At an organizational meeting held in Philadelphia in the spring of 1979 to plan the national Lesbian & Gay March on Washington, the demand for full sexual rights of minors and the abolition of all age of consent laws triggered the greatest controversy. The original demand to end statutory rape laws was withdrawn and a demand focusing more on the needs of youth was substituted.

When a gay activist prominently associated with the North American Man-Boy Love Association (NAMBLA) was selected as a featured speaker at the gay march on Albany in the spring of 1980, he was baited by a lesbian group in New York City. The group used this man's selection as an excuse to boycott the march altogether. An editorial in the fall 1979 issue of Lesbian Tide condemned boy-love. The editors said they opposed any attempt by male homosexuals to get the age of consent laws lowered as this would inevitably promote the sexual exploitation of little girls.

The hysteria generated over the issue of boy-love was used by some within the U.S. Socialist Workers Party (SWP) to pull back from support of the Lesbian & Gay March on D.C. Over the past 10 years, the SWP has endorsed mass actions for "gay rights." But "gay rights" has increasingly become a sanitized issue. Nobody but the sex radicals talks about Gay Liberation anymore, and the resistance of the boy-lovers has become the cutting edge for those still dedicated to liberation for homosexuals. Since 1979, the SWP has dropped gays altogether and told their cadres to get factory jobs and get back into industrial organizing with "the workers," all
of whom are, presumably, happy, healthy, heteros.

At any rate, the NAMBLA contingent (both men and boys) was present at the national march on D.C., 14 October 1979. They had banners and passed out flyers. This was probably the first time boys and boy-lovers had marched together behind their own banners in any national American demonstration.

Another unsuspected attack came from the pen of Al Goldstein, editor of Screw magazine. Goldstein and his magazine have long been favorite targets of govt. harassment and prosecution. He has been taken to court a dozen times on various obscenity charges. It was Screw magazine which financed GAY, a pioneer gay lib paper in New York, edited by Jack Nichols and the late Lige Clark. Though Screw itself is an unabashed hetero sex exploitation rag, Goldstein has enjoyed the presumed reputation as a defender of sexual liberation. But, as he was hasty to announce, he draws the line at boy-love.

Goldstein ran two consecutive editorials in his magazine in May 1980 attacking pedophiles whom he called "despicable psychological cripples." After he had obtained some of NAMBLA's pamphlets and flyers, this purveyor of tits 'n cunts wrote that he felt "as though I had fallen into a manhole [I] and wound up immersed in the lowest slime of mankind." Is the degenerate state of het tyranny made evident when a pornographer won't stand up for the rights of boy-lovers? Or is Goldstein's standard het ignorance and privilege making itself manifest?

Behind most of this fear and antipathy lie serious questions few wish to deal with today. What are the significant differences between the sexes and how is society to allow expression of sex needs without instituting legal repressions? Over the past 10 years, the movement has developed within legislatures (and in court decisions) to be more sex-democratic in writing and enforcing laws. In some areas of legal protections, this equality has had a progressive thrust.

But Americans are not so good at noting important distinctions, especially in the absence of understanding about matters of human behavior. Curiously, one result of correcting the condition
of inequality between the sexes has been to increase the power of the state. This is an area of direct conflict between men and women in general and boy-lovers and middle-class feminists in particular.

Men are, at this moment, the primary consumers of sex materials, het & homo. Current information (as well as common sense) discloses that men use sex materials for information about sexual possibilities and for masturbatory release. Of course, the degree of intensity of the sex-matter relates to the needs and expectations of the consumer.

Straight middle-class feminists who have organized against "porno" maintain, without any basis, that Porn-Causes-Rape. They say it causes het men to rape women and faggots to rape little boys. The new laws fobbed onto the country as a result of the great Kiddie Porno Panic of 1977, which were supposed to save little girls from rape, have been used to date almost exclusively to harass and imprison faggots.

This is not new. In 1885, the British Parliament, acting in response to a similar panic over White Slaving, passed the Criminal Law Amendment Act. The Purpose of this legislation was to halt the sexual trafficking in young girls. The first step taken was to raise the age of consent from 12 to 16. There is no indication that this new repressive law did anything to hinder alleged prostitution of adolescent females. But because of the inclusion of the little-noticed Labouchere Amendment, this law was used against the men in the celebrated Cleveland Street Scandal as well as against Oscar Wilde, since it proscribed private intra-male sex acts. Many gay men in the U.K. have been arrested and imprisoned by this law. It wasn't substantially altered until 1967. Even in 1980, in the U.K., the age of consent for het fucking is considerably lower than for homosexual tricking.

Here in Massachusetts, lesbian Representative Elaine Noble was active in altering the Commonwealth's statutory rape laws to "protect" boys as well as girls. What this does is expand the idea that rape — traditionally regarded as a crime of a man against a woman — now includes the notion that adult men regularly sexually assault minor males. In the absence of any general under-
standing about relations between boys and men, it seems both hasty and deliberately repressive to expand state powers to this extent. And in a climate of increasingly well-organized reaction to gay liberation, it is clear that new police powers will be aimed mostly at the faggots. Which I believe has been demonstrated in the wake of new rape laws and anti-kiddie porn laws. It is clear that many women fail to understand that it has been the gay men who pay the heavy price for each new morality law.
THE LAW, NOT GAY MALE SEXUALITY, IS THE PROBLEM

The notion of equality before the law can be an inspired one (except to anarchists for whom the law is the crime). In cases involving youth sexuality, it invariably becomes a matter of repression.

It is a pity that the feminist movement has lately seen the surge forward in its ranks of women wildly hostile to all forms of male sexuality. Their message to men is simple. They want to instill guilt about sexuality, hoping to cripple the males. Faggots in particular — and the sex radicals among them — are targetted for blame thereby avoiding the more obvious and compelling need to explore the dynamics of their own hetero relations and their secret sex phantasies. The goal of this anti-sex anti-porno contingent was written by a male live-in companion to one of the foremost female anti-porners. He suggested, in a gay periodical, that gay liberation must be subsumed to the women’s struggle and that the only great achievement faggots could offer women would be to teach straight men how to ejaculate without erection. He claimed hard-ons hurt and were a nuisance.

What is clear is that there is much need for discussion between gay male radicals and activist women, both straight and lesbian. From our work with the Boston/Boise Committee (the Committee, though dominated by males, did have female members), we learned that women who touched on the issue of man-boy love could be divided into the same categories as men. A politician like Elaine
Noble used the witchhunt for her own political ends without taking into regard the needs of the community at large. Child Saver types (like Bryant and Densen-Gerber) were part of the reactionary vanguard. But most importantly, local women working with the Daughters of Bilitis, the National Jury Project, and the Metropolitan Community Church, were able to sit down and discuss with the men the facts of man-boy love. All attitudes and positions got aired. And after thorough discussion and understanding of the state’s use of sexual ignorance of sexuality to get gay men, many women actively supported the goals of the B/BC.

A candid discourse on male and female sexuality, and a criticism of sexism and sexual repression in both the gay and lesbian communities, is badly needed. We could all benefit. I suspect, too, that many straight women regard faggot sexuality as similar to straight men’s aggression, even though faggot and straight male sexuality are widely disparate. Some antipathy toward boy-lovers (and kiddie pornographers) is perhaps provoked by women’s perception of the freedom of male sexuality. I suspect some of the attacks on male promiscuity and boy-loving are founded on this perceived freedom.

Sexuality in adolescent males differs dramatically from that of their teen sisters. This is generally ignored. To be Politically Correct these days, boys and girls must be regarded as equals and their needs treated as similar. This of course denies important distinctions in sexual biology. It is interesting to note how ignorant antiporners and professional Kiddie Savers are of the history of sex science and sex research. Det. Lloyd Martin, who teaches a college-level course on sexuality and “child abuse” told me he has never read either of the Kinsey volumes on sexual behavior. Martin felt he didn’t have to read Kinsey, much less any other revolutionary writer on sexual behavior. He already knew all her cared to know: Sex Is Rape.

*Both Kinsey volumes have been out of print in the U.S. for years. The volume on female sexual behavior was available for a longer time and even had a low-priced paperback edition!
THE BOSTON SEX SCANDAL

The bomb in Kinsey’s revelations about male sexual behavior is still waiting to go off. It’s a pity reactionary forces have been powerful enough over the years to prevent bringing social institutions more into line with our expressive behavior. But they have, and, of course, one periodic tactic has been to launch these panics over drugs, promiscuity, pornography, homosexuality, and pedophilia. Each panic gives them more laws and greater powers to fend off the forces of sexual liberation.

Kinsey, in his volume on male sexual behavior, spent considerable energies examining adolescent sexual histories. He concluded that it is common for the male to reach the summit of his sexual capacity at age 16 or 17, not any later. Yet this is the age when many states still deny youth any legal sexual contact with others. As far as the state is concerned, the years of growing male sexual activity, 13 through 16, must remain years of sexual denial and frustration. This must make the Pope happy. But certainly not the kids. Det. Martin and other Christian fundamentalists would raise the age of sexual consent to 18 (which it is in California) and restrict all sexual activity to heterosexual copulation in the missionary position between lawfully-wedded (to each other, that is) man and wife.

Age of consent statutes are whimsical and change with the fashions in state repression. They are a perfect tool for terrorizing a specific sexual minority. In an age like ours which fancies itself rational and human-needs oriented, no clearer demonstration of society’s repressive function could be had than that of the masses of male pedophiles (mostly boy-lovers) currently in prisons and “treatment centers” for non-violent sex offenses.

It seems just idiotic to advocate the retention of any age of consent laws. Similarly, it is ridiculous to maintain the pretense that existing laws are “equitably” applied on both males and females, homosexual and heterosexual, when all kinds of diverse relationships fall under the punitive jurisdiction of age of consent laws. We have become stupid and dogmatic in our cosmetic efforts to appear sex-democratic.

The Canadian gay movement has had as a national position
THE WAR FOR LIBERATION

the abolition of all age of consent statutes. The North American Man-Boy Love Association (NAMBLA) has similarly called for an end to all age of consent laws. NAMBLA also demands the immediate release from prisons and "treatment centers" of all those convicted for statutory sex offenses.

Apologists for the state and existing legal repressions know full well the proprietary interest of The Family in children. The concepts of Family (the nuclear variety) and of childhood are fairly recent bourgeois constructions. The current ideal concept of The Family and its pattern of authority are proto-fascist, which is one reason why the proto-fascist state is so eager to prop up The Family with every benefit the state can bestow. As the institution of The Family collapses, the sole resort of the state and its agencies will be outright terror upon those who do not conform.

Some gay people may deceive themselves into believing that we are increasingly accepted among those who have the power in this society. It is clear that this false notion of acceptance has a price to it, and the price is an escalating and highly coordinated official attack on the fringes of our community.

The dialectic of liberation is not always an easily discerned thing. There are certainly strong progressive movements among homosexuals. With each thrust forward comes reaction. Yet it is impossible to foresee what reactionary horror will be unleashed by the heterosexual tyrants to penalize us for acts of liberation. The het tyrants have plenty to choose from: social proscription, indictment, enforced poverty through stigmatization, medical experimentation, castration,* and execution. All we can be certain of from past experience is that each action we take as a movement, each step for homosexual liberation, will at some point be twinned with a quite literal attack upon homosexuals in an attempt to decimate our community and to scare those who would take the next

*In 1979, a female Maine State Representative introduced a bill requiring castration for men guilty of statutory sex offenses with minors. Dr. John Money, the noted sexologist, proposed instead that pedophile sex offenders be treated with massive doses of anti-androgen (to kill the sex impulse) and be counseled into a brand-new — and somewhat older — sex object choice. The bill to castrate was tabled. All this in 1979.
step forward into retreating.

There is one clear indication of progress toward homosexual liberation, and, contrary as it seems, that is the growing number of arrests of boy-lovers and other pedophiles. What the police may see as a state license to "clean-up" the sexual non-conformers is in fact an act of desperation for a social order based on sex repression. To be armed only with the terror of the law is to have small power indeed. Resort to the brutality of the state is usually the line of last defense. There also appears to be a greater willingness, on the part of those accused of statutory sex offenses, to challenge the state's authority in matters of sexuality. This is new, and a direct out-growth of the gay liberation movement. The spirit of resistance is contagious. That's why police and D.A.s want to snuff it out. That so many boy-love cases are going to courts for trials is a sign that more subtle and traditional ways of repression have broken down. Social pressure alone no longer completely inhibits people.

An analogy to the panic against recreational drug use is fair. Fifteen years ago, state officials were dragging people into court for possession of one joint of marijuana. In many areas, such petty harassment has ended, but it took some doing, massive resistance and outrageous penalties for those early victims of the state panic. It is undisputed that recreational use of proscribed drugs in the U.S. is at an all-time high. Yet at the same time, there are indications that what's been called "drug abuse" is on the decline. What this demonstrates is that if people have information and access, they can judge what's best for themselves and in their own interest. I hope that as mass-mobilized resistance builds, this current "sex abuse" state panic will subside and people, under and over the age of consent, will as casually ignore the sex laws as they do the drug laws.

Against the strong current of repression, as advocated from the spectrum of old-line religious reactionaries to new-wave anti-sex feminists, organizing the pedophiles is not easy. Boy-lovers in particular are aware of the severe penalties states inflict for such a sexual orientation. Yet, by this recognition, their struggle is the vanguard for those, who like myself, wish to dismember the struc-
ture of present-day oppressions.

The case of homosexual boy-lovers is the most clear cut of any on the political horizon today. Most boy-lovers are certain their relationships with boys are positive and playful. By and large they are correct. As Tom Reeves has pointed out, man-boy love is usually an act of mutual rebellion against the tyranny of heterosexual norms being pressed in on them from all sides. Man-boy relations are infused with liberating energy. As to the hypocritical agents of repression, their position on man-boy love couldn’t be more to the contrary.

And yet, things can change. Dr. Edward Brongersma, a former Senator in the Netherlands, a lawyer and well-known European advocate for pedophiles, was in New York City in March, 1980. He spoke with a group of NAMBLA members. Brongersma said that in the 1940s and ’50s, the situation vis-a-vis homosexuals and gay pedos in the Netherlands was almost as bad as it is in the U.S. today. There were repressive laws, terrible police practices, cruel sentences, etc. But the gay groups began organizing and undertook the slow process of instructing the public, the judiciary and the medical community. It paid off. Though Holland isn’t heaven, the change has been so great that it would be impossible to launch an anti-gay witchhunt there now. Holland enjoys the reputation of perhaps the most sexually enlightened Western nation, particularly as regards child-adult sexuality. Yet problems remain. Brongersma has written: “Section 247, which deals with indecent conduct with a child younger than 16, is a legal monstrosity. Fortunately the number of convictions [in Holland] based on this article is noticeably falling, due to the tendency of Public Prosecutors to dismiss. But this policy of dismissal is not uniformly followed from district to district, or even within one district by different prosecutors. Because these cases are so emotion-laden, there can be great differences in outcome. One prosecutor considers these acts very evil, while another is quite liberal. This means that there is a great danger of legal uncertainty and uneven dispensation of justice.”

While Holland grows more liberal, the United Kingdom’s
THE BOSTON SEX SCANDAL

witchhunt against pedophiles and particularly boy-lovers rivals that in the U.S. The Pedophile Information Exchange (PIE) has been repeatedly harassed over the years, their meetings banned, their magazine, *Magpie*, seized. In 1979, PIE’s leaders were charged with “conspiring to corrupt public morals.” It’s as though Tom Paine were still on the lam, one step ahead of the Crown’s agents, all for the terrible crime of advocacy.

As to the issue of boy-love, the sex radicals are isolated from just about everybody else. And yet the position of the sex radicals is the only one that’s consistent with an overall goal of homosexual liberation. It is clear to the sex radicals that turning to the state for redress is not only a waste of money and energy, *it contradicts the work one should be doing*. Increasing state power in any area undercuts all efforts at liberation. Those posing as sexual liberationists who seek aggrandizing state power to allegedly ameliorate existing evils serve only the long-range interest of the National Security State system. Poisonous middle-class values, so pervasive in the “respectable” wings of the gay and feminist movements, are life-denying, usually to anyone who lives differently. Middle-class respectables can’t stand that life is filled with violence, contradictions, unpredictable breakthroughs and a touch of magic. They are too busy operating on a crisp and formal agenda with existing power, their very respectability and operating room *given them* by the perceived outrageousness of the sex radicals whom they regularly denounce.

Yet we who would negate state power by running bigger risks, dare to break its shackles. When the Boston/Boise Committee held its first community meeting to develop strategy, a radical member suggested that one demand should be the immediate resignation of the D.A. Horrified cries issued from more middle-class members. No, they said, we’ll never be able to negotiate with him on such a radical demand. The demand stayed in. Within nine months, though he hadn’t resigned, we helped sweep him from office.

The strength of the sex radicals comes from *our* world view. *We* see gay liberation as central to destroying existing property arrangements, which at present include family and sex relation-
ships, as well as current patterns of exploitative authority. There isn’t a clearer or more interesting or more significant demonstration of the negating power of the gay liberation movement, when it doesn’t fudge its original anger and momentum, than the rising of the boy-lovers.

The July-August 1972 issue of *The Body Politic* includes a path-breaking article by collective member Gerald Hannon. It’s called “Of Men and Little Boys.” After publication, there were cries from reactionaries for the Crown to prosecute. At that time, there was no prosecution.* Hannon includes a sentence I’d like to use to close, an image which captures what the struggle for homosexual liberation is all about: “The activists of tomorrow are more than likely in someone’s arms today.” The so-called molestation of the young is the start of politics.

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*It was *The Body Politic*'s publication of Hannon’s 1977 article “Men Loving Boys Loving Men” which rekindled the hysteria in Ontario and which led to the raid on TBP’s offices and the indictment of three of their corporate officers. Though acquitted at trial, as of this date (Aug., 1980), the Crown is making an appeal for further prosecution. Unlike in the U.S., Canadian law does not forbid double jeopardy.
TEXT OF STATEMENT RELEASED BY REP. ELAINE NOBLE ON 9 DECEMBER 1977 WITH REGARD TO D.A. GARRETT BYRNE’S ANTI-GAY WITCHHUNT AND ILLEGAL HOTLINE.

I have called this news conference as a legislator and as a concerned citizen to express my deep concern and outrage regarding the scandalous sexual exploitation and abuse of young children by adults. Our community values and cherishes human rights and decent behavior. It is the fiber of our heritage. Gross personal abuse and affrontery on innocent children is a sacrilege of the highest order. Adults involved in the corruption of unprotected, impressionable children by drugs, alcohol, and sex must be immediately halted and reprimanded. We will not tolerate nor in any way condone through lack of aggressive action, the perpetuation of such deviant, defiant behavior.

I speak to you today because I call on the citizens of our community to join with me in supporting the efforts of the Suffolk County District Attorney’s Office in unraveling this contemptuous situation. I have talked with District Attorney Garrett Byrne this afternoon. He shares with me my outrage and pledges his entire office to work toward final resolution of this matter. I urge anyone who has any information to this case to call the D.A.’s office at 367-2455. Any information will be held in strict confidence.

Thank you and please, help all of us get to the bottom of this nightmare. The welfare and safety of our children is at stake.
WHY WE CAN NOT MARCH WITH YOU

It would be a wonderful expression of solidarity if all those persons who objected to the philosophy and tactics of Anita Bryant could create a medium of expression which encompassed the values, sensibilities and political strategies of all persons opposed to her visit to Boston September 5. But what would such a medium be?

The majority of persons who attended and remained through the recent gay "strategizing" meeting have decided to rally and march, with or without permit, to protest the appearance of Anita Bryant in Boston. For a variety of reasons, the undersigned find themselves sympathetic to the rally and march but unable to participate.

For some of us, the broadened scope of the march, which includes causes other than gay rights, makes participation in the demonstration a violation of conscience. Some of us object to the strategy of confrontation, which we feel feeds all too well into the Bryant plan of hysteria. Some of us feel strongly that the planned activities will unnecessarily jeopardize the safety of a large number of lesbians, gay men and their supporters. Others hold that the strategizing meeting was hastily called, chaired and dominated by a particular philosophy and, despite rhetoric supporting "unity" within the gay community, was in itself one of the most divisive and insensitive gatherings of gay people in Boston to date.

Having considered the notion of offering the community an alternative to the demonstration, we feel the most appropriate response is to refrain from interfering with the actions determined by a group of gay brothers and sisters to be best suited to their philosophy and sentiments, with them well in their activity; make clear to them and to others that such tactics and such methods of deciding tactics make it impossible for us to be with you.

Bonnie Baldwin
Joel Becker
Paul Bentley
The Boatslip, Provincetown
Tony Bosch
Boston Chapter of the National Organization of Women
Campbell-Akureu Associates, Inc.
Linda Carford, Beacon Tours
Phyllis Carford, Treasurer, GBA
Ron Capena
Chaps
Diane Daren
The Delivery Entrance
Dilucco's Cabaret
Suki Eagan
Santa Fareri
Gay Business Association
David Garrick
Dick Greenleaf
The House
Larry Kessler, Copley Flair
Tom Kirby
Priscilla Leith
Joseph Leo
Cynthia Lewis
Ted Lindley
Robin MacCormack

Alan MacDonal
Tony Mantla, Koala Bear
Anne M. Martin
Brian McNaught
Bob Mikolitch
Brian Moran
Elaine Noble, State Representative
Shelagh A. O'Donnell, Vice chair
Massachusetts Women's Political Caucus
Bill O'Hara
119 Merrimac
Judy Previte, Koala Bear
Providence Club, Inc.
Randolph Country Club
Sanford M. Reder, M.D.
Lee Ridgeway
Suzanne Roberts
Jack Rubin
Richard Rubino
Adrian Ruth
Robert Salterio
Vic Santilli
Sporters
Skeel
The Townhouse, Provincetown
Chester Weinerman
Bob White

THE ABOVE WAS WRITTEN BY BRIAN MCNAUGHT AND SIGNED BY THE "GOOD GAYS" DENOUNCING ACTIVISTS IN THE SEPTEMBER ONE COALITION.
Garrett Byrne is winning his war against sex criminals, pornographers, and Combat Zone flesh peddlers.

AN AD FOR D.A. GARRETT BYRNE'S REELECTION CAMPAIGN
ARE YOU NEXT ???

—BOSTON WITCHHUNT. 24 men were arrested this week for alleged sex with boys. Some face life imprisonment. They and other men and boys have been threatened by police and smeared by the media. Police promise more arrests and invite citizens to call in tips of ANY suspected men. Hundreds of tips are reported. Hysteria has begun, lynching is in the wind.

—SENSATIONALISM AND LIBEL. The Globe, Herald and other media have lied. LIE: Globe headline, "24 indicted in Child Porn Case." FACT: Not one of the 24 indictments involves child pornography. LIE: All 24 are linked to a "sordid sex ring." FACT: Only some of the 24 have been accused of such a link (not proven). Others are accused of wholly unrelated acts. LIE: Media speak of rape and indecent assault. FACT: None of the men has been accused of violence. "Rape" means statutory rape — sex of any kind. LIE: The boys were 8 to 13. FACT: Of the 63 boys allegedly involved, most are 14 or older.

—RIGHTS OF BOYS. Police and press have molested these boys. The notoriety could scar them for life. The boys were pressured by psychiatrists and police without counsel. Many of the boys ARE gay. They face confusion, shame and fear. Boys must have right to counsel, to privacy and to sexual choice.

—RIGHTS OF MEN. The names and addresses of the men have been headlined. They have been found guilty without trial. Careers have been ruined, families divided. None of the men or boys have been able to give their story!

—GAY SOLIDARITY. Don’t be confused by smear. These men deserve a fair trial. Don’t prejudge them on lies of the straight media. We are all vulnerable. Bonhoeffer said of the Nazis, "They came for the Jews, but I thought I was safe. Then they came for the Communists, for gypsies, for homosexuals, and I thought I was safe. Then they came for me."

GARRETT BYRNE & ANITA BRYANT!! An 81-year-old D.A. has launched an attack which will touch us all. The parallel between Boston today and Boise, Idaho, years ago, is plain. In Boise, dozens of men were destroyed by such hate until an Idaho D.A., now U.S. Senator, stopped it. We must stop Byrne now!

BOSTON / BOISE COMMITTEE

ONE OF BOSTON/BOISE’S FLYERS.
THIS IS ENTRAPMENT

BOSTON — John Kelly (not his real name) was walking up the first floor of the Boston Public Library in Copley Square last week when he was approached by an attractive young man dressed in ratty-flying clothes. "What do you want?" the young man asked John. "What do you mean?" John replied, "I mean, I want.." was the answer. "Oh, I guess I like to screw." The young man showed him a badge.

For that conversation, John Kelly was arrested and charged with "open and gross lewdness," a felony carrying a maximum penalty of three years in jail and/or a $500 fine. He was taken at gunpoint, in handcuffs, to Boston Police District Four.

Semen Smith (not his real name) was walking on the third floor of the library when the same young man walked in and started to screw his own crotch. After exchanging pleasantries, the young man told Semen he was under arrest for "open and gross lewdness." When they got to the station, Semen, who is 35 years old, was told he had been charged with prostitution.

These cases are similar to that of Kevin Jones (not his real name), who was in the library for a concert and had to use the bathroom. The same young man approached him, asked if he was interested in "fucking around," and arrested him for coming close. Kevin said that he wasn't interested. "But aren't you gay?" the young man asked. "Yes, but I'm not arrested." Kevin answered, "You're under arrest. The charge was open and gross lewdness.

OVER 100 MEN HAVE BEEN ARRESTED AT THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY in the last few weeks. They are charged with offenses from prostitution to open and gross lewdness. These are felonies. 40 men have already pleaded guilty, the arrests continue daily. Three policemen have been planted in the men's room of the Boston Public Library. They stand at the urinals, expose themselves, solicit others and manipulate themselves. They arrest anyone they perceive to be gay — including, so far, a straight man.

ENTRAPMENT IS ILLEGAL wherever it occurs. Men are being arrested only for the reason that they are gay.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?
EMERGENCY MASS DEMONSTRATION Sat., April 1, 1978 1 PM
Boston Public Library

PROTEST THIS OUTRAGE END POLICE HARASSMENT

FLYER FOR BOSTON LIBRARY PROTEST
SUGGESTIONS FOR MEDIA ON HANDLING ALLEGED SEX "CRIMES" INVOLVING GAY MEN

Grave errors, outright falsehoods and extreme sensationalism characterized much of the recent Boston area media coverage of charges made by police against 24 men accused of sex with adolescent boys. The coverage amounted to trial by media and the hostile atmosphere of public outrage generated by the coverage would have been appropriate to a brutal murder case, certainly not to cases in which no violence or coercion was alleged. Many of the men and some of the “victims” suffered threats, loss of employment, loss of all social support from neighbors and friends and general harassment as a result of the coverage. Other gay men, not involved, were nevertheless subjected to the homophobia of the community as a result of the “public outcry” which the District Attorney noted had been generated by the media reporting of the cases.

We urge each newspaper, radio station and television station in Greater Boston to adopt voluntarily the following suggestions as rational guarantees to protect civil rights and to uphold the integrity of responsible journalism in reporting sex cases allegedly involving gay men. While these views are made from the perspective of the gay community and specifically relate to cases involving men such as the recent ones mentioned above, some of them may be applicable to some heterosexual or gay female situations as well. In any case, the suggestions are for cases where violence is not involved and where evidence is frequently based on emotional personal testimony. Especially in such cases, persons must be given every possible chance to exonerate themselves before being judged guilty.

SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS

A. Safeguards for the rights of defendants and victims: (Both are likely to be real victims in a variety of ways.)

1. Do not publish the addresses or exact employment of the accused. Do not emphasize personal data that has no proven relationship to the “crime,” but which might be linked by biased readers, such as Boy Scout work, lone parenthood, etc. Do not publish the photographs of persons accused of such “crimes,” unless they volunteer to be photographed. Such safeguards are far more necessary in these cases than in the case of other “crimes” because of the general homophobia in some segments of the population which often leads to irrational and vicious personal attacks. Violence and malicious gossip.

2. Do not publish police “hot-lines” which call for anonymous or other general tips concerning sex among men or among men and boys. Insist that the police requests for publicity be limited to cases at hand and that such public calls for action include warnings against gossips, hysteria and guilt by association.

3. Do not publish police “tips” or other unproven statements about impending arrests of unnamed men who may be prominent ministers, social workers, foster parents or politicians. “Tip-of-the-iceberg” comments by detectives and district attorneys should be recognized as politically motivated and fear mongering. They are usually without merit (as such statements in the “Reverse” cases have proven to be without merit) and they have a chilling effect on the rights of all gay men, especially those involved legitimately with youth in their work or personal lives.

4. Do not describe the “victims” in such a way that they may be readily identified by peers. Ask police how the “victims” have been questioned and whether they are now in police custody. If so, ask to interview them to determine whether their rights and needs have been served. Specifically, inquire whether they have had been provided genuinely neutral legal counsel and psychological aid.

5. Give equal space and prominence to stories that deal with alleged police harassment or mishandling of such cases or to stories which indicate the other side — that is, which give evidence of likely innocence. Give particular prominence to cases where serious errors have been revealed in the original stories or where cases have been dropped for lack of evidence. Persons accused of rape in front-page headlines deserve more than tiny back-page retractions.

B. A responsible approach to investigative reporting.

1. Avoid yellow journalism style and use of obviously biased words which have no place in objective news reporting: “prey,” “sex dev.,” “sordid.”

BOSTON/BOISE’S MEDIA GUIDELINES

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2. Use of the term “homosexual” or “gay” as an adjective modifying “sex crime,” “sex case,” “prostitution,” and similar words is unnecessary and evidences bias. Similar “heterosexual” cases are not so identified.

3. Be sensitive to the tremendous homophobia in our society. Do not pander to it in any more than one would pander to racism or other extreme prejudices.

4. Ask direct and probing questions of police, bureaucrats, and elected officials involved in the case. Such persons sometimes depend on sensationalism, including charges later modified or dropped or juicy details which never have to be proved in order to get media mileage.

5. Do not publish statements of “unnamed detectives” or other unidentified sources without checking them out. They may be politically motivated or stem from the personal homophobia of these persons (often rampant). This is especially true for details which will never have to be disproven or proven in court, but which damage the reputation of the accused. This is particularly true when the unnamed source is, in turn, quoting a third party who cannot deny or verify the statement.

6. Insist on seeing the indictments in order to be precise about the nature of the accusations. Only the stupidest journalism could have linked 26 cases with “child pornography” when no such accusation was made!

7. Do not fall into the police-fed trap of linking unlinked “crimes” simply because they are announced to the media at the same time. This is the worst form of guilt by association. It is also the misuse of the media by district attorneys and others to further their careers.

8. Ask the authorities the nature of the investigation, the nature and timing of questioning of witnesses, and the sources of the complaints: the “victims,” their peers, their parents, neighbors, known prostitutes, police.

9. Insist on precise information about the ages of the victims and the dates of the alleged acts. Be precise in use of age terms like “children,” certainly not appropriate when used for a person who was 15 at the time of the alleged act and who is now 22.

C. A clear and informative description of the alleged offences.

1. Clearly differentiate among the types of alleged sex offenses, explaining to the public the complicated terminology of these.
   a. “Rape and Abuse of a Child” does not involve force, violence or any form of coercion. In heterosexual cases, it is always specifically referred to as statutory rape, and is should be so identified with regard to homosexual cases. “Child” is defined variously at under 14 or under 16 or under 18.

   b. “Forcible Rape” does involve violence and coercion and is extremely rare among gay men and adolescents (since adolescent boys are usually as strong or stronger than the men), but it should be identified as such when the accusation has been made.

   c. “Intent to Rape” does not have to involve even touching the alleged victim — “erotic intent” is enough!

   d. Statutory rape of a male minor does NOT have to involve penetration of mouth or anus of either partner — touching is sufficient if perceived by a witness to be sexual in nature. Such cases involve the broadband hysteria and homophobic reactions. A boy knowing the laws of a gay male couple may enter their house for a lemonade and the parents could bring charges that would be sufficient to prosecute on the assumption of intent to rape.

   e. “Prostitution” and “Soliciting” are vigorously prosecuted among women, while their customers usually go free (and unnamed), the opposite is often the case among gay men and boys, where the client is prosecuted and the prostitute is coerced into state testimony.
f. "Lewd and Lascivious Acts," "The Unnatural and Unmentionable Act," "Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor," etc., are similarly vague and need explanations. The public should be informed that a person may be charged for each single act alleged and that the same act may be prosecuted as all of the above crimes (except possible rape), so that one man accused of several similar acts with one injured boy might face 10 life sentences.

2. Indicate the heavy possible penalties for the alleged crimes: life imprisonment is possible for several of the above, and 5-10 years is often the minimum sentence. Anyone serving any sentence for any of these crimes may be judged a "sexually dangerous person" by court-appointed psychiatrists and then may be held for from one year to life, or until he is rated no longer dangerous.

3. "Prostitutional Rings" are not the same thing as individual hustling, and neither necessarily involve "child molestation" or "child pornography." Be precise and correct in headlines, captions, summaries and all other descriptions of the behavior of the alleged violators.

D. Inependent verification of news.

1. Before printing stories of this kind on a major scale and solely on police evidence, several diverse sources should be checked to verify that the charges have some merit, and several gay sources should be contacted for a reaction to the tone of the story. No one person speaks for our community.

Lesbians and gay men have their own media and other institutions. We are a diverse group, but we are an important community within the larger Boston society. Some of us are consumers of products you advertise, most of us see your media, and a few of us contribute to your media or work for you. We can and will use all our available power in common self-interest if the media are not responsive to these reasonable suggestions. We will not tolerate erroneous charges and the damaging impact of such sensationalism upon our brothers and sisters. Our Boston/Beise Committee is made up of nearly 120 gay and straight men and women including working people of all ages and professions. We also include representatives from such major organizations as Metropolitan Community Church, Gay Community News, Gay Rag, Homophile Community Health Service, Dignity, the Libertarian Party and the Civil Liberties Union. We are united in our anger that the rights of the 24 recent defendants and the alleged "victims" have been irreparably harmed and that the shocking misrepresentations of the media have made fair trials in these cases unlikely if not impossible. We call upon you in fairness and for the sake of professional integrity to follow these suggestions so that such wrong will not be done again.

Please sign and check one of the following:

1. As an individual media person, I agree to follow the above suggestions: ____________________________

2. Our organization (Name: ____________________________) will follow the above suggestions.

3. We make the following further suggestions:

SIGNED: ____________________________

Media: ____________________________

Date: ____________________________

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Mitzel was born in Ohio in 1948. In 1967, he attended the organizational meeting of the Cincinnati Mattachine. His activism, over the years, has included work with the Boston Student Homophile League, Gay Male Liberation, Fag Rag and the the Gay Community News, for which he writes regularly. Mitzel wrote a monthly column for the Philadelphia Gay News for 3 years. His work has also appeared in many gay periodicals as well as in anthologies. Other titles by him include: Sports & The Macho Male; Myra & Gore; John Horne Burns: An Appreciative Biography; Skylines; A Short History of Modern Capitalism Through Its Ladies; and a collection of fictions, Some Short Stories About Nasty People I Don’t Like. Under the name Bunny LaRue, he has published two curious chapbooks. Mitzel resides in Boston. As he is committed to the eradication of dullness, he can’t imagine life without gay liberation.