

GAY PRIDE BOOK SF 6/81

Bars-alot

• BILL OF RIGHTS •

FOR PATRONS AND EMPLOYEES OF LESBIAN & GAY ESTABLISHMENTS

PREAMBLE: We lesbian and gay people affirm this bill of rights from our understanding that gay-oriented bars and businesses are not just commercial establishments but social institutions in the gay community. Therefore, gay people have the right to expect that the proprietors of these establishments will conduct their businesses in a way responsive to the legitimate needs of the community which they serve.

We believe in the right of gay people of all races, sexes and lifestyles to full and equal access to gay commercial establishments.

We believe in the right of gay people to services, environments and conditions of employment on a par with those found in non-gay establishments.

We maintain the right to determine our social lives on the basis of our own real needs rather than having them subordinated to the profit motive of commercial establishments.

I. THE RIGHT TO EQUAL ACCESS: All gay people regardless of race, sex, lifestyle, or style of dress, have a right to equal access to all gay-oriented bars and businesses; though we recognize the right of women to have exclusively women's places. Neither the exclusion of any groups, such as Black people, women, or transsexuals, nor their subjection to a quota system can be tolerated within the gay community. Identification requirements should be the same for everyone. There should be no age requirements other than those required by law. Reasonable efforts should be made to make these businesses easily accessible to the disabled.

II. THE RIGHTS OF EMPLOYEES: Employees of gay-oriented commercial establishments are entitled to certain basic rights:

THE RIGHT to receive decent wages and benefits on a par with those of other workers.

THE RIGHT to job security and to organize in a union and bargain collectively over wages, job conditions and other issues. Fair grievance procedures should be set up. Workers should not have to fear being fired at the whim of employers.

THE RIGHT not to be discriminated against because of race, sex, physical appearance or disability. Transsexuals and transvestites should not be discriminated against in employment. Black and other Third World gays have a right to preferential hiring to make up for years of discrimination, as do lesbians in establishments with a mixed clientele.

THE RIGHT to reject sexual advances from employers or customers. Workers should not have to sleep with an employer to be or to remain employed, nor should they be expected to tolerate sexual abuse from customers.

III. THE RIGHT TO A SAFE ENVIRONMENT: Gay people have the right to safety in gay bars. Patrons have the right to expect that fire safety regulations will be observed, including those requiring unlocked, clearly marked fire exits. An adequate number of fire extinguishers should be prominently placed throughout the bar. Occupancy laws should be respected.

We also have the right to expect adequate ventilation, especially where there is crowding and cigarette smoke. Decently maintained restrooms are also to be expected, with privacy provided for those who require it. Health regulations should be observed. In areas not intended for dancing, it is reasonable to expect that the level of noise will not exceed those limits which make conversation impossible.

IV. THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM FROM HARASSMENT AND EXPLOITATION: As gay people, we have the same rights as others to fair prices, unwatered drinks and socializing in public places such as bars, without being harassed to buy. Gay people should have the same rights as the heterosexual patrons of non-gay establishments to touch and show affection. Establishments should not, by virtue of their catering to gay people, offer goods and services inferior to those offered by other businesses to the general public. Disabled persons should be treated with equal dignity.

V. THE RIGHT TO EXPECT THAT GAY ESTABLISHMENTS WILL FUNCTION AS RESPONSIBLE COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS: Bars and other gay establishments have the obligation to provide a reasonable amount of space for gay literature, announcements, and appeals, regardless of the political content. We have the right to expect active support of our struggle for gay rights, and the struggles of our progressive allies in the community at large. Gay establishments should observe those boycotts supported by the majority of the gay community, such as the Coors Beer Boycott.

— Passed unanimously April 26 at the Founding Conference of the
National Organization of Lesbians and Gays

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Front Line of Sexuality

Battle for a Sex Club

by Dan Woodworth

We are a windswept City, perched precariously over the Western Sea, a wind that affects our lives constantly — blowing the changing weather, blowing our hair, bringing the fragrance of our lovers close, bringing mists of mirth and magic, mayhem and even madness.

Outside, the wind blows the budding leaves on a nearby tree where a friendly bird seems to be singing with the record I'm listening to.

In the bed next to this desk he sleeps, after a long night at the Hot House, looking like he was drawn by Norman Rockwell.

J A N

Federal panel rejects reform of anti-gay immigration laws.

Pentagon issues new order banning all gays from military.

Jaguar Bookstore wins appeal to keep upstairs club open.

They asked me to write an article about the Jaguar. Of course, two hours after I was asked, the Jaguar sticks three more daggers into an already wounded me.

My mind was reeling with the abuses, insults and betrayals of having worked there for a year. A year, and I can't afford even a pack of cigarettes after this one; not that I could afford to eat when I worked there.

But the wind, and the laughter of a passing lover-friend carry that away. Not that the questions of gay greed and exploitation are going to go away; they only wait like Madame Lafarge.

But I wanted to talk about the Jaguar in the larger sense.

Hell, last night I was calling it a toilet myself, and a toilet it is. But it is other things too.

We are many things. We have always been many things. And we should have pride in the fact that we play baseball,

know martial arts, have our own banks, choruses, bands, orchestras, bike clubs, hiking groups, a gay Russian River, royal courts, and fun, and everything the straight world has. And more.

But when the wind blows the pages of history, these things won't find so much as a footnote. What's a gay supervisor to Alexander the Great, or a gay art festival to Michaelangelo (Irving Stone aside)?

The fight to keep the Jaguar open was attacked by many who insisted it was not the real issue we should be fighting for. I say that it is basically the only issue we should be fighting for — on the front line of Western Civilization, in the very halls of history itself.

As long as we have tricycle races and *Hello Dolly* and hide-aways in the country, the powers that be are content, because we become so much painted nonsense, the queer slipped subtly into some situation comedy.

Because, friends, we are what we are, foremost and primarily, because of sexuality. And in that sense, when we talk of the Jaguar, we are standing in the Temple and yelling at the High Priests, yelling, "This is horseshit, your morality garbage, your temple a T.V. tube bank lethal deodorized Tampax sewer! How dare you call us Queer! We stand here in this temple and say, 'Come tumbling down!'" And that is no footnote.



Eight officers arrive unannounced to inspect Jaguar premises. Lesbian photo-journalist Kim Corsaro recorded their visit.