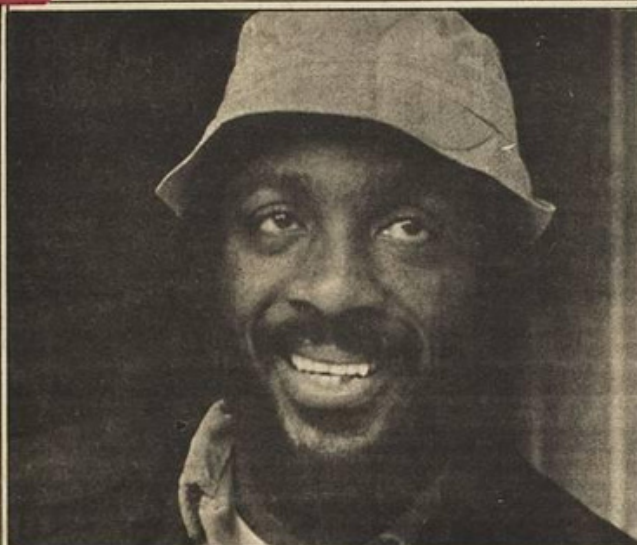


# The Best of GAY 50¢

## Selections From 1970-71

Volume 3, Number 69



Dick Gregory

### Top Stars Play Continental Baths

New York, N.Y. The Continental Bath and Health Club (230 West 74th Street, Manhattan) is booking top name stars during the month of January.

On January 19th Dick Gregory will appear. On January 22nd, Cab Calloway is scheduled, and on January 29th, Tiny Tim will sing.

The appearance of these celebrities signals a new era in the evolution of the Continental. Bette Midler, who rose to fame after her appearances at the Continental, will perform on January 15th.



Tiny Tim

### Tuesday Bloody Tuesday Suffolk Police Jump Gays

BY NICHOLAS MARTINO

On Tuesday December 14, 1971, a group of 25 gay activists from the Long Island Gay Activist Alliance and the New York Gay Activist Alliance gathered at 11:30 A.M. outside the Administration Building at Hauppauge.

They had come to present affidavits of some 40 witnesses of a raid on the local gay bar, the Corral. The affidavits detailed the behavior of two undercover cops, Lewis Gentles and Peter Geoghegan, who had spearheaded the raid that night. The two policemen, not wearing uniforms, were reported by the eyewitnesses to have drunk excessively, groped the male patrons, kissed them, insisted on dancing with them. Three men had been arrested during the raid. These affidavits to be presented this day were to indicate that the charges against the bar patrons were fabrications.

The delegation from the group, headed by New York GAA President-elect Rich Wandel and L.I. GAA President Doe Hansen, went into the building and upstairs towards Aspland's office.

They were allowed into a room outside the District Attorney's office. The leaders handed over the affidavits and asked for a receipt. Their request was refused. They asked again. Suddenly 15 men, wearing guns but no uniforms or badges, charged into the office from an anteroom. They surrounded the group, blocking the exit and proceeded to beat up the members of the group. Coats were pulled up over the demonstrators' heads. Wandel's glasses were ripped off. Paul Martin was beaten till blood flowed from his nose and mouth. One member has a

cut mouth. A girl injured in the ribs had fainted. An ACLU observer (American Civil Liberties Union) Gregory Schmidt was pushed down the stairs, his camera grabbed. Two other ACLU observers observed the beatings.

The injured activists partly fled, were partly driven from the building. Three people were arrested: Cora Perotta, Charles Burch and Sylvia Rivera. They were handcuffed and taken to the station house a few yards away.

Their comrades regrouped and formed a picket line outside the station house.

The group was informed that in a few hours there would be an arraignment for the 3 arrested activists at a nearby building. A lawyer, a woman, had come and begun to handle the legal moves towards release of the prisoners.

Rich Wandel suggested the group move to another government building where the County Legislature was in progress. They sat down, fumpy and hip wilted-beat, an odd contrast to the legislators' bankers' grey. Presiding Officer John V.N. Klein (County Executive-Elect) immediately interrupted the business at hand to announce that the meeting was indeed public and that as soon as the item being discussed was dispensed with, anyone from the audience who wished to speak would be allowed the use of the mike.

In about five minutes he made good his promise. Rich Wandel strode to the podium. He explained that originally there had been no intention of entering the meeting but that events in Aspland's office, which he briefly described, made this move necessary.

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### The Hearings on Intro 475: Part III

BY LEO SKIR

A third day of hearings was held at City Hall on Friday December 17th on Intro 475, a gay civil rights bill now being considered by the Committee of General Welfare for presentation on the floor of the City Council. The bill, introduced by Messrs. Clingan, Burden, Scholnick and Weiss, is "to amend the administrative code of the city of New York in relation to discrimination based on a person's sexual orientation."

The day began and ended with a statement from the head of the Committee, Mr. Sharison, that he would continue to request statements from the heads of the City Police and Fire Departments and the Board of Education before proceeding further.

The hearings started at 11 o'clock. Sharison after noting the absence of the requested representatives of the Police and Fire Departments and the Board of Education, informed the assembled audience of about 300 people which had packed the hall that there were many people to be heard this day, that since the hearings would continue only until 4 P.M.



Members of the audience clenched fists and screamed "Justice, Justice" at the Chairman

any cheers, boos, catcalls would interfere with the presentation of evidence and not serve the cause of those who wanted the bill passed.

The audience was much the same as at the last hearing, many GAA members and several of the anti-gay talkers. The anti-gays had come to talk again and had to be persuaded that no one was being allowed to give testimony twice.

Eleanor Clark French read a statement for Presidential candidate Senator George McGovern supporting the bill.

She was subjected to the harassment of Rep. de Marco, A Bronx Democrat who has been the chief opponent of the bill. Mr. de Marco asked if the Senator had campaigned for any legislation like 475 in his own state.

Chairman Saul Sharison rose and said he would stop the proceedings whenever such an interruption occurred for the length of time that had been lost by the interruption.

At once several members of the audience rose and advanced towards the desk behind which the council members were

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# The Hearings on Intro 475

(continued from page 1)

sitting. Raising their clenched fists in the militant salute they screamed JUSTICE! JUSTICE! JUSTICE! for some minutes alternating with BIGOT! BIGOT! BIGOT!

Chairman Sharison got red in the face and looked unhappy. The police had come to the front of the room De Marco was smiling.

Sharison said, "You are destroying the very process of government. I am in favor of the bill."

Clingan said, "I want to say a word to you." (This to the audience.) He told them they were not helping their cause.

Father Robert Clement of the Church of the Beloved Disciple, speaking next, noted the disturbance but said that he, knowing the injustice gays had been subjected to, knew that they would no longer be "in the back of the bus." He said his secretary had twice lost his job when it was found he was gay. He was questioned on the subject of gay marriage. He replied that he was a servant of the spirit, not the state, and did not like serving the state's purposes when he performed heterosexual marriages. He said his "marriages," so-called by the press, were not civil unions by holy unions. Father Louis Gigante of St. Athanasius Church of the Bronx backed Father Clement's appeal to have the bill passed. He noted his own experience in youth in the Village witnessing the way gays were put down.

De Marco, a Catholic, said he regretted the father coming down with his collar, giving a Church presence to his private opinion as an individual.

"I'm here as a human," Father Gigante said. "Michael, you've seen me here when I came down to protest housing. I can't change myself. I was a priest then and I'd be a priest now. Even without the collar I'd still be a priest."

"I've talked to priests and nuns and they were opposed to the bill."

Apparently he hadn't asked the priests who were opposed to remove their collars.

"You're against sin, aren't you?" said de Marco. "And isn't, aren't, acts of sodomy sin?"

"I will not say if homosexual activities are sinful," said Father Gigante.

The father was asked if he was gay. He said no.

Rep. Manton also objected to the father appearing with his collar.

De Marco said, "Maybe I was taught wrong but I was taught homosexuality was a sin. Am I wrong? It is considered a sin, isn't it? I mean murder, if someone came to you and said he killed someone—"

"HOW DARE YOU!" Pete Fisher, one of the Gay Activists in a front row shouted, "HOW DARE YOU COMPARE HOMOSEXUALITY WITH MURDER?"

Quiet was restored after a short interval. Jim Owles, President of Gay Activist Alliance, was called. He explained that this legislation was "anti-closet" legislation, that many many homosexuals could not possibly come out and fight for their rights since the coming-out would expose them—and that this very situation showed the need for this bill and many like it. He noted that when the GAA had circulated petitions for the laws, many straight people signed the petitions (10,000 signatures were collected—he handed them to the board) but that many gays were fearful of having their names and addresses on a paper having to do with homosexuality.

Rep. Silverman questioned Mr. Owles on the list of people backing 475 presented by GAA. He said he—Rep. Silverman—had spoken to Garelik on December 16th and Garelik had told him he had

made no commitment.

Jim Owles replied that as far as he knew no name had been put on the list without written approval from the person. He said he would try to obtain a copy of the letter from Garelik from the GAA files before the day's end.

A rabbi was called, Rabbi Bert. S. Seigel of Riverside Temple in the Bronx. He spoke as an individual, not for his congregation and supported the bill.

A Vincent Vilelo of the American Legion's New York County branch of 20,000 members spoke representing the branch. He said that the major issue was the danger to the children if homosexuals were allowed to enter the schools. To support this he entered a letter from the Schoolman's Post of the American Legion. He said those members in the Board of Education were solidly against the bill.

A Rev. Magora Kennedy who introduced herself as the mother of five boys, a Lesbian and a minister spoke. "If you fail us, we will declare our own candidates, have a gay caucus, go for all offices. Have a good day gentlemen—if you can!!!!!!!"

And walked out.

Next Frank Baraff for Percy Sutton, Borough President of Manhattan. Neatly reproduced press releases were handed out. A statement was read. Lincolnque liberal sentiments. Polite applause.

Rose Jordan of Daughters of Bilitis described a police raid, then reminded the government-people "Harassment can be a two-way street."

Marvin Schick, Administrative Assistant to the Mayor, presented a statement "on behalf of Mayor Lindsay and the City Administration" supporting the bill strongly.

He was attacked by de Marco. Did Lindsay really speak for the commissioners? And if so, when had he spoken to them? And if they agreed with him why were they not here now? "The fact is this committee didn't believe Eleanor Holmes Norton—" he said.

"Correction," said Mr. Sharison. "Mr. de Marco, you are speaking for yourself."

"The fact is they are hiding, the Mayor is hiding. He says the commissioners are for this thing and they're not—Mr. Schick says it and they are not—"

"If it gives you solace to call me a liar you may do so," said Mr. Schick.

Mr. Silverman said he felt the bill had very dubious legality, that it ignored the status of the homosexual under State Pe-

nal law. Was the homosexual whose activity had become known and had paid for it (i.e. by imprisonment) less eligible for benefits? Was then the morality not to get caught?

The next speaker, G. Oliver Kopper of the New York State Assembly, one of the sponsors of the liberalization laws in the State Capital, answered the question. It was reserved to the State to change the bad law and yes, the New York City bill implicitly asked for revision of the State law and this was a good approach.

Francis X. Barron of Kings County Catholic War Veterans differed. He said the bill implied consent for homosexual acts. Telling the committee members (all over 30) that they no longer listened to anyone over 30 he asked them to inspect the lessons of history, the fall of Greece and Rome. It was "moral decay, one niche in the brickwork." In answering questions he explained he thought morality had in the past been legislated and still should be. He faced Councilman Burden and wondered how the councilman, a Catholic, could approve acts condemned in the Bible. What about his education?

Burden said his education had called on him to re-define morality periodically.

Bernard Bellish, State Chairman of Americans for Democratic Action, a professor of history at City College, spoke supporting the bill.

John Lassoe, speaking for Bishop Paul Moore of the Episcopal Diocese of New York, as Church representative, gave the official position of the Diocese: "The penal law is not the instrument of control for such practices" (as consensual sodomy). He urged the adoption of the bill.

Arthur Warner of the Nation Committee for Sexual Civil Liberties spoke in favor of the bill, noting, as a historian, that the theory that homosexuality caused the decline and fall of either Greece or Rome had not been proposed by any historian of note since the 18th century.

Jim Fouratt gave the committee an account of discrimination which he had encountered, one being his dismissal from his job by a fellow-gay who had seen him in a gay bar. Another denied him a cab license in New York when his draft record had indicated a homosexual background. He also noted that although CBS, which he had worked for, did not discriminate against him, it had a record of

anti-gay practices in employment.

Sylvia Rivera, a male transvestite, gave a history of police harassment on 42nd Street and said that she could not at present get a job while wearing women's clothing. She wore a red dress and red hat.

Bob Ruecker, a GAA member, presented the testimony of his apartment-mate who had been a doorman and had been dismissed from his job without due cause while being notified by his employers that they knew "what he was."

Pete Fisher of GAA opened his testimony by quoting the Declaration of Independence. He noted that gays were not asking for something new but demanding rights traditionally theirs but not yet given to them. "Are we to be equated with 'sinners'?" he asked. "We want our rights and we want them now."

Mr. de Marco began to ask him questions. He refused to answer any questions from Mr. de Marco considering his previous remarks as attacks on the homosexual community.

Arthur Evans of GAA gave evidence of discrimination within the framework of the agencies assigned to securing employment, one of which, Hadle, he had worked for from October of 1965 to March of 1966. He said Mrs. Hadle openly marked homosexuals with HCL—"high class fairy"—and blacks with the label 'boyscouts.' Mr. Evans noted that he had collaborated with this informing process. Those discriminated against, both blacks and gays, could not before this seek redress. Now the blacks can. And if this law is passed, so can the gays.

Richard Wandel, president-elect of GAA, gave only two instances, one of employment discrimination when a future employer had reversed an acceptance after a former employer had phoned to inform the prospective employer that Mr. Wandel was a 'faggot.' The second instance was in a bar, a public accommodation, Clancy's on Third Avenue near 53rd Street. One evening, some gays coming in wearing the lambda had been told to leave because "We don't want your kind here." Here was a case of discrimination in a place of public accommodation.

Charles Burch was given permission to speak, though he had no specific evidence of discrimination to report. The GAA wished him to make public notice of the threat against his life made by the Suffolk Police—the inference being that a police force in which gays are not represented is more open to anti-gay practices.

It was 4:15 P.M. Mr. Sharison informed the assemblage that the Commissioners and/or their representatives would not be able to appear this day, that the Commissioners would be asked to appear at another hearing which would be open to the public.

When the crowd was leaving the hearing-room Mr. Sharison answered the questions of reporters. He informed them that he had been and was now squarely behind the bill as a human rights issue but that the behavior of some of the militants had turned him against it.

He called the demonstrators "ignorant and stupid."

Asked if he felt it was a GAA action he said no, he felt the GAA presentation was strong and allowed listeners to understand the weight of frustrations the gays had been subject to.

Councilwoman Carol Greitzer had been present at the hearings. Before this she had been confronted by GAA militants and accused of not backing gay rights demands. On this day, during the review of the list presented by GAA of backers of the bill she protested at the hearing that her name did not appear as a backer of 475.

Sesame Street has been brought to you today by the numbers 6 and 9, and by the letters F, U and K!

