called for a program of immunized
policing in the parks and more security. Time's
riding stables and bicycle parks and Jimmy
tennis courts. Hurry a program for all the people.

The City of Chicago is really proud of its
parks and of course they're proud along the
lakefront are really beautiful, many of the
other parks. They don't let it when people
point out that the parks don't really serve
the needs of Chicago's citizens, and
sometimes they will even give in just to avoid
a lawsuit. In the newspaper when they print the
budget of city agencies as they have to by law
every year they print this, under the
Department of Recreation heading
Responsible for programming and activi-
ties throughout the
Park District requiring consultation and cooperation
in planning, developing, and directing recreation activities.

However, they don't seem to care that
to come to the people of Chicago. Our advisors
in planning, developing, and directing
recreation activities.

Children and youth have no more recreational
programs. Black and Latino people need
better parks. What is there? To
have to put together to make sure that
the parks really serve the people.

PROFILES

continued from page 4

Both Augie and Donna's per-
nality and vibrance created
something new in the bar busi-
ness. They became involved in
their clientele. They cared
about people. They became well-
known and respected throughout
the community.

Donna's close association with
musicians initiated live entertainment
at the bar. The exposure helped many who
sang and played there.

In 1975, Donna had new
interests she wished to pursue,
and sold her half of the busi-
ness to Augie.

Going into her third year
of business, Augie ironed out
the many kinks and set out for
newer goals.

She sponsored the first wo-
men's bowling league. She also
sponsored a women's basketball
and baseball team, which was
not only competitive, but also
created a better understanding with
young and old, Augie wanted
the men to do, but her dedication and
stamina stemmed from her love of
people.

There were phone calls at 3am
-"Augie, you in jail?" Augie," I'm hurt," Augie this and Augie
that. It was a never-ending
giving of her time and her heart
which led to Augie's retirement.

I asked her what her sell
the bar, and she said, smilingly,
"My customers," was tired and
and wanted to relax for a while.
Her life was not her own for
over 5 years, and she had to
breath again.

She said "Augie's" to Lynn
White, her friend of 15 years,
her star bartender and manager,
on Nov. 1, 1977. You might say
Lynn was Augie's protege. Through
her three years of working for
Augie, she learned from a great
teacher.

Lynn (from left) and Augie (3rd from right) with "Augie's"
s softball team, 1976.

I asked Augie how she feels when she walks into Augie's now.
She replied, "I have many, so
many, good memories, that I will
carry throughout my life. I will
always be there to help Lynn in any
way I can and always stand
by her side."

The greatest thing Augie
learned in her business was
that everyone has a problem.

The funniest experience she
had was when someone's tub in
the apartment above ran over
and leaked through the ceiling
onto her customers. Augie said
it looked like Niagara Falls on
Harielst Street. Augie, being
Augie, said, "Keep drinking and
move out of the way—it's only
water."

I could go on and on about
Augie's. She is the lady, for her
life is so full and so rich—it
is impossible to say it all
on paper—Augie! Our hats off to
hail of a man who is loved
and respected by all.

"Enjoy," Augie, God Bless.

***

This is the first in what we hope
will be a ongoing series of profiles of members of our
community. If you have ideas, sugges-
tions, or other input, please
contact BLASTING STAR.
SPORTS

Softball

by Chris Riddle

Softball season opened May 21 at Athletic Field Park. The season opener was postponed from May 7 due to bad weather that lasted throughout much of May. But the long-awaited game was finally played Sunday afternoon, each of the eight teams in the league played two games. Angus and CK's were victorious in both their games. Supported by their powerful bats of many team members, Angus's score 40 runs in the first two innings of the first game. Their opponents (Ernst-Enste) admitted defeat at that point and left the field. The final score (40 to 2) reflects the fine hitting of Angus's in second game, Angus faced a somewhat more competitive team (Mike's One Player). Angus's win by a score of 22 to 0. A strong bench helped bring in the runs and indicated the depth of the team. CK's, also had a powerful team, opened its season with a 21 to 4 victory of Mike's. In their second game, CK's easily defeated the Blazers, 23 to 2.

Tied for second place are the Music Box and Petunia's. The Music Box has lost its first game in a suspension to the Blazers by a score of 10 to 9. They trailed in the second game to defeat Petunia's, 14 to 5. Texaco of the Music Box team and the players are confident of coming through. They also express respect for the capabilities of the other teams. They're cheered on by the group of fans called the 'Music Boosters.' Petunia, though losing 24 to 5 to the Music Box, started off the season with a 23 to 0 victory over the Midflight Tap. Strong pitching and good hitting kept the win and showed that Petunia's, as well, will be a contender through the season.

Four teams are entered at the Park (located at Addison and the Kennedy). Games are played on alternate Sunday afternoon from noon to 3 pm. Upcoming games will be held June 18, July 2, and July 23. Scores on these games as well as team standings will appear in these pages.

Bowling

by Bobbie Fabian

After six months of competition and much fun, Angus's bowling league has come to a close. As you can see in the Undergutters ran away with most of the honors. But there was a lot of competition and in the last 3 weeks of bowling it was very close, with just a few games deciding the first, second and third places.

The bowling banquet was held at the Courtyard Inn, Sunday evening, May 28. At that time all the trophies and cash prizes were given out. It was one of the biggest events of the season - dinner, cocktails, dancing and... I say more (smile). Angus will continue to sponsor bowling as in the past, for it brings together not only competition but communication and understanding with each other. A great deal of work was done by the President and Secretary-Treasurer, Angus.

It was a job well done, which all the bowlers appreciated. They also like to give a vote of thanks to the sponsor, Linda White, of Angus. While her first year had its ups and downs, we can look forward for an even better year next bowling season. Finally, thanks to all the Angus's Bowlers and see you next season.

ATHLETIC FIELD PARK WOMEN'S SOFTBALL LEAGUE STANDINGS

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<tr>
<td>CK's</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Angus'</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>.209</td>
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<tr>
<td>Music Box</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>.500</td>
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<td>Petunia's</td>
<td>2</td>
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Music Box Outsider takes a lead-off in 2nd.

Petunia's baserunner heads for third.

CK's baserunner slides safely into second.

Angus's bowler Bobbie demonstrates excellent form.

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 friends 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.

Many people ask about our name. Blazing Star is the name of a lavender-colored wildflower that blooms throughout the Midwest. East and South. Because of its feathery appearance, its common names are 'Gay Feather' and 'Fairy Wand.' We also liked the name because we feel that the lesbian gay liberation movement is taking off like a 'blazing star' across the heavens.

Any woman 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 342-2399.

[Box for subscription or information]