

Koch on Homophobia: "It's a Matter of Conscience"

Uptown (p. 33)

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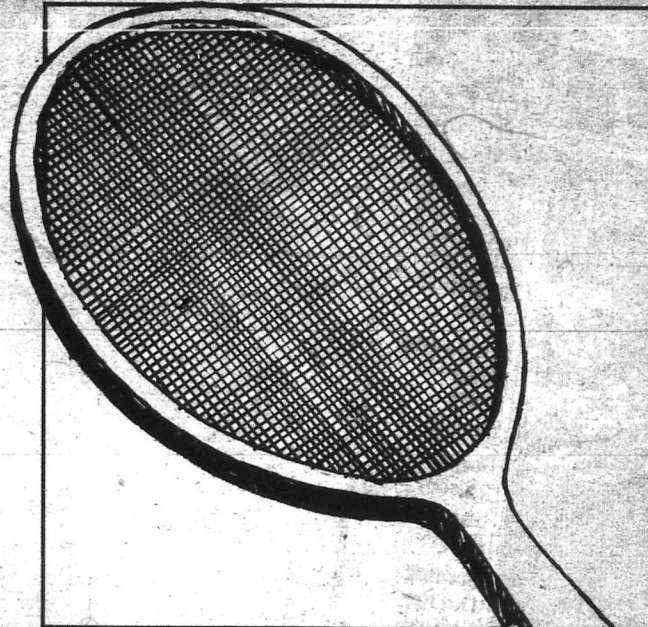


May 18-31, 1981

Issue Twelve

A Biweekly CHRISTOPHER STREET Publication

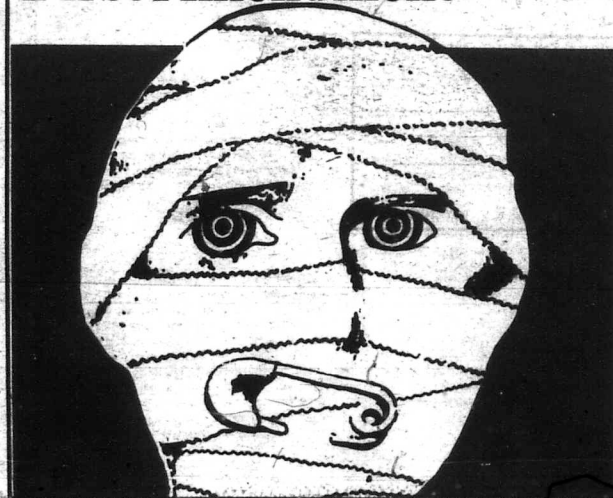
\$1 (Outside New York, \$1.25)



Dorothy Allison on

The Billie Jean King Thing

**Goodbye,
First Amendment**



**Behind the
Lavender Flag:**

*Peace Marching
in Washington—Again*

The View from the Edge
Stephen Greco on the Promenade

**Holleran
Interviews Picano**

3) set up a committee to monitor homophobic violence, 4) urge contained dialogues between police precincts and the gay community.

Labeled as "The Problem of Violence Against Gays" on the Board's agenda (appearing with a meeting of the "Bicycle Safety Education Program"), Board members responded by setting up an ad-hoc committee to investigate crimes against gays, and asking for a future meeting with the gay panel to discuss the issue further.

Matthew Danil

Turkish Junta Moves Against Gays

While claiming that its only objective is to return Turkey to civilian rule after its successful repression of terrorism is complete, the Turkish military junta has now turned against the next-worst threat to national security and has begun its own campaign of terror against the country's small, newly conscious gay community.

The *New York Times* reported that on April 19 in Ankara the army staged a series of raids against gay bars and dance halls, closing eleven establishments catering to gays, then rounded up 22 drag queens, held them overnight, and loaded them on trains out of the city with the warning that they would face six-month jail sentences if they returned. In the macho culture of Turkey, visible gays are almost exclusively drag queens. In the last few years clubs featuring drag acts have opened and flourished, with some of the performers achieving national prominence.

Evidence that ordinary Turks in the street do not feel threatened by drag queens is not hard to come by: the most popular performer of traditional Turkish folk music is Bulent Ersoy, a 29-year-old gay performer who regularly worked in drag until this January. Then the Istanbul Security Department announced that it would no longer tolerate men wearing women's clothes, on stage or in private. Ersoy and other drag performers were rounded up and forced to sign statements renouncing cross dressing.

"I declared," said Ersoy, "that I would wear normal clothes while performing my art and from now on would not indulge in acts and manners which are not good for the eye." Forced to choose between his penis and his livelihood, Ersoy subsequently went to London for a widely publicized sex change operation and is now accepted as "Miss Ersoy."

A week after the raids, the United States government announced it was stepping up aid to Turkey, which had been cut back after the military coup last fall.

John Hammond

Disease Rumors Largely Unfounded

Last week there were rumors that an exotic new disease had hit the gay community in New York. Here are the facts. From the New York City Department of Health, Dr. Steve Phillips explained that the rumors are for the most part unfounded. Each year, approximately 12 to 24 cases of infection with a protozoa-like organism, *pneumocystis carinii*, are re-

ported in the New York City area. The organism is not exotic; in fact, it's ubiquitous. But most of us have a natural or easily acquired immunity. In general, the disease is seen only in severely debilitated patients whose ability to fight infections has been severely compromised (such individuals are called "compromised hosts"). By far, the majority of cases have been elderly patients with advanced cancer.

What's unusual about the cases reported this year is that eleven of them were not obviously compromised hosts. The possibility therefore exists that a new, more virulent strain of the organism may have been "community acquired." But this possibility is regarded as far less likely than the immunodeficiency explanation. "What distinguishes these victims," Phillips emphasizes, "is not how or where they were exposed so much as why they got the disease."

Regarding the inference that a slew of recent victims have been gay men, simultaneously infected with amebiasis, Phillips confirmed that four of the five cases recently seen at Bellevue were said to be gay men. As of last week, one had died. But of the eleven cases this year that have been tentatively identified as community acquired, only five or six have been gay. And "if any of them had amebiasis, it was incidental." Dr. Phillips is Epidemic Intelligence Officer of the Communicable Diseases Center in Atlanta, assigned to the New York City Department of Health.

Lawrence Mass, M.D.

CSLDC Gets Ready for Another Anniversary

Once again the annual Gay Pride Day march and rally, to commemorate the June 28th anniversary of the 1969 Stonewall resistance, is sneaking up on us. This year seems to be a somewhat important one in the history of the marches. It's generally acknowledged that last year the rally did not come off as uniformly well as it could have, nor was it as populated as in years past. Some blame the dwindling impact of Anita Bryant's heyday and wonder whether the rising tide of the Moral Majority, Inc. might similarly ignite the masses.

The Christopher Street Liberation Day Committee (CSLDC) reports that the Parks Department Commissioner Gordon Davis has made it clear that he wants the rally site to be the East Meadow in Central Park, a smaller site than the Great Lawn which the committee prefers.

Tovah Sewall, co-coordinator of the committee as well as a speaker at last year's rally, said that it was "important to show numbers. The parks department is giving us a hassle over the site of the rally space, saying that the group will be relatively small—from 5 to 12,000 people. We're easily a lot more."

Sewall noted that last year there were too many speakers who went on for too long, entertainers who performed too many numbers, and people got bored. The East Meadow, where the rally was held last year when the Sheep Meadow was being resodded, is a mile north of the traditional rally site. Many marchers never got that far. Also, due to the pacing, and needed rest stops for the marching bands, the march stretched out to a four-and-a-half hour ordeal for many. This

year, there will only be two main speakers. Entertainers are now auditioning. Among those expected are "Just Good Friends" (members of the Gay Men's Chorus), and a band named Pink Debbie.

The theme of this year's rally is "a community, a movement, a way of life." Terry Knapp of Jersey City has won the button design contest, and his black, white, and pink Lesbian and Gay Pride 1981 buttons should begin to surface soon.

From 1:00 p.m. until close to midnight on the day of the march, the Ninth Annual Christopher Street Festival will be occurring simultaneously, and it is expected to draw 75,000 people. There will be community information booths, such as the Gay Switchboard, Oriental, Polynesian, and other ethnic foods, set-ups by the bars with T-shirts, balloons, and kissing booths.

This year, there will be two entertain-

ment stages, one with rock and soul bands, and a big country-and-western stage at the end of Christopher near West Street. There will be room for dancing on both stages. Ed Murphy, a marshal at the parade, is the founder and organizer of the festival.

The major friction at last year's march occurred when several groups split from CSLDC, upset by the fact that the National Man/Boy Love Association (NAMBLA) was allowed to march in the parade. These were Lesbian Feminist Liberation (LSL), Lesbians Rising (a Hunter College group), as well as Dignity, Parents of Gays, a gay synagogue group, and the Revolutionary Socialist League (RSL).

RSL and Dignity marched, but separated from the main group at 59th Street, and tried to draw others into lower Central Park. David Thorstad, a spokesperson for NAMBLA who organized their con-

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THE JURY BOX

As the *Native* goes to press, Malcolm Botway is going to trial in Room 721 at 111 Centre Street. Botway allegedly pretended to be retaking the U.S. Census to gain entry into the apartment of an Upper East Side gay man, where he allegedly attacked the victim with a hammer. He is also a suspect in two cases in which gay men were given "knockout drops" in their apartments and subsequently robbed. Charged with first- and second-degree robbery, second- and third-degree assault, and second- and third-degree grand larceny, Botway is out on \$50 bail.

Botway is described as 5'8" to 5'9", 150 pounds, moderate build, very dark brown hair, very light skin, soft-spoken, left-handed, 27 years old.

Jury selection in Botway's trial began on May 4. Assistant District Attorney Judith Kozlowski told potential jurors that there may be testimony about a homosexual encounter between the defendant and the victim. She then asked each potential juror if this would upset or prejudice him or her. None of the potential jurors I saw selected or rejected answered yes to this question.

Botway's lawyer, Allen Farbman, asked one group of potential jurors, "Does anyone read or is anyone familiar with any gay newspapers in New York?" The potential jurors answered no. Farbman asked this because he heard *Native* artist Bill Hendricks explain to Botway's wife that Hendricks was sketching Botway for a gay newspaper. Farbman neglected to ask another group of potential jurors the same question, and allowed two of those unasked potential jurors to be sworn in as jurors.

Ronald Crumpley is the ex-transit police officer who is the suspect in the West Street slayings. His defense is expected to be that he is not responsible by reason of mental disease or defect. At his last hearing on May 4, Assistant District Attorney Ruth Gordon said that although court-appointed psychiatrist Dr. Rubin had examined Crumpley, he still had not returned a written report to her. This is the same excuse she used to postpone the case from April 15 to May 4. A.D.A. Gordon said that Dr. Rubin would testify that Crumpley was responsible for his actions at the time of the incident.

Crumpley's next hearing will be on June 1, in Part 40, on the eleventh floor of 100 Centre Street at 10 a.m.

Paul Kadetz, a Jersey City man who has accused a PATH transit officer and two other men of beating and verbally abusing him, is scheduled to come to trial May 19 on charges of harassment and resisting arrest. (The police complaint was amended from a charge of simple assault.)

According to Kadetz, the three men dragged him from a PATH train at a stop in Hoboken after he had given the cop the finger; they began to call him "faggot" while kicking and beating him about the head and neck. Kadetz said they then forced him to submit to a strip search, handcuffed him, hit him several times in the jaw, and read him his rights.

Kadetz's trial is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. May 19 in Hoboken Municipal Court, located on the first floor of City Hall, two blocks north of the Hoboken PATH station.

A bench warrant was issued for Saban Dreas on April 6, 1981. As reported in Issue 10 of the *Native*, Dreas is charged with five counts of first-degree robbery involving the use of "knockout drops." The incidents occurred in Greenwich Village, Midtown Manhattan, and the Upper West Side. Assistant District Attorney Jim Patton had asked that bail be set at \$15,000, but it was set at \$10,000. Dreas's employer paid the bail, and Dreas has since disappeared.

Recently extradited from California, Charles Grosso is a suspect in the slaying of a gay art dealer and his associate on February 22, 1980; at press time he was scheduled to appear in court May 6. His co-defendant, Victor Grube, pleaded guilty to first-degree robbery and will be sentenced on June 10 in Part 50, the eleventh floor, 100 Centre Street, at 10 a.m.

If you have witnessed, been the victim of, or received any information about an anti-gay attack, please call the anti-gay violence hotline of the Chelsea Gay Association: (212) 691-7950. Leave your name, phone number, and a message that your call relates to violence. CGA will return your call as soon as possible.

CGA will also provide photographic services to assault victims to document their injuries. Such photographs have been crucial in convicting attackers in past cases.

Bob Downing