

**VOGLIAMO
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March 27, 1979

Dear Sisters,

This packet will bring you up to date on Campaign activities in Philadelphia since last fall.

When we left off the Daily News initiative at the end of the summer, we weren't sure when or how we'd pick it up again. (We've included the LNS article as a summary; if any of you haven't seen our earlier packet, please let us know and we'll send it to you.) In November, we were approached by some gay men who were planning a picket at the Daily News to protest a column which was a vicious attack on gay men ("Sex Over Corned Beef..." enclosed). In working with them we made it clear that they were building on the fight that we began last summer, and insisted that our demands be put forward along with theirs. Continuing the rape theme was also our strategy to keep the issue from being narrowly defined as a fight by "gays" against the use of derogatory terms. (As the clippings indicate this is exactly what the media attempted to do - but the meetings with the editors were clearly strengthened by this strategy.)

The men organized the picket and 3 of us from the Committee and Wages Due met with the Daily News editors with 2 of the men. (12-11-78) This meeting was a tremendous success - with the change in attitude of editor Gil Spencer a clear indication of the power we'd built since the summer. Our enclosed press release ("Progress for Women at Daily News...") gives you more of an idea what happened. It was clear to us that what tipped the balance in our favor was the power the International brought to bear on our fight.

The appearance of Dexter's column "Writing Wrongs" prompted 2 more meetings with Gil Spencer at which we won space for our article "Rape Is Still No Joke" and pay (\$50 a piece) for this article and Tim Cwiek's earlier "Gays Ask Equal Time."

Our article is an indication of how the media initiative and our organizing in support of Herta Tuttle's case have increasingly merged. The articles "Financially Battered Housewife..." and "No More Honey...", which we've included as background on the case, were written as part of a packet of articles we submitted to the Philadelphia Journal, with which we've been negotiating about a women's page and gay column - at the suggestion of the editor, Walt Herring. Several months ago he agreed to a women's page, coordinated by us, and a gay column, coordinated by a woman named Betti Watts, who's been working with Wages Due. The details have not yet been settled, so we're not sure what action will be needed on this front.

Herta Tuttle contacted us last summer because she wanted help in her support case against her husband in Family Court. Specifically, she wanted the worth of her work in the home brought to bear on deciding the amount of money she gets, and she wanted to "go public" with her case, as she felt that it represented the situation of thousands of women.

Our first task was to get a lawyer. Community Legal Services (CLS) were refusing to represent Herta. (CLS is a federally-funded agency which is supposed to provide free legal representation for those who can't afford attorneys. As Herta puts it, "CLS is supposed to provide services for the poor, but what they actually do is provide poor service.") Last Spring Herta requested that they give her another lawyer because she had fundamental differences with the one she'd been assigned over how to handle the case. CLS refused, saying take it or leave it.

We approached quite a few private lawyers, but ended up back at CLS because we didn't have the money to hire anyone. CLS was still resisting us when we contacted a woman in the administration of CLS who'd had some contact with Black Women for Wages for Housework (USA). Through her we got a meeting with the director of CLS and as a result, a new lawyer for Herta.

Background work for the case included finding out about Family Law in Pennsylvania, and researching other cases and legal precedents in this area. One of our biggest problems was dealing with the lawyers, who had a very narrow view of what could be done. The strategy which emerged was to bring in expert witnesses to testify to the value of housework, time spent, etc., and to build support outside the Court by contacting women's groups, getting press interviews, and so on. Doing this meant utilizing our periphery and the media contacts we'd made earlier.

We decided to have a picket outside Family Court the day of Herta's hearing because it seemed the best way to make the connection with other cases and to get some media attention. The focus of the picket was exposing the Family Court's treatment of women and children in these cases. Specifically, we were protesting the Court Order of 12-1-78 forcing Herta to find a job, and demanding that the Court legally recognize the value of a woman's work in the home as a valuable contribution to the support of her children. (See press release, "Women's Groups to Protest...")

The picket was very successful; women on the street and coming out of Court were delighted that we were there. The presence of men, including Payday (Boston) was a power to us in exploding media distortions of such cases as a "war between the sexes." While newspaper coverage was not very good - and we're dealing with this - television coverage was excellent. Two stations covered it: we were the lead story on the 5:30 news on one and got a large chunk of time on the other.

Our work around Herta's case is evolving into an initiative against the Family Court, involving more and diverse women. This is in the very beginning stages, but at this point many women have contacted us and Herta. We've had a meeting with some of them, and it's likely that some sort of ongoing group will evolve out of it. What's on the agenda now is dealing with Marci Shatzman's column, "She's a Full-Time Mom," which attacks Herta and completely ignores and distorts what the fight is about. There has been a tremendous response to this column, critical of Shatzman, from women all over the area. Some of them have even looked Herta up in the telephone book to call and get the real story. We've met with editors at the Bulletin twice and are meeting this week with the managing editor to demand the space with a picture, paid, to present the real story of Herta's case, the picket, and the continuing battle at Family Court. We're also going to ask that they do an expose series on the Family Court - uncovering what goes on, the situations of women and children, and the fight women are making to get a better deal.

For Wages Due, the growth of these initiatives has meant our increasing emergence. Maureen's visit and talk in November served to increase our presence - see enclosed interview, which also appeared in Gay Community News (Boston).

As you can see, we've been quite busy, and we're very excited about how things are moving. We'll keep you informed as things develop.

Love, Money & Power,

Mary Hawryshkin Pat Albright

WAGES DUE LESBIANS, PHILADELPHIA

PHILADELPHIA WAGES FOR HOUSEWORK COMMITTEE

P.S. Note to West Coast groups, in particular: The article which appeared in the Advocate, crediting N.O.W. with initiating the fight against the Daily News has to be answered. We've talked to Jeff Britton and others here, and it would be useful for you to write a letter with the facts, and demanding that they print a correction.

(See graphics.)

Philadelphia Women, Puerto Ricans Protest Writer at *Daily News*

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. (LNS)—Philadelphia women are gearing up their fight against the *Philadelphia Daily News* for columnist Pete Dexter's attack on women organizing against rape, while Puerto Ricans in the city are protesting the writer's racist use of the pen against them.

Women have been protesting recent columns written by Dexter where he makes light of rape, ridicules women's fight against it, and slanders lesbians. Of a May 15 speakout on violence against women, which Dexter was asked to leave because it was for women only, he wrote (in an article entitled 'The Only Place Men Are Powerless to Enter'): "If they were looking for rapists, there were a couple of their own people who looked more experienced than I did."

The protesters are also outraged by his insulting references to "hysterical lesbians" and sexual innuendos passing for humor in his description of meeting participants.

"We aren't going to stand for this use of 'lesbian' as an insult to try to divide women and discredit the fight all of us are making against rape. The attack on lesbians is an attack on every woman's right to say 'no' to a man, including the right to say 'no' to rape," says Pat Albright, spokeswoman for the Philadelphia chapter of Wages Due Lesbians, one of the groups organizing the protest.

Women took the fight to the streets on June 9 and picketed, with the support of several men, in front of the *Philadelphia Daily News* offices. The demonstration resulted in a meeting

denied access to a meeting run by and for women." But the decision to exclude men had been publicized in a press release, the union wrote, and was "justified in light of the nature of the meeting. A speak-out is successful to the extent that those attending feel free to speak out of their own experiences and to express their feelings about those experiences."

A group of men supporting the rape protest reminded the paper of the recent firing of a well-known weatherman (Tex Antoine) by WABC-TV in New York and the recall of a Wisconsin judge. "Both were forced out of their positions, the men's group, Payday, warned, "because the public could not tolerate the 'sense of humor' they showed toward rape in their words and actions."

Wilmette Brown, in a statement from Black Women for Wages for Housework wrote, "We know that the ridicule Dexter aims at lesbian women...is the same racism which has him make light of Black women's vulnerability to rape and violence because of our lack of money. And it is at the same time an attack on the organizing of women and the community as a whole against the conditions which give rise to violence."

June 22, just a day after the women's meeting with the editor, a coalition representing Puerto Rican, Black and white community groups turned up at the *Daily News* Building to protest another of Dexter's articles. This one, entitled "Their Island Is No Paradise," was an interview quoting the racist comments of an elderly white couple living in a Philadelphia neighborhood that was once white and had become mainly Puerto Rican.

Members of the Puerto Rican community demanded an apology in print from the paper and planned to pursue further action if they weren't satisfied

(See graphics.)

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Women took the fight to the streets on June 9 and picketed, with the support of several men, in front of the *Philadelphia Daily News* offices. The demonstration resulted in a meeting with *Daily News* editors June 21, where the women presented their demands: 1) Pete Dexter must be fired; 2) the *Daily News* must provide a page devoted to women's fight against rape and violence; and 3) women must be paid for the work of producing this page.

The *Daily News* conceded to print an apology for one line in Dexter's June 7 column. However, editor F. Gilman Spencer repeated his position that the columns should be read "with a sense of humor" and that Dexter would not be fired because the columns weren't "offensive enough" to warrant his dismissal. This, despite the fact that the *Daily News* has been flooded with calls and letters of protest from Philadelphia and other cities, and that petitions with several hundred signatures, endorsements and statements of support from 25 community groups were presented at the meeting.

Protest from Many Quarters

In a letter printed in the June 30, 1978 edition of the *Daily News*, the Prostitutes' Union of Massachusetts wrote that "The root of Dexter's indignation seems to be that he was

denied access to a meeting run by and for women." But the decision to exclude men had been publicized in a press release, the union wrote, and was "justified in light of the nature of the meeting. A speak-out is successful to the extent that those attending feel free to speak out of their own experiences and to express their feelings about those experiences."

A group of men supporting the rape protest reminded the paper of the recent firing of a well-known weatherman (Tex Antoine) by WABC-TV in New York and the recall of a Wisconsin judge. "Both were forced out of their positions, the men's group, Payday, warned, "because the public could not tolerate the 'sense of humor' they showed toward rape in their words and actions."

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Members of the Puerto Rican community demanded an apology in print from the paper and planned to pursue further action if they weren't satisfied with the paper's response.

The *Daily News* called this a "separate" controversy and columnist Dexter told the community groups that the women protesting the rape columns were "a bunch of lesbians" in efforts to keep them separate. *Daily News* editors were therefore quite astounded when on June 26 several women involved in the anti-rape protest walked in with the Puerto Rican coalition to lend support.

Pat Albright, who attended both the women's and the Puerto Rican community's meetings with *News* editors, reported that although the paper's tone was more patronizing with the women, the editors tried some of the same arguments on both groups.

To the argument that "it's freedom of the press" the protesters said "bullshit!" she reported. "We know there's an editorial policy underlying what gets run. Every paper has certain things they'd never print—it's about power, not freedom of the press." □

* * *
Concerned people are urged to protest by writing or calling the

A Flaming Encounter

DAILY NEWS, NOV 30, 78

Sex Over Corned Beef Was Straight Fantasy

A corned beef special doesn't usually excite me all that much, so I couldn't understand why I was becoming slightly aroused while eating one during my lunch hour at a Center City restaurant last Thursday. Perhaps the aroma of the perfume had something to do with it. Or maybe it was the body pressing softly against my back while I sat at the counter in the crowded restaurant. Whatever it was, one thing I knew for sure, if the girl standing behind me kept leaning on my back, I would have been able to walk from the place with my hat on my lap. Damn, that perfume was something else!

Thoughts were going through my head, during the meal, that would certainly get me sentenced to several decades in purgatory. Or, at least, have Franny Rafferty after me with a sledge hammer. "Wow," I thought, "I'm being seduced right here in this packed place, and I didn't even use my Brut this morning." The human mind is a wondrous instrument. The imagination strange!

So certain was I that very shortly I would be bedded down with a lovely young thing of the opposite sex, that my brain was working overtime trying to think of a viable excuse to give my boss which would permit me to take the rest of the afternoon off. I even wondered if he'd believe I had been carried off by the Red Brigades. I need not have wasted my time wondering.

Did you ever have the dream where you seem to be plummeting from a cliff, and, just before you hit the bottom, you awaken with a jolt? Well, multiply the shock you felt by 10 million and maybe, just maybe, you will experience the surprise I received when I turned around to encounter my beautiful seductress. My fair young maiden had a mustache and was smoking a Sherlock Holmes pipe. I could feel the corned beef sandwich I had just devoured about to exit through the same orifice it had only recently entered. My head was spinning! "I got all horned up by a goddam sweet-smelling faggot,"

By JOE MARKEY

I told myself. Somehow I managed to keep the sandwich down and was preparing to launch a series of hooks and jabs when Sherlock held out a small sheet of paper and asked me if I liked it. "It" was a drawing, in my likeness, that the pervert had sketched while I was in the restaurant only the day before and he — she — it — had waited for me to return. What made me hold back from cracking the fag, I'll never know. Perhaps I felt sorry for him. Or maybe his size had a little to do with my hesitation. He outweighed me by about 40 pounds! And everybody has heard the rumors about how "they" are always beating up six marines at a time. So I decided not to be rude.

I informed him that the sketch was extremely well done and that it was an amazing likeness (even though it didn't resemble me in the least). He seemed overjoyed at my evaluation of his talent and told me he lived "right around the corner" and wanted me to come up to "see his work." When I refused his offer he seemed ready to burst into tears and his voice became several octaves higher.

Now I wasn't about to sit in any public place and argue with a screeching homosexual, so I motioned to the waitress for my check and stood up to leave.

This gesture apparently convinced Sherlock that I was accepting his offer and a smile began to spread across his face. The smile quickly disappeared when he noticed a sugar bowl in each of my hands. I think this move got the message across. The faggot spun on his heels, called me an evil bitch, and fled down the street in a huff. I fled the opposite way in a '73 Dodge. Anita Bryant, where are you now that we need you!

Joe Markey is called the Lord of Tasker. He has never been called the Queen of Tasker.

Gays Ask Equal Time

By TIMOTHY CWIEK

On Dec. 11, a "media event" took place in front of the Daily News building. Forty lesbians and gay men finally decided they had enough of this paper's coverage on gay issues, and circled in front of the offices with signs saying, "Daily News Grow Up," and "Daily News, Daily Lies."

What were the circumstances which moved these people (of all ages, colors and creeds) to stand on a busy street corner and, some may say, make a spectacle of themselves? Certainly, none of us like to hold protest signs in blustery weather, further chilled by the icy stares of onlookers.

Undoubtedly, for most of the demonstrators, it was a torturing frustration which brought them to the corner of Broad and Callowhill Sts. last week, a feeling of being unable to combat the misrepresentations which caused them to hide a good chunk of their lives in the first place.

For women especially, it was a chance to reaffirm their outrage with articles like Pete Dexter's which make light of their fight against rape and other violence. Many more were there to protest terms like "neillies," "dykes," "queen," "fruity," "sissies," etc. used on a regular basis by some Daily News staffers. And of course the final straw was the inflammatory Nov. 30 column by Joe Markey, "A Flaming Encounter," where he writes about a "goddamn sweet-smelling faggot" and admits: "What made me hold back from cracking the fag, I'll never know."

So the media event occurred not so much because of a desire to "advertise" our sexuality as a response to editors and writers who, for whatever reasons, refuse to value the quality of gays. It happened (for me) after years of reading anti-gay literature as a youngster, and realizing that when you finally summon the strength to tell the truth about yourself — the media still lags far behind.

Also, the argument can be made (and has been in numerous letters to the editor) that columns such as Markey's not only foster

misunderstanding and discrimination against the gay life-style, but outrightly sanction violence against gay men. How ironic that the Markey piece was printed beside a lofty editorial condemning the murder suspect of gay leader Harvey Milk, when diatribes such as Markey's actually encourage an atmosphere of hate and violence!

To be sure, the Daily News has taken some vital steps in the right direction. Pro-gay editorials, like the recent one condemning New Jersey state Sen. Joseph Maressa (who wants to recriminalize gay sex) and his ilk, appear with a soothing frequency. However, there is much more to be done. Sadly, much of the paper's writing does not reflect the spirit of these lofty statements.

Let's face it: There are no openly gay staffers on this paper to serve as a personal touchstone and guide staffers to a higher consciousness of our oppression.

So the point is — people forget. People forget that gays have feelings, too, and we do not want to see our already-misunderstood lives ridiculed even more by insensitive writers. With no one openly gay in the office, oversights are bound to occur, like the recent column by a staffer who writes that she doesn't know any woman who wouldn't want to have a "fling" with men such as Pierre Trudeau, when the columnist knows there are women who have other sexual preferences.

This is why those 40 women and men circled for three hours in front of the Daily News building last Monday. Each of us knew how necessary it was for staffers to see us in the "flesh and blood," and to send editor Gil Spencer a message that further attacks will not be tolerated.

Timothy Cwiek is coordinator of the Gay Media Association of Philadelphia.

December 12, 1978

....FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE....FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE....FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE....FOR IMMEDIATE

CONTACT: Wages for Housework Committee
Wages Due Lesbians, Philadelphia
4736 Hazel Avenue
215-727-1233/726-7926
Spokeswomen: Pat Albright
Mary Hawryshkiw

PROGRESS FOR WOMEN AT "DAILY NEWS": SPENCER ISN'T LAUGHING ANYMORE

Women's groups who protested the Philadelphia Daily News' treatment of rape earlier this year found progress for their fight when they returned Monday (12-11-78) to meet with editors along with gay men protesting a recent insulting column. The column by Joe Markey (11-30-78) was a vicious attack on gay men and was seen by both the women's and gay groups as a continuation of newspaper policy which encourages rape not being treated as a serious crime.

However, while in June Daily News editor F. Gilman Spencer maintained that the columns which ridiculed women's fight against rape should be read "with a sense of humor," in Monday's meeting he was forced to concede that women's fight against violence was a newsworthy issue, and would get increased coverage in the newspaper.

Spencer also agreed to (1) set up an editorial policy prohibiting the use of derogatory terms and remarks in reference to lesbian women and gay men; (2) provide women's and gay groups increased access to the Daily News. Spencer asked representatives to provide him with lists of issues that needed coverage, and to maintain telephone contact with him in this regard; (3) grant gay men equal space to respond to the Markey column.

Spencer further requested that another meeting be held in two months to assess the progress being made.

Monday's demonstration at the Daily News and meeting with Spencer and other editors was called by the Gay Media Association and included representatives from the Philadelphia Wages for Housework Committee, Wages Due Lesbians, and the Philadelphia Lesbian and Gay Task Force.

The women's protest began last spring in response to columns by Pete Dexter (5-17-78, 6-7-78) which attacked women's organizing against rape and slandered lesbian women in particular. The protest launched an extensive petition and letter-writing campaign, the scope of which even the Daily News was forced to admit in Monday's meeting, when editor Spencer acknowledged that the paper had received letters from as far as England and Israel.

The broad range of public support indicated that women would not allow the movement against rape to be divided by Dexter's "charge" of lesbianism, and that the community at large was outraged by his attempts to do so.

Monday's meeting with Philadelphia Daily News editors indicates that the "People Paper" is catching up with the times - and with its readers, who are demanding a serious look at issues of concern to women, gays and the community as a whole. Community groups will be monitoring the Daily News, and are being encouraged to contact editor Gilman Spencer with stories they want the newspaper to cover.

"The Daily News knows we're doing them a favor by making their paper more responsive to the community. But we don't intend to do their work for them -- and not be paid for it. Women have done enough unpaid work. We'll continue to pressure them to pay us for our services," stated Pat Albright, spokeswoman for Wages Due Lesbians (Philadelphia).

Irate Gays Rap News Columnists

By JOE CLARK

Some two dozen members of the city's gay community demonstrated in front of the Daily News-Inquirer Building yesterday to protest what they claim are derogatory words some of the paper's columnists use in describing homosexuals.

Though the gay demonstrators said the negative descriptions had appeared in the paper continually, they were particularly angered over a Nov. 30 editorial page column in which part-time writer Joe Markey wrote, "I got all horned up by a . . . sweet-smelling faggot."

In addition to "faggot," the group said it resented another News columnist's descriptions of homosexuals as "sissies," "nellies," "fruity," "dyke" and "wimpy."

WHILE THE chilled, placard-carrying demonstrators chanted and marched outside the News Building at 400 N. Broad St., five of their representatives met with Daily News Editor Gil Spencer and two assistants.

After the hourlong meeting, Spencer told the group he would direct staffers to refrain from using disparaging words when referring to gay people.

Tim Cwiek of the Gay Media Association said the paper's "sexist remarks" were "totally unacceptable" to the gay community. "We're not going to stand for it," he said.



Photographed by Joseph J. McGuinn

Demonstrators stand outside Daily News Building to protest against the use of derogatory terms used to describe homosexuals

The Daily News Gets It's Mouth Washed

by Mark Killinger

Mark is a member of the Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the New American Movement

A six month campaign of pressure from gay and woman activists resulted in a pledge by the editor of the Daily News to "set up a policy regarding derogatory remarks against homosexuals" and to take more seriously womens' organizations fight against rape.

The pledge was made after a Dec. 11th mid-day picket at the Daily News with signs saying, "Only Racists say 'Niggers' and 'Kikes', Only Sexists say 'Faggots' and 'Dykes'."

The Daily News protest was organized primarily by Philadelphia Wages Due Lesbians and the Gay Media Association in response to another in a series of slanderous editorials by its columnists. The recent Nov. 30 "Flaming Encounter" editorial by Joe Markey presented a vicious anti-gay male attitude. However, Pete Dexter has been the focus of national and international protests due to his ridiculing of women's fight against rape and his slanderous references to the feminist movement as made up of "hysterical lesbians."

Up to 30 people picketed for 2½ hours outside the Daily News; Don Borbe, Metropolitan Community Church pastor was there because "these kinds of articles

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serious issue condones the kind of rape and battering that is the constant experience of women.

IT'S NO JOKE

Dexter last May 17 wrote that the organizers of a forum on violence against women had thrown him out because they wanted only female journalists to be present, and added: "I looked around the room and couldn't see anybody I remember raping. As a matter of fact if they were looking for rapists, there were a couple of their own people who looked more experienced than I did."

After readers expressed outrage at his sexist remarks, Dexter responded with another column. Throwing him out of the meeting was implying that all men are rapists, he argued. "That makes as much sense as saying all women are hysterical lesbians, just because there are a few of them around."

Dexter also attacked the Puerto Rican community and had to answer to a united group of feminist and Puerto Ricans in a previous meeting.

While the Daily News pickets circled outside the building there was some success inside as five representatives met with Editor Gil Spencer. Acknowledging the local, national, and international pressure of the last few months, Spencer didn't ask protesters to take the printed attacks "with a sense of humor", as he did in a similar June 9th meeting.

Instead he admitted that the News was

best of (his) ability" and to increase coverage of women's and gay activities if the representatives would present him with lists reflecting the needs, concerns and events of those communities.

"This was a victory because his change in attitude resulted from the pressure we had mobilized" said Pat Albright of Wages Due Lesbians. Spencer rejected demands that he pay women to write a page devoted to issues of violence and feminism and also refused a weekly gay column. He would allow a response to Markey's recent column.

"We got our foot in the door," said Scott Tucker of the Gay Media Association "and we need to keep putting on the pressure." He urged people to write to the Daily News with specific concerns and to send a copy to the Gay Media Association. This evidence will be needed for a follow-up meeting scheduled for February.

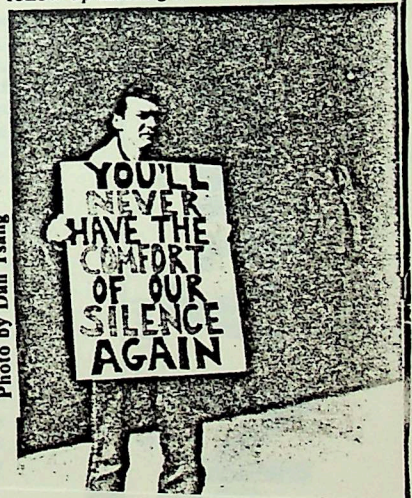


Photo by Dan Tsang

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Up to 30 people picketed for 2½ hours outside the Daily News; Don Borbe, Metropolitan Community Church pastor was there because "these kinds of articles give permission to those on the lunatic fringe for their attack." In addition, feminists feel that the media's lack of fair coverage of women's struggles against violence and its tendency not to treat it as a

serious issue condones the kind of rape and battering that is the constant experience of women.

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Instead he admitted that the News was "wrong to let that get to the extent it's gotten." He promised to "set up a policy regarding derogatory comments . . . to the

best of (his) ability" and to increase coverage of women's and gay activities if the representatives would present him with lists reflecting the needs, concerns and events of those communities.

"This was a victory because his change in attitude resulted from the pressure we had mobilized" said Pat Albright of Wages Due Lesbians. Spencer rejected demands that he pay women to write a page devoted to issues of violence and feminism and also refused a weekly gay column. He would allow a response to Markey's recent column.

"We got our foot in the door," said Scott Tucker of the Gay Media Association "and we need to keep putting on the pressure." He urged people to write to the Daily News with specific concerns and to send a copy to the Gay Media Association. This evidence will be needed for a follow-up meeting scheduled for February.

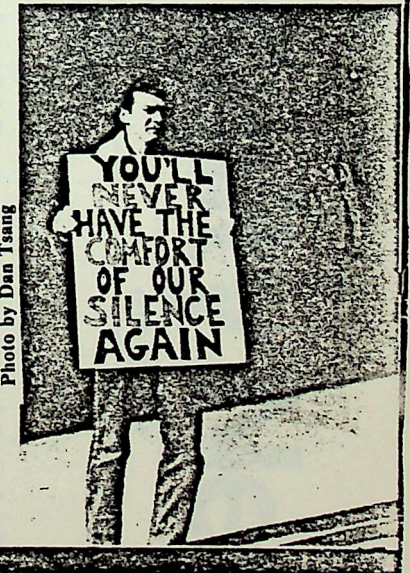


Photo by Dan Tsang

COMM., VOL. I, NO. V - Thurs, Dec. 21, 1978 from COMMUNITY

Schon's \$1 million suit against her ex-fiance with whom she lived for 7 years as "companion, homemaker, housekeeper and cook", is pending.

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... organization to Bayday, an international organization of men working

Protests by Women and Gays Bring Results from Newspaper

By Lisa Nussbaum

PHILADELPHIA — For the second time in six months, the Philadelphia *Daily News* is the scene of protest for its publication of a column defamatory to gay people. This latest column, written by Joe Markey, dealt with gay men in particular and appeared November 30.

On December 11, forty men and women demonstrated outside the paper's offices. Of the 40, five gained admission to a meeting with *Daily News* editor F. Gilman Spencer to settle grievances arising from Markey's column and from two previous columns the paper ran last summer.

These earlier columns, written by Pete Dexter, angered a host of women's and gay groups when they appeared. Protesters claimed Dexter belittled the issues of rape and violence against women and minimized the threats from these acts of violence. Dexter also attacked women for organizing in response to violence against themselves. His remarks stemmed directly from a speakout on violence at the University of Pennsylvania, to which Dexter was refused admittance. (The speakout was publicized well in advance as a women-only event.)

Following publication of Dexter's two columns, a variety of groups planned a June 9 protest, including a petition and letter writing campaign. They listed among their demands that 1) Dexter be fired; that 2) the paper give a page over to women on the subject of the struggle against rape and pay these women to write ar-

NOTICE

GCN looks different because we switched from a four column format to a five column format. The change was made so that more news could be fit on each page.

ticles for this page. The paper has not fulfilled either of these demands.

But, while demands from the first protest went largely unmet, except for a printed apology for Dexter's abusive remarks, the December 11 protest produced much quicker, definitive results and at least partial satisfaction on the stated grievances.

Five participants in the demonstration representing four different groups — the Gay Media Association, Wages Due Lesbians, Philadelphia Wages for Housework Committee, and the Philadelphia Lesbian and Gay Task Force — met with Gilman Spencer. From their meeting came the following resolutions. Spencer agreed to:

- 1) Set up an editorial policy regarding the use of derogatory comments in the paper "to the best of my ability."
- 2) Provide increased coverage of issues relevant to women, lesbians and gay men. Toward this end, he asked that representatives inform him of issues that warrant coverage by means of telephone and written communication.
- 3) Print a rebuttal to Markey's column.
- 4) Meet in mid-February with representatives to assess editorial policy and extend negotiations.

The coalition of groups at the second protest proposed another set of demands that as yet is unsettled. These call for the *Daily News* to devote a page in the paper to articles addressing rape and to pay the women who write these articles (a revival of a demand from the June protest). Similarly, they request space in the paper for a weekly column devoted to gay issues; these writers would alternate and also be paid.

Schon's \$1 million suit against her ex-fiance with whom she lived for 7 years as "companion, homemaker, housekeeper and cook", is pending.

The demonstration challenges the popular view of these cases as another "war of the sexes" with the involvement of men's groups and individual men. One of the participating groups is Payday, an international organization of men working in support of the Wages for Housework Campaign and against all unpaid work.

Philadelphia Gays Picket Local Daily

PHILADELPHIA, December 12—Two dozen demonstrators braved the brisk winter cold to picket outside the Philadelphia *Daily News* around noon yesterday in protest of the tabloid's depiction of women and gay people.

According to a leaflet distributed by the demonstrators, the *News* first angered the lesbian and gay male community when it printed two items by columnist Peter Dexter that put down women's struggle against rape and attacked lesbian women in particular. Last May 17, Dexter wrote that the organizers of a forum on violence against women had thrown him out because they wanted only female journalists to be present, and added: "I looked around the room and couldn't see anybody I remember raping. As a matter of fact, if they were looking for a couple of their own people who looked more experienced than I did."

After readers expressed outrage at his sexist remarks, Dexter responded with another column. Throwing him out of the meeting was implying that all men are rapists, he argued. "That makes as much sense as saying all women are hysterical lesbians, just because there are a few of them around."

Other *News* columnists, Larry McMullen and Larry Fields, also came under attack for continually referring to lesbians and gay men in derogatory terms. And a sportswriter, Gary Smith, last month referred to a suspected football player as "fruity."

The latest attack was made by columnist Joe Markey on November 30, in an editorial page article entitled, "A Flaming Encounter." Markey wrote:

Did you ever have the dream where you seem to be plummeting from a cliff, and, just before you hit the bottom, you awaken with a jolt? Well, multiply the shock you felt by 10 million and maybe, maybe, you will experience the surprise I received when I turned around to encounter my beautiful seductress.

My fair young maiden had a mustache and was smoking a Sherlock Holmes pipe. I could feel the corned beef sandwich I had just devoured about to exit through the same orifice it had only recently entered. My head was spinning! "I got all horned up by a goddam sweet-smelling faggot," I told myself.

Markey ended his piece with, "Anita Bryant, where are you now that we need you!" Under the column the editors had added: "Joe Markey is called the Lord of Tasker. He has never been called the Queen of Tasker."

As burly security guards with walkie-talkies watched, demonstrators marched in front of the *News* building, carrying signs that said, "Only Racists Say 'Niggers' and 'Kikes'; Only Sexists Say 'Faggots' and 'Dykes'"; and "Gays Speak Out Against Daily News." As picketing continued, a delegation of lesbians and gay men met inside the building with editor Gil Spencer, demanding that the news do the following:

- Provide a page devoted to women's fight against rape and violence, written by women and women's groups active in the movement against violence, and located in the front pages of the paper where it will be seen;

- Issue an editorial policy forbidding columnists and other writers to refer to lesbians and gay men in derogatory terms;

- Grant lesbians and gay men equal space, in column format, to respond to biased attacks.

At 1:30 pm the representatives emerged from the meeting. Among them were Mary Hawryshkiw of Wages for Housework, Pat Albright of Wages Dues Lesbians, Tim Cwiek of *Philadelphia Gay News*, and Scott Tucker of the Philadelphia Lesbian and Gay Task Force. They announced that Spencer had agreed only to issue a statement regarding its editorial policy, but had asked the delegation to return in two months with details of the other demands. Today's *News* reports that Spencer "told the group he would direct staffers to refrain from using disparaging words when referring to gay people."

Hawryshkiw said that Spencer admitted receiving letters of complaint from as far away as England and Israel. She called for continued monitoring of the newspaper's coverage, and said a community meeting will soon take place to discuss future strategy.

The *News* has apparently not been a hospitable place for gay people to work. John Knight, the heir to the Knight-Ridder chain, who was murdered three years ago by a one-time lover, never felt comfortable enough to come out on the job when he was an editor at the *News*.—
Daniel Tsang ■

"companion, homemaker, housekeeper and cook", is pending.

The demonstration challenges the popular view of these cases as another "war of the sexes" with the involvement of men's groups and individual men. One of the participating groups is Payday, an international organization of men working in support of the Wages for Housework Campaign and against all unpaid work.

For more information and to arrange interviews, contact Ann Ellen Dickter at 221-3661 (9 AM to 5 PM) or 474-5353.

Media Association plans protest vigil

PHILADELPHIA—The Gay Media Association is sponsoring a vigil outside the *Daily News* Building (400 N. Broad St.) on Monday, Dec. 11 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. to protest that newspaper's attacks on lesbians and gay men.

The *Daily News* first aroused the ire of the gay community when their regular columnist, Peter Dexter, wrote an article June 7 which allegedly belittled women's fight against rape in general, and members of Wages Due Lesbians in particular.

In recent weeks, Dexter has continually used the word "faggot" in his articles, and on Nov. 19, sportswriter Gary Smith used the word "fruity" when describing a suspected-gay football player. The most recent slur was an article from columnist Joe Markey on Nov. 31 which painted a phobic picture of a gay man, referring to him as a "faggot" also. Entitled "Flaming Encounter," the article was followed by this *Daily News* reminder: "Joe Markey is called the Lord of Tasker. He has never been called the Queen of Tasker."

During the vigil, representatives of the Gay Media Association hope to meet with staffers of the *Daily News* and ask for an editorial policy forbidding the use of derogatory words when writing about gays. The group is also calling for an opportunity to respond to anti-gay articles in a column format. For more information on planned activities, call Scott Tucker at 732-6987.

GAYS PICKET PHILLY PAPER

After what they termed an unsatisfactory response from the editor of *The Philadelphia Daily News*, a coalition of feminists and gay males picketed the newspaper's offices to protest what the group called "sexist and antigay" articles.

The latest columnist to arouse the wrath of gay Philadelphians is Joe Markey, who dubs himself the "Lord of Tasker," an Irish working-class neighborhood known for its intolerance of blacks and other minorities. In an article called "A Flaming Encounter," Markey relates his experience at a political rally where a seductive voice in the crowd turns out to be a male, supposedly trying to arouse Markey's interests. Markey states his disappointment by writing, "I got all horned up by a goddam sweet-smelling faggot."

Publication of the term "faggot" was the major impetus of the Dec. 11 demonstration by the coalition. As Scott Tucker, one of the protest leaders pointed out, "The editor would never allow the printing of words like 'kike' or 'nigger' in a column, so why should they print a word like 'faggot'?" The Markey article ends with the invocation, "Anita Bryant, where are you now that we need you!"

Earlier in the year members of the local chapter of the National Organization of Women had been offended by another *Daily News* columnist, Pete Dexter. Dexter wrote several articles about a meeting called "Women at WAR, A Public Forum on Violence Against Women," in which he made light of rape. He writes, "I looked around the room and couldn't see anybody. I remembered raping." In a second article dealing with the group Wages Due Lesbians and Wages for Housework Committee, he disavows his own daughter's interest in such a group by saying, "She hasn't even asked anybody to pay her for being a baby yet. And with any luck, as she becomes a woman she will never be unhappy enough with herself to ask anybody to pay her for having been born either."

The Dexter articles were the focus of a previous feminist protest at the newspaper, which resulted in few concrete concessions by the editor, Gil Spencer. Letters from angry women called for an end to such articles and the dismissal of Dexter. One letter demanded that the *Daily News* provide a page about women's efforts to end rape and violence and that women be paid to produce this page.

Other writers under fire from the gay community were Larry McMullen, who several months ago interviewed an openly gay Episcopal priest and referred to gays as "sissies"; Larry Fields, who used terms like "nellies"; and sportswriter Gary Smith, who on Nov. 17 referred to a suspected gay football player as "fruity."

As a result of the demonstration, editor Gil Spencer agreed to set up an editorial policy prohibiting the use of derogatory terms and remarks in reference to gay people. He also promised increased access by women and gay groups to coverage of their events in the *Daily News* by requesting a list of concerns and representatives from various gay organizations. His final concession was to grant gay men equal space to respond to the Markey column. Among the groups represented at the demonstration were the Metropolitan Community Church, the Walt Whitman Democratic Club, Wages Due Lesbians, and the Gay Media Association.

—Jeff Britton

The ADVOCATE, February 8, 1979

The demonstration challenges the popular view of these cases as another "war of the sexes" with the involvement of men's groups and individual men. One of the participating groups is Payday, an international organization of men working in support of the Wages for Housework Campaign and against all unpaid work.

contact Ann Ellen Dickter



By Pete Dexter

Writing Wrongs

Monday morning they were back, 25 of them. A rally to demonstrate homosexual support against the Daily News. We hadn't had one of those in months.

They carried signs — SEXISM IS NO JOKE, LESBIANS & GAY MEN WILL BE HEARD! YOU'LL NEVER HAVE THE COMFORT OF OUR SILENCE AGAIN.

Now I don't normally walk around afraid of the homosexual community in Philadelphia, but I'll admit that last message stirred fears deep in my subconscious. Something in there is terrified of being bored.

But I'm getting ahead of myself.

The first I heard of the protest was last week, when Phantom Rider handed me the invite. Said he'd picked it up over at Trailways. It was written on a long, gray piece of paper. Some of the words were bigger than others. The biggest thing on one side was "ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!" and the biggest thing on the other side, if you will excuse the lack of modesty, was my name, over some fragments of columns.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH was bigger than By Pete Dexter, though.

The invitation began with a short history. It said I started the trouble between the People Paper and the homosexuals with two columns I wrote last spring, and that since then McMullen, Fields and I have "continually referred to lesbians and gay men in derogatory terms."

It said McMullen called them sisttes, Fields called them pelles and I was using words like

dyke, wimpy and faggot.

The last straw, the invitation said, was Joe Markey. In his weekly guest column on the editorial page he called somebody a "goddamn sweet-smelling faggot."

To anybody who knows Markey, this was not exactly hot-off-the-press news. Of course he's the last straw, he was made that way. When I talked to him about the protest he said, "Jeez, what do them f— people want, anyway?"

What they said they wanted — I mean demanded — was not to have the Daily News call them dykes, faggots, and queers.

They said they also wouldn't put up with being ridiculed. "The Daily News is going to have to find something else to laugh at," a spokesman said.

The other things they demanded were:

- A page of this paper devoted to "women's fight against rape and violence, written by women and women's organizations active in the movement against violence, and located in the front pages of the paper where it will be seen. Women should be paid to produce this page." Presumably not the one who wrote that, though.

- A weekly column devoted to homosexual events and concerns, written by members of the gay community, who would be paid by the Daily News.

- And finally they wanted to show support for "other minorities and community groups in their challenge of unfair coverage." Particularly mentioned here was "another inflam-

matory article by Dexter, this one biased against Puerto Ricans."

Well, I've thought it over and here's what I think:

- The Puerto Ricans probably don't want to join hands with the homosexuals.

- It is reasonable to demand not to be called a queer or dyke or faggot by a newspaper. It is not reasonable to demand the words "wimpy" and "sissy" be excluded. You do not need to be a homosexual to be a sissy or a wimp, and unless the homosexual community considers these traits its exclusive property, the words can be used every time they are necessary or helpful.

- It is not reasonable to demand the words queer and dyke and faggot be excluded from the paper when they are being used in quotations. When Frank Rizzo says he will make Attila the Hun look like a faggot, it is not "inflammatory" to report it. If the homosexual community has an instance when I have called somebody a faggot or a dyke, I'd like to know about it. If not, they should not be so sensitive about what is printed about them. At least Markey can write.

- It is ridiculous to ask not to be ridiculed. If homosexuals can be good, they can also be bad. If they can be smart, they can also be stupid. Not to mention arrogant.

- A case of that — a group called Wages for Lesbians demanding the government pay them for being lesbians, and a group called Wages for Housewives demanding the govern-

ment pay them for being women — was what started this in the first place.

- Another case of the same thing — the demands that gays be paid to write a weekly column at this newspaper, and "movement" women be paid to produce a page about rape and violence — purely begs ridicule. It also points something out though, so I will be as serious as I can as long as I can.

Getting a job at a newspaper is not easy. Especially a large newspaper, which this is. There are hundreds of applications every

year, a lot of them from competent people, probably a lot of them from homosexuals.

Very few of the applicants get hired. The homosexual community — the part making the demands — is saying, "hire us because we represent homosexuals."

Nobody who applies for a job at this paper is asked about his sexuality. Sometimes they ask if you are a black lady hockey writer, but mostly they want to know if you can write a sentence or a headline or make a picture. You take tests and answer dumb questions and show your clips from other papers.

If you do that and get hired, you can date sheep if you want to. Because besides that, you are probably a reporter or a photographer or an editor. If you're lucky, a black lady hockey writer.

Whatever you are, there's more to it than what comes out of the kitchen when you shout, "Honey, I'm home."

If there isn't, if all you've got to offer is your sexuality — then you don't have much to offer.

And if you decide to blame that on being a homosexual, you probably never will.



Attila

"companion, homemaker, housekeeper and cook", is pending.

The demonstration challenges the popular view of these cases as another "war of the sexes" with the involvement of men's groups and individual men. One of the participating groups is Payday, an international organization of men working in support of the Wages for Housework Campaign and against all unpaid work.

For more information and to arrange interviews, contact Ann Ellen Dickter at 221-3661 (9 AM to 5 PM) or 474-5353.

FLASH

In unrelated news, a coalition of women's groups went to the *Daily News* to protest a column by hacker Joe Markey. The column ridiculed rape prevention programs. The women were led by editor Gil Spencer that the column should be read "with a sense of humor." A wild and crazy guy, that Spencer.

Friday, Feb. 2, 1979 Philadelphia Inquirer 2-B

People: Setting the record straight

Joe Markey called yesterday to complain about an item in the Flash section of the current issue of Philadelphia magazine. The Lord of Tasker, as Markey is known, said they got it all wrong. The item said, "A coalition of women's groups went to the Daily News to protest a column by hacker Joe Markey. The column ridiculed rape prevention programs..."

"I never ridiculed rape prevention programs," Markey said. Thinking back on the column, we remembered that it was homosexuals he ridiculed. "That's right, and I only ridiculed one homosexual."



By Larry Fields

Three for All — Except You,

The casualty list at Channel 3 continues to mount. TV reporter Don Fair handed in his management-triggered resignation yesterday. Fair will go to work for Bill Green as the mayoral candidate's "right hand man" (judging from Green's politics to date I always thought he was a lefty). Fair isn't the only casualty, though: look for yet another reporter to quit within the week... Meanwhile, WCAU Radio, which just fired a flock of people (including almost all its women news reporters), is having troubles. The out-of-workers have hired a lawyer and are demanding arbitration over the dismissal of many who had seniority... Broomall's Dr. Robert Linn (the man who so successfully used liquid protein to help trim down the fattening of America) is keeping busy. In addition to his regular medical practice, he has three new books about to be published (including one with the intriguing title, "How to Drink and Stay Healthy") and also does a weekly nutritional program on Frump City's NBC-FM radio station... Thanks to such, ahem, heroines as Greta Rideout, Michelle Marvin and Bella (the Yella) Abzug, the Women's Lippers haven't had much to crow about lately. But the pushy broads just won a victory of sorts in Woonsocket, R.I., of all places, where the town council just changed the name of "manholes" to "person-

holes" — and to spare the *Daily News* any picket lines, I will have no comment to make about this situation... Dr. James C. Giuffre and the medical staff of Giuffre Medical Center have reserved 150 seats for Bobby Rydell's first show tomorrow night at Palumbo's as their way of saying "thanks" to the Penn Valley singer for all the support he's given to the hospital and its various fund drives throughout the years... While speaking at the Kellogg's Coach of the Year Breakfast at the Sheraton Hotel Sunday morning, Eagles coach Dick Vermeil discovered that he didn't have his briefcase, which contained notes for a meeting he would have later in the day in Florida. Mrs. Vermeil, Dick's beautiful Carolyn, behaved like a good wife should, and rushed it over to the Sheraton in time for Dick to make his southbound jet... Rich Little, who'll be starring at Resorts International in Atlantic City Saturday night, wasn't surprised at the way the Beverly Hills, Calif., police reacted to those Iranian student rioters. "Beverly Hills has always been a rather clubby place," he points out.

For the last 15 years, Sonny and Shirley Di Gironimo have hosted a benefit for the March of Dimes at their J&A Caterers in South Philly, with all the proceeds going to the charity to

"companion, homemaker, housekeeper and cook", is pending.

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For more information and to arrange interviews, contact Ann Ellen Dickter at 221-3661 (9 AM to 5 PM) or 474-5353.

Rape Still Is No Joke

Despite the pickets, petitions and protests, the Daily News doesn't seem to have yet got the point that rape is no joke. This was clear in the coverage of the Oregon "rape in marriage" case, where on the one hand lofty editorials condemned rape, and on the other, columnists called Greta Rideout "stupid" and "dizzy," and the paper ran front-page cheesecake photos that were meant to give us the impression that she was a "loose woman." And when Greta and John Rideout reconciled, the paper had a field day; it was just the excuse they'd been waiting for to avoid handling the issue with the seriousness it deserves.

But the sensationalism of the Rideouts' reconciliation covered over what is a harsh reality for millions of women: Our economic dependence — especially if we are mothers — leaves us little choice but to stay with men who beat and rape us. And who can say how many women are in the position of having to say "yes" when they mean *no*? This, too, is rape. And it's no joke.

A more recent victim of media attack is Michelle Triola Marvin. They paint her as a money-hungry "loser," a woman out for revenge. The point they've missed is that she is fighting for recognition — and back pay — for the work she put into making Lee Marvin Lee Marvin. Her case has opened the door for dozens of other housewives of Hollywood to come forward and claim their share for their years of unpaid work.

But these cases are only the tip of the iceberg, and a small part of a growing movement which is refusing to be ripped off and closeted by our poverty and dependence. Far more typical than Marvin vs. Marvin is the case of a Philadelphia housewife and mother who is battling Family Court for recognition of her work in the home. Lack of that recognition has left her open to physical, emotional and financial battering by her husband — and by the court, which last December ordered her to "get a job" in order to "contribute equally" to the children's support. This, despite the fact that government economists and insurance companies now put the value of a housewife's "contribution" at \$17,351.88 a year.

Fighting against the stigma of demanding payment for work we're supposed to do "for love" is nothing new for women. In the 1960s welfare mothers — led by black women — organized to get money for the work of raising children. Their victory opened the floodgates for all women to demand our wages. For despite the bad press, every woman knows that welfare is her insurance policy against complete dependence and starvation. And many thousands of women have used welfare to get

By **PAT ALBRIGHT**
and **MARY HAWRYSHKIW**

out of situations where we or our children are being raped or battered.

Increasingly, women from every walk of life are joining with welfare mothers to fight the stigma of "charity" associated with welfare. At the November 1977 National Women's Conference in Houston, women voted that homemakers receiving welfare payments "should be afforded the dignity of having that payment called a *wage*, not welfare." And more recently Sarah Weddington, Jimmy Carter's top adviser on women, stated that welfare reform and "payments for housewives" are definitely on the administration's agenda.

So when columnist Pete Dexter calls the Wages for Housework Campaign "arrogant" for demanding wages from the government for the work women do, it's not only an outrage, but also out of touch with what's happening all around us. It's an outrage because we know what *not* having that money has meant. It's left us defenseless against our attackers, including those who attack us in the press.

Which brings us back to the picketers. The women — and men — who protested outside the Daily News last summer, and again in December, demanded that the paper provide a page devoted to women's fight against rape and violence, and that women be paid for producing this page. Because we have the least, women don't have the resources to counter every slanderous column by a Pete Dexter or a Joe Markey. And there's no such thing as a "free press" as long as we don't have access to media resources to defend ourselves and describe what our fights are really about.

Whether it is gay men, blacks, lesbian women, or the Puerto Rican community who are under fire, the issue remains the same: that of access to the press as a community resource, and on whose terms. And for women the question of resources is key to fighting the conditions which leave us vulnerable to rape and violence.

We continue to pressure the Daily News for a women's page and for increased and better coverage of women's concerns. For us it's the only insurance that the fights of women like Greta Rideout are not distorted or once again relegated to private battles in the kitchen and the bedroom.

Pat Albright and Mary Hawryshkiw are spokeswomen for Wages Due Lesbians, Philadelphia, and the Philadelphia Wages for Housework Committee, respectively.

22 Thursday, February 22, 1979

Philadelphia Daily News ★

Schon's \$1 million suit against her ex-fiance with whom she lived for 7 years as "companion, homemaker, housekeeper and cook", is pending.

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contact Ann Ellen Dickter

February 25, 1979

..FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE...FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE...FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE...FOR IMMEDIATE

CONTACT: Wages for Housework Committee/
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4736 Hazel Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19143
215-727-1233/726-7926
Spokeswomen: Pat Albright
Mary Hawryshkiw

WOMEN'S GROUPS TO PROTEST AT FAMILY COURT IN LOCAL "MARVIN" CASE

Women's groups will demonstrate at the Family Court (1801 Vine St.) WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28 at 11:00 AM to support a Philadelphia woman's fight for legal recognition of her work in the home.

Herta Tuttle, suing her policeman husband John Tuttle, is challenging a 12/1/78 Court Order forcing her to seek employment in order to "contribute equally" to the support of her two children, 8 and 10. She and her supporters claim that Mrs. Tuttle already has a job (homemaking) and cite statistics which put the value of a homemaker's "contribution" at \$17,351.88.

The Philadelphia Wages for Housework Committee is organizing the protest. "We feel Mrs. Tuttle's case bridges the gap between the Marvin case and the fights of Welfare mothers. What all these women are fighting for is recognition - and compensation - for their housework," says spokeswoman Mary Hawryshkiw.

Herta Tuttle has been married to John Tuttle, a city detective who makes over \$21K annually, for 13 years. She claims her dependence on him has left her "financially battered," and vulnerable to physical and emotional abuse. "At one point," she says, "he left me for three weeks without food money altogether. The children and I had to live on milk and bread."

The protesters' anger is directed toward the Court, which they charge does nothing to help women in her situation. Mrs. Tuttle feels the Court's apathy "actually encourages men like my husband not to comply with Court Orders, since they know that there are no consequences that follow."

The group is demanding that the Court recognize the dollar value of housework, and claim that unless it does so it is impossible to "equally divide" the responsibility of support between the two spouses, as the Court has tried to do, citing the state's Equal Rights Amendment.

Organizers of the event have invited Linda Ettinger and Sonia Schon, two local women whose similar cases have already attracted considerable attention. Ettinger won a divorce settlement requiring her husband to pay the cost of her college education. Schon's \$1 million suit against her ex-fiance with whom she lived for 7 years as "companion, homemaker, housekeeper and cook", is pending.

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For more information and to arrange interviews, contact Ann Ellen Dickter at 221-3661 (9 AM to 5 PM) or 474-5353.

25 Feminists Picket Court For Support

By ROBERT STRAUSS

About 25 feminists, some from as far away as Boston, demonstrated in front of Family Court yesterday in support of a woman who claims her estranged husband's lack of financial support leaves her "with no rights."

Nearly two years after she petitioned Family Court to have her child support payments raised, Herta Tuttle's case was to have been heard at the building at 1801 Vine St. before Judge Edward Dwyer yesterday while the feminists, led by the Wages for Housework Committee, picketed outside.

The demonstrators marched from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. while the court waited for a witness who never appeared, so the case was continued to an unspecified date. But the picketers claimed they would be back in even stronger force.

"HERTA'S CASE IS really no different than any other support case," said Pat Albright, a spokeswoman for the protesters. "But it just demonstrates that most women are dependent on a man for money — and that leaves us open for so much — physically, emotionally and financially."

Tuttle is suing her husband, John, a city detective to whom she has been married 13 years, though separated from him since December 1976. The court ordered her husband to pay the mortgage and utilities on their Lawndale home and \$80 a week in support for her two children, Susan, 10, and Charles, 8.

When he did not pay she returned to Family Court to ask for an increase in support payments. In November 1977, Mrs. Tuttle was ordered to get a job in order to "contribute equally" to the children's support.

"THIS DEMONSTRATED that I, because I had been a homemaker, had no rights," said Herta Tuttle last night. "I had to depend on what my husband gave me, even when we were separated. He, in fact, determines what type of life-style I live."

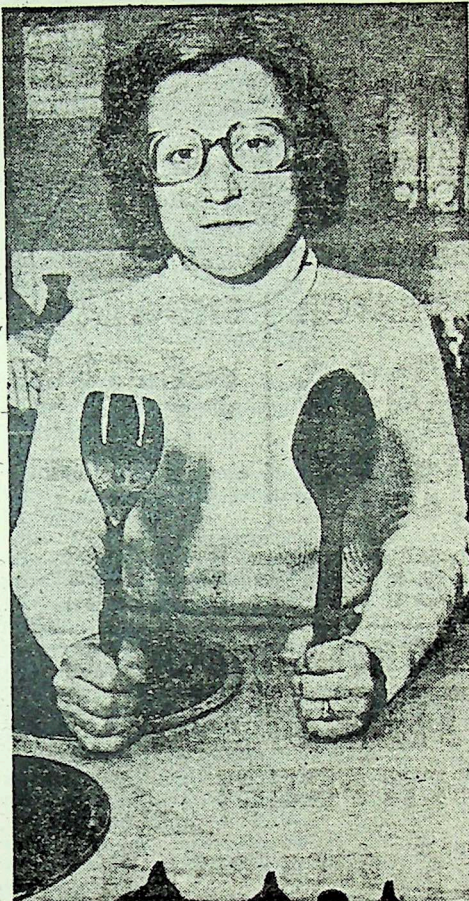
The Wages for Housework Committee, which is affiliated with the Wages Due Lesbians — a group that

Out of Beer; So He Hit Her

ORLANDO, Fla. (UPI) — A judge has ordered a pre-sentence probe of an Orlando electrician who allegedly knocked out his pregnant wife's teeth with a shotgun butt because there was no beer in their refrigerator.

Buster R. Falls, 27, pleaded no contest Tuesday to a charge of aggravated battery.

Falls' wife Susan, 25, claimed he knocked out four teeth, then took her to a bar and tried to sell her sexual services. She said she left him after the incident last June, gave birth to a daughter in August, and returned home.



Photographed by Prentice Cole

Herta Tuttle: husband determines life-style

claims lesbians, many of whom are married, are similarly chained to male support, especially if they desire to have children — took up the Tuttle case as a "landmark" for their cause.

"An Ithaca College study showed that a homemaker spends approximately 99 hours a week tending to her job," said Mrs. Tuttle. "A Prudential Insurance survey determined that a woman bringing up two children should earn the equivalent of \$17-20,000 a year."

"WE THINK THE CHILD support laws and the courts that administer them have been unfair to women who have to bring up children — and women do almost always have to bring up the children," said Wages for Housework leader Albright.

"Women generally are in a powerless position and, realistically, when you haven't had a job for years in a marriage, it isn't easy to find one," she added. "Besides, housework is a full-time job that a woman — or a man, if he is in the situation — should be subsidized for doing."

Albright said a group called Payday, a men's organization supporting the idea of wages for housework, would also be marching in front of Family Court.

Recognize value of housework, woman asks in support suit

by Tim Cwiek

PHILADELPHIA— Several picketers demonstrated outside the Family Court (1801 Vine St.) on a crisp afternoon the last day of February to support a Northeast Philadelphia woman's fight for legal recognition of her work in the home.

Herta Tuttle, suing her policeman husband John Tuttle, is challenging a Dec. 1 Family Court order forcing her to seek employment in order to "contribute equally" to the support of her two children, nine and 10. She and her defenders claim that Tuttle already has a job (homemaking) at \$17,351.88 a year. Through a previous court order, Tuttle has been receiving \$100 per week. She is asking the court to raise that figure to \$140.

Mary Hawryshkiw of the Wages for Housework Committee, who helped organize the protest, said: "We feel Mrs. Tuttle's case bridges the gap between the Lee Marvin case and the fights of welfare mothers. What all these women are fighting for is recognition—and compensation—for their housework."

Added Pat Albright, of Wages Due Lesbians: "We support Herta Tuttle because her situation speaks very directly to that of vast numbers of lesbian women who are married and mothers. Her fight is also our fight to make being mothers more a choice for all women." However, as the demonstration ensued outside, Judge Edward Dwyer continued the case due to a witness' illness.

The group is demanding that the court recognize the dollar value of housework, and claims that unless it does so it is impossible to "equally

divide" the responsibility of support between the two spouses, as the court has tried to do, citing the state's Equal Rights Amendment.

"I want my work valued and put in dollars and cents, just like his support is put in dollars and cents," Tuttle told the *Gay News*, after her 16th appearance before the courts. "The courts have been using the ERA to discriminate against me and force me to take two jobs, when he only has one."

Pickers carried signs claiming, "Every Mother is a Working Mother," and "Spare the Praise—Pass the Cash." Several men were present at the demonstration, challenging the popular view of these cases as another "war of the sexes." Linda Ettlinger, who recently won a divorce settlement requiring her husband to pay the cost of her college education, was among the demonstrators.

The following is an interview with Herta Tuttle, who plans to take her case to the state Supreme Court if the dollar value of her homemaking contribution is not recognized:

GN: Could you explain the situation you found yourself in?

HT: There were many times when I had no money at all. I've been married 12 years. My utilities and my mortgage amount to over 75 per cent of my child support per month. I have learned to economize—I sew, and also get help from my family. Otherwise I would have never made it from the order. My husband left two years ago, but never gave me any money when he lived with me. I had to go to court to get him to give me money—over 16 court appearances. My husband has beaten me up and threatened me many, many times.



Herta Tuttle, fighting for official recognition of the monetary value of housework

GN: Do you have any message to lesbians who are stuck in a situation like yours?

HT: I don't think it makes any difference if one is gay—I don't think that has anything to do with it. It's just the social position many women are put in—gay or not gay—that makes us dependent on the money from the husband or men—married or not married—and he can withhold it and he can actually determine what style of life he wants us to live: the women and the children. The court doesn't recognize the value of the mother's work and he can get away with murder. He has the money to hire an attorney, the woman doesn't. He is at an advantage in any case.

I want a lifestyle for me and the

(Continued on page 11)

My work worth money: wife

(Continued from page 6)

children that's comparable to his. The way the money is divided up right now, it's not equal. We live on \$5200 a year, and he has \$17,000 available for himself alone. The judge looks at my husband's expense list. On that list my husband has \$50 per week in legal expenses, which means my husband prefers to support his lawyer rather than his kids and wife. And the court

doesn't do anything about it.

GN: I guess you're glad that the Wages for Housework campaign has helped.

HT: Very definitely. Of all the contacts I have made—NOW, Women in Transition, Women Against Abuse—they have done the most. They've really worked hard and have incurred tremendous expenses. I just hope that somehow, somehow, I will be able to repay them.

Marci Shatzman

She's a full-time mom

Divorcee wants more money, not a job

Herta Tuttle, 40, is an obviously intelligent, well-spoken woman who sees herself as a victim.

Separated from her policeman husband for two years, she is seeking an increase in support payments for herself, her son, 9, and her daughter, 10. She now gets \$110 a week, and she wants \$140.

A nurse in her native Germany, Mrs. Tuttle says she gave up her career to rear her children.

AND DESPITE THE breakup of her marriage, she's determined to maintain her role as a full-time homemaker, even if it means that she and her kids will have to live in poverty. It's hard to see the advantage.

Mrs. Tuttle claims that the two judges who have heard her case don't place any value on her work as a mother. They want her to find employment, an order she has thus far resisted, even though she has no money and the roof is leaking. She is, in fact, outraged by their suggestion.

She called some local women's groups to "give me some moral support," and they turned her down, which isn't surprising. Most feminist groups are too busy helping displaced homemakers with no job skills to give much time to someone who has one but won't use it.

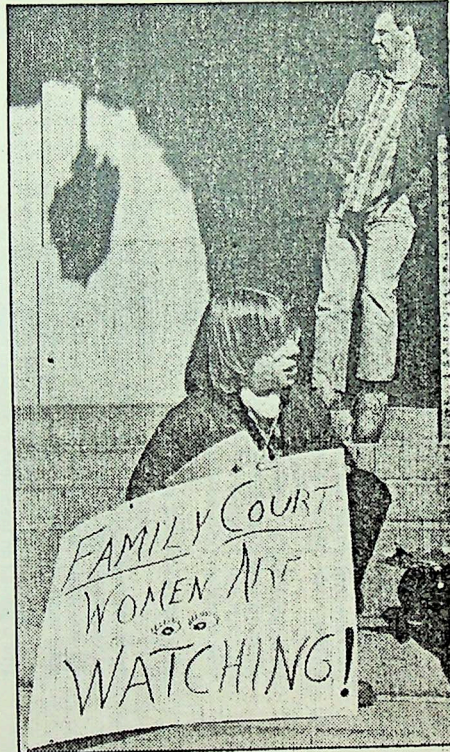
Mrs. Tuttle finally found her champions in a group called Wages for Housework. "We think the government should get money from big business to give every homemaker a living wage," explained Pat Albright, a Wages member.

On Wednesday, Wages for Housework members and a couple of men from a group called PayDay, which also opposes unpaid work, picketed in front of Philadelphia Family Court at 1801 Vine st.

About a dozen people wore signs that said: "Every mother is a working mother," "Woman's work is worth \$24,000 a year," and "One job is enough."

Mrs. Tuttle took time off from the picket line to talk to reporters.

Please Turn to Page 9



Bulletin photo by Jon Falk

Pat Albright protests at Philadelphia's Family Court.

She's full-time mom

Continued From Page 8

She said the system has treated her case as a war between the sexes. She sees it as a "fight for justice."

FOR WHOM? EVEN if she gets her

support increase, Herta Tuttle and her kids are in a no-win situation.

John Tuttle, who could not be reached for comment, can't comfortably support two households on the \$21,000 before taxes that Mrs. Tuttle says he makes. So if she "wins" her right to remain home, Mrs. Tuttle will be paying an awfully big price.

It's hard to understand why she's fighting so hard to stay dependent.

There are programs and services available to help her get the credentials she needs for a good-paying job while her kids are in school. She said she needs her RN license, so she should go out and get it.

Her marriage is over, and she has to build her own future for herself and her children. With her skills, she already has a leg up on most women in her situation. The only way to get off of your knees is to stand on your own two feet. Deep down inside, Herta Tuttle must know that. And all the sympathizers in the world can't do it for her.

(Marci Shatzman's opinion column appears Fridays in Focus.)

Do women practice double standard?

Several times a year I like to turn my column over to my readers, so here are some recent letters.

Ms. Shatzman:

I realize that women don't like to be regarded as sex objects and I agree. But who is it that wears the tight pants, the see-through blouses and the bathing suits you could put in your back pocket?

Maybe I'm dense, but I just can't equate these two positions.

Bill Johnson, Philadelphia

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Most women can admire a sexy man and still take him seriously, especially in a work situation. Men seem to have more of a problem handling their sexual attractions. If you can't control yourself, Bill, don't blame us. Incidentally, the last time I was on a beach, all the men were topless!

Dear Ms. Shatzman:

You condemn a separated or divorced woman, like Mrs. Tuttle, for wanting to be a full-time mother, even if it

An opinion

means she and her children will have to live in poverty. . .

At a time when society wonders what is happening to our children. . . it would seem to me that the advantage of a full-time mother would be (that she could provide) more love, care, interest, attention and discipline these children need. This requires all the energies a mother has — and all the more so when she is a single parent.

If Mrs. Tuttle's sincere intention as a full-time mother is to rear her children to become good, honest, healthy-minded American citizens, then it is her husband, not Mrs. Tuttle, who should be condemned for necessitating her to seek a mere \$30-a-week support increase.

Patricia S. Horning, Ardmore

Dear Ms. Horning:

I'm not condemning Mrs. Tuttle for trying to get more money from her estranged husband, I'm simply saying that having no source of income other than a husband is a risky business these days, given the divorce rate. Mrs. Tuttle's situation is a prime example.

Rearing children full-time is dependent on having a willing spouse. No husband in an ongoing marriage has ever been successfully sued by a wife for failing to give his family enough money.

The deal a husband and wife make, in which he agrees to foot the bills in return for her labors, is legally considered a private arrangement. The courts consistently rule that the "deal" is over when the marriage is dissolved; especially in states like Pennsylvania that have no alimony.

Another \$30 a week isn't going to resolve Mrs. Tuttle's financial hardship. So if she wins the increase, and elects to stay at home rather than take a part-time job, then it is certainly her choice. But with the kids at school, I still can't see the advantage of her doing so.

(Marci Shatzman's opinion column appears every Friday in Focus.)

Med School Grad a Real Operator with Cash, Wife Says

By GLORIA CAMPISI

Forget the "I do's." Jeffrey Ettinger did, once he became a doctor, complains his wife. She says he deserted her after she put him through medical school under "oral contract" that after his graduation he would finance her Ph.D. studies.

Linda Ettinger, 27, has filed suit in Common Pleas Court here, demanding "not less than \$150,000, plus interest" from Dr. Ettinger, 29, whom she says she supported through four years of Hahnemann Medical College.

BOTH WERE TEMPLE University undergraduate students when, in 1968, they decided to marry, Mrs. Ettinger said in a suit filed by her lawyer, Melvin B. Goldstein. They were

not wed until Ettinger was graduated in 1971. She got a full-time job with the Veterans Administration in May 1970 "to prepare for the financial burden of supporting" her husband-to-be, said Mrs. Ettinger, who lives on Farriston Drive near Walnut Park.

"From her savings and earnings . . . (she) brought approximately \$12,000 in cash and \$1,700 in stock into the marriage," her suit said.

ETTINGER ENTERED medical school in fall 1971, and until his graduation in June 1975, he was "entirely supported" by his wife, who also worked in the Philadelphia prison system and part time at Temple, Pennsylvania State University and Community College of Philadelphia while pursuing her studies part time.

His total earnings "did not exceed \$2,000," she said, while he was in school.

She, meanwhile, earned a "gross amount of \$51,000," and he \$15,000 between July 1975 and October 1976, when he reputedly deserted her. He now is in private practice on Bustleton Ave. near Veree Rd.

IT'S GOING TO TAKE four more years to get her Ph.D. in psychology at the University of Pennsylvania, and she estimates her expenses will be "approximately \$20,000 a year . . . to maintain the standard of living at which she supported her husband."

Now it's time for the doctor to pay his bill, the suit says, and another \$100,000, plus costs and interest, in "punitive damages."



Ettinger



Mrs. Ettinger

\$1M Baby Vs. Marvin

By JACK V. FOX

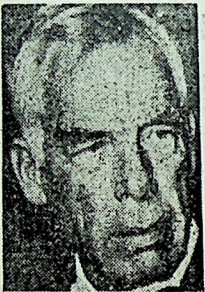
LOS ANGELES (UPI) — Both sides in the "landmark" Lee Marvin case agreed yesterday to waive a jury hearing and let the judge decide whether the actor must pay more than \$1 million to a former singer Marvin lived with for six years without marriage.

Testimony was expected to begin today before Superior Court Judge Arthur K. Marshall in the breach-of-contract suit brought by Michele Triola Marvin, now 46. Triola says she gave up a career and Marvin vowed to share all his worldly goods with her in return for her companionship from 1964 to 1970, when they split up.

THE CASE HAS BEEN heralded as possibly setting a precedent nationwide for settlements of such non-marital arrangements.

Marvin, 54, who won an Oscar for "Cat Ballou" and usually was the villain in dozens of other movies, appeared in court with his second wife, Pamela, whom he married after he broke up with Triola.

Triola declined to talk with reporters and sat on the opposite side of the courtroom from Marvin. They did



Marvin



Triola

not speak.

Marvin said he disliked the public airing of his private life, but said he had to defend himself and was glad the case had finally come to trial.

Asked whether he would testify, he replied, "Oh, yes, I'm half of the case."

He said he did not feel the publicity had affected his career in any way.

Asked if it had affected his life-style, he said:

"YES, IT'S FORCED ME to wear suits. I'm dressing in a style to which I'm not accustomed."

He was also asked if he thought the case would have gotten so much attention if he had not been involved.

"I think it would have gotten more attention," he answered, "if it had been Marlon Brando."

Mick's Mess

Suddenly, Mick Jagger must be feeling the way Gary Cooper felt in "High Noon" — just before the agate-eyed killers climbed off the train. Wife Bianca is suing for divorce in Los Angeles and she's gunning for half his estimated \$20 million bankroll — plus a rumored \$15,000 a month in support. Jagger just staggered, wounded, from another such shootout. Former mistress Marsha Hunt nailed him for \$1500 a month in support of the out-of-wedlock child she says he fathered. And who won that settlement? Divorce specialist Marvin Mitchelson — the same lawyer who's handling Bianca's case, and the same who recently won a reported \$15-million settlement for Bob Dylan's wife Sarah. Lee Marvin? He's still on Mitchelson's firing line.

Tuesday, February 6, 1979 Philadelphia Daily News

Ex-model sues pilot because he jilted her

By STEVE STECKLOW
Of The Bulletin Staff

They met on Valentine's Day in 1969 and from there, she claimed, the romance took off like a 747 jet.

He was an airline pilot who, she said:

— Showed her the world with romantic trysts in Paris, Rome, Israel, Tunisia and Germany;

— Set her up in a luxury Manhattan apartment and gave her a \$2,000-a-month allowance;

— Told her he loved her and promised that one day she would be his wife.

But seven years later, she said, the affair crash-landed. Now the woman has slapped the man she says is her ex-beau with a \$1 million lawsuit.

Sonia J. Schon, 47, an ex-model and legal secretary from Orkney st. near Morris in South Philadelphia, has filed a "breach of oral contract" suit against United Airlines pilot Russell H. Stephens Jr., 60, of Bellevue, Wash. The suit was filed this week in U.S. District Court in Philadelphia.

"I really loved him very much," Ms. Schon, a divorcee, said yesterday during an interview at her attorney's center-city Philadelphia office.

"Now I'm hurt. I'm very hurt and I've had a lot of pain because I just didn't think that he would hurt me like he did. We had such a wonderful life together," she said. "I was willing to leave the country for him."

Her voice began to falter as she held up a small gold wedding band that she said he gave her on Christmas three years ago.

"This is what he promised me for nine years, over and over," she said, fondling the ring.

Neither Stephens nor his lawyer, Theodore M. Rosenblume of Seattle, could be reached for comment.

Ms. Schon's suit contends that Stephens "seduced" her into giving up her career as a model and dancer to devote her time to him as his "companion, homemaker, housekeeper and cook." In return, the suit states, he promised to support her and marry her "as soon as he could obtain a divorce."

She lived and traveled with him from March 1969 to December 1976, when he broke off the relationship, shortly after her mother died, the suit states.

"He showed me the world to educate me," she said. "I was his Pygmalion."

Ms. Schon, who has two children, said she hasn't heard from Stephens since last February, when he stopped supporting her.

Attached to the suit are excerpts from several "love letters" Stephens allegedly wrote to Ms. Schon in 1975 and 1976, describing their travels and stating his desire to marry her.

In an undated letter, the writer said he "dreamed" of the future: "Exploring the Amazon — together sailing a Chinese junk in China waters — together having a home . . . and being in each others' arms every night of the year — together forever . . ."

In a letter dated Jan. 29, 1975, the writer said: "For our sixth anniversary and Valentine's Day I want you."

That letter also said: "I would consider it an honor to be married by a rabbi and with your family and children in attendance — perfect. And you in a stunning chic outfit. And a reception — at Barclay Hotel — why not?"

Stephens also had assigned a \$50,000 life insurance policy to Ms. Schon in May 1975, but stopped paying the premium in October, the suit states. Ms. Schon seeks the court to order the pilot to resume the payments.

During the interview, Ms. Schon said her only regret is "that I didn't spend the rest of my life with him."

"I would have waited another 15 years to be married to him," she said.

When she was asked why she was suing for such a large sum of money, her lawyer, Alexander Zdrok, cut in and said, "I believe the money will be more of a lubricant for my client's feelings, so she can live the kind of life she was accustomed to living."

Zdrok said he believed the suit, which he said is the first of its kind in this area, is "going to make men and women realize today that they're going to have to weigh their words no matter what type of relationship they may have."

The case has been assigned to Judge Daniel H. Huyett 3d.

Thursday, December 28, 1978

Dedicated to Serving Greater Philadelphia and South Jersey

The Bulletin

"FINANCIALLY BATTERED" HOUSEWIFE SUES POLICEMAN HUSBAND

A Lawndale housewife suing her husband for support claims she's been "financially battered." Herta Tuttle, 40, whose case will be heard in Family Court on February 28, is a German immigrant and mother of two children, 8 and 10. The hearing will be her 15th try in court to get a decent standard of living for her children and herself.

Mrs. Tuttle was working toward her RN when she married John Tuttle, then a policeman, 13 years ago. But her husband didn't want a "working wife", so she quit her job when daughter Susan was born. Her savings went for down payment on a house, and she was forced to rely on her husband for money. This left her "exposed to (his) stinginess." "At one point," she says, "he left me for three weeks without food money altogether. The children and I had to live on milk and bread." When she asked for money, her husband answered with abuse and threatened to put her "in a pine box."

Her husband also totally neglected needed house repairs: a leaky roof, flooded basement, broken windows and doors. He bought no furniture for the house, not even a mattress for his children.

When Herta Tuttle broke both her wrists she turned in desperation to the Welfare Department. But she was told they could provide no financial aid while her husband was living in the house. To get immediate money she had to file a court petition: a process which took 10 months to finally get an "emergency" hearing.

"What the court did," she says, "was inform me of the ERA and stated that under the ERA both spouses were equally responsible for the support of the children." The result was a support order of \$90 a week for the children and \$10 for

herself, out of which she now had to pay mortgage and utilities.

The court considered this a large support although her husband now earned \$20K a year as a city detective. "The Court looked very carefully into my list of expenses," she further claims, while failing to examine her husband's, which included unpaid bills he was under court order to pay. The last straw was being told by the Court that she herself would have to go to work.

But Mrs. Tuttle says she's already working - more than full-time - as a housekeeper and mother to her children. And the lack of money means the additional workload of doing "everything from sewing curtains to making slipcovers and sewing drapes including making just about all of the children's clothing." The Court, she says, "by mentioning (her husband's) support in monetary terms and no mention of my contribution makes everyone assume I'm not contributing anything at all to the support of the children." As Herta Tuttle sees it, what's at stake is her right to be a fulltime housewife - and her children's right to a fulltime mom.

Mrs. Tuttle believes her predicament is shared by many women. She contacted the Philadelphia Wages for Housework Committee, who agreed that it's time a case like hers got public exposure. It may be the first of its kind in the US, but the issue has already attracted a lot of attention in England. Headlinrs like THREE OUT OF FOUR WIVES 'FINANCIALLY BATTERED' and PENNILESS WIVES SHOCKER exploded across London newspapers last summer with the release of a report by the Liberty Life Insurance Company there. The survey revealed that three quarters of British wives "can't save a penny to call their own," and that most who manage to save can put aside only 95p a week (about \$1.75) - "less than their children's pocket money."

As Mrs. Tuttle puts it, her case "demonstrates clearly that a spouse, the wage earner, can actually create havoc, physical, emotional and financial

disaster if he wants to, and go without punishment by the Family Court." She feels that "the Court's apathy and indifference actually encourage men like my husband not to comply with Court Orders, since they know that there are no consequences that follow."

The consequences for women and children, however, can be very severe. This Mrs. Tuttle and her children discovered last December when her husband quietly cancelled the heating oil contract. The Court's neglect resulted in their suffering for a whole week without heat or hot water in 9 degree weather. Meanwhile, her husband had moved into his own \$250 a month apartment, bought a new car, and had himself massaged at two different health spas.

The crux of the matter, she says, is that as long as the Court makes no mention of the dollar value of housework, "it's not possible to equally divide the responsibility of support between the two spouses." She says this "points out that there is a need for the recognition of the value of the homemaker's contribution in order to get a fair support, and in order to make marriage safer."

And when Mrs. Tuttle goes to Court next month she intends to fight for that recognition.

- Pat Albright & Ann Dickter

* * * * STOP PRESS * * * * STOP PRESS * * * * STOP PRESS * * * *

Just as we are preparing this mailing, the Philadelphia Daily News has come out with its first women's page! We did not know that they were planning to do this, as they kept insisting that they would not. Needless to say, we are quite thrilled, and are enclosing a copy of the page, called "SHE".

and became a great white nump-erled whale. I swam up to a mile a day at the pool at the University of Pennsylvania.

It wasn't that I wore the bikini to make a feminist statement, although I do make them now and

What 'She' Is About

You're reading the first of a weekly series of pages for and by women. It will discuss the problems women face as they battle for full acceptance in the workplace and for the right to redefine their role in society — but it will also celebrate the special joys of being a woman.

We've asked a number of women to be regular contributors. Libby Rosof makes her debut with a story of enlightenment in a swimming pool. She is a part-time publicity consultant who lives in West Philadelphia with her husband and one-year-old son.

Our other contributors include: Gail Ciocola, who teaches at Cardinal Dougherty High School for girls and who coaches women's volleyball teams; and Julia Klein, a young working woman who has written for several area publications.

But this is really your page — a forum for your viewpoints, your experiences, your insights. So we'll be printing the stories of many women (and we'll pay \$30 for each one we accept and print). We hope you'll submit your stories to: SHE, Philadelphia Daily News, 400 N. Broad St., Philadelphia, PA 19101. Keep them brief — no more than 1500 words. Sorry, we cannot return manuscripts.

WORKING WOMAN

By NIKI SCOTT

'The women customers treat us salesgirls like dirt.'

SHE IS 54 YEARS OLD, plump, blue-haired, bespectacled and harassed. She's employed by a large department store in a shopping mall near Hartford, Conn. The store is

the force of my ~~floating~~ ~~submer-~~ ~~sion~~ ~~crowd~~ as well as my ~~big~~ ~~one-~~ ~~shouldered~~ ~~suit~~.

At least in my bikini, I know only my belly would be exposed.

And from the rear view, I still looked and felt like me. All I had to do was walk backwards so people would get the ~~am-still-~~ ~~normal-~~ ~~woman~~ ~~image~~ that I wanted to project.

The response to my bikini was overwhelming.

"Tremendous," said the feminist. "You look really great."

UNFORTUNATELY FOR ME, what they really meant was, "It's about time the oppressive male-pig taboo on pregnant bellies was challenged by us sisters. The female body, in all its forms, is beautiful in principle."

Now, liberated though I sometimes am, I have a need to feel I'm beautiful in fact, not in principle.

My self-doubts grew when a slim, pregnant woman began coming to the pool in a maternity suit with wide horizontal, horizontal, stripes. She looked great.

I had tried on that very suit, and besides not fitting me, it had made me look well, cubical.

FORTUNATELY FOR my mental state, my unwitting opponent in the swim suit competition was happy to discuss her pregnancy with me. In fact, everyone was happy to discuss their pregnancies, present or past, with me. They crossed rows of lockers to tell me how they, too, had paddled their way to happy deliveries. They came dripping out of showers to share the excitement of having a baby.

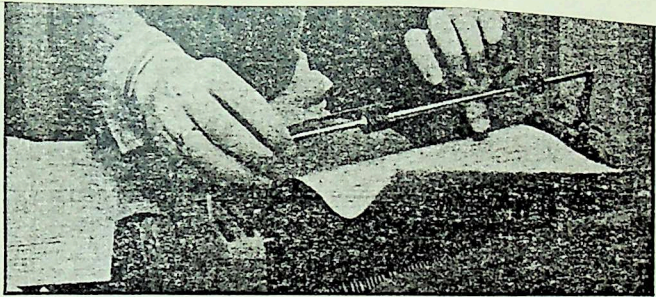
nearby empty except for salespersons and store managers (all men) dressed in blue suits.

An hour later, we meet in the coffee shop downstairs.

"You write about women, huh? Let me tell you about women, honey. I've worked in one store or another for 13 years, full time and part time. Before that, I was a waitress over at

Howard Johnson's," she said. "Used to hate to see a table of women come in. They'd never tell you what they wanted all at one time, so you'd make an extra trip for mustard, catsup, more sugar — you name it."

"Then they'd get the check and sit there figuring out who owed what — for half an hour, while customers were waiting for the table. "And a tip? Forget it. If you get one at all, it's whatever loose change they happen to have," she said, tapping her spoon for emphasis.



Libby Rosof is a woman, a wife, a mother and a freelance writer

Photography by SAM FORDAS

As a somewhat reserved person, I was stunned by my newfound popularity. But the popularity belonged not to me but to "the pregnant woman."

While the sisterly support was helpful, the fifteen feet between the women's locker room and the pool still left me feeling exposed and vulnerable.

Fortunately, I am somewhat near-sighted. So when I plunged toward the pool, I couldn't see if the men were staring at my belly.

ABOUT A WEEK before my due date, an elderly man spoke as I emerged from the water.

"We thought you already had your baby, because we haven't seen you for a few days," he said. "You know the lifeguards are nervous about you. They have been taking bets on who will be on duty when you deliver in the pool."

College-age boys, and they still imagine that babies suddenly drop with no warning!

My noble fantasies took a dive. I had wanted to believe that, in my bikini, I was educating these boys about the facts of life. I thought I was showing the pool denizens that pregnant women are really regular women, except, for the moment, there's something filling up their bellies.

INSTEAD, they showed me that bared, pregnant bellies are not what's worn.

The lifeguards didn't worry about the women who wore maternity suits because those sensible ladies looked controlled-enough to deliver at the hospital. But a pregnant woman in a bikini, well, she was unpredictable. She might do it in the pool.

On April 2, 1978, two weeks behind schedule, I gave up being "the pregnant woman."

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"Now maybe the ERA will fix all that — I don't know. But I don't think so. And that's why I don't think women's liberation is going to do much for me..."

The Equal Rights Amendment would solve several of her problems, but not all. It cannot force women to have faith in other women, nor force us to treat one another with kindness and respect.

We have to do that — and we are. But not fast enough.

She

A forum on women's views, women's news

Pregnancy Can Go Swimmily

By LIBBY ROSOF

WHEN I HIT PUBERTY, I became a mermaid in my knockout, cutout, two-piece black bathing suit, which was barely supported by one shoulder strap.

When I became pregnant, at thirty-one (I'm now thirty-three), I pulled on my electric-blue polka dot bikini and became a great white hump-bellied whale. I swam up to a mile a day at the pool at the University of Pennsylvania.

It wasn't that I wore the bikini to make a feminist statement, although I do make them now and

then.

It was that I had nothing else to wear.

CONSIDER ME IN the only maternity bathing suit the store had in my size in its fall collection: a rick-racked gingham number skirted for camouflage. In it I looked like an overgrown, overweight five-year-old girl with chubby arms and legs. Besides, it promised to hold up under the force of my floundering Australian crawl as well as my old one-shouldered suit.

At least in my bikini, I knew only my belly would be exposed.

And from the rear view, I still looked and felt like me. All I had to do was walk backwards so people would get the I-am-still-a-normal-woman image that I wanted to project.

The response to my bikini was overwhelming.

"Tremendous," said the feminists. "You look really great."

UNFORTUNATELY FOR ME, what they really meant was, "It's about time the oppressive male-pig taboo on pregnant bellies was challenged by us sisters. The female body, in all its forms, is beautiful in principle."

Now, liberated though I sometimes am, I have a need to feel I'm beautiful in fact, not in principle.

My self-doubts grew when a slim, pregnant woman began coming to the pool in a maternity suit with wide horizontal, horizontal, stripes. She looked great.

I had tried on that very suit, and besides not fitting me, it had made me look well, cubical.

FORTUNATELY FOR my mental state, my unwitting opponent in the swim suit competition was happy to discuss her pregnancy with me. In fact, everyone was happy to discuss their pregnancies, present or past, with me. They crossed rows of lockers to tell me how they, too, had paddled their way to happy deliveries. They came dripping out of showers to share the excitement of having a baby.



Photography by SAM PSORAS

Libby Rosof is a woman, a wife, a mother and a freelance writer

As a somewhat reserved person, I was stunned by my newfound popularity. But the popularity belonged not to me but to "the pregnant woman."

While the sisterly support was helpful, the fifteen feet between the women's locker room and the pool still left me feeling exposed and vulnerable.

Fortunately, I am somewhat near-sighted. So when I plunged toward the pool, I couldn't see if the men were staring at my belly. They were.

ABOUT A WEEK before my due date, an elderly man spoke as I emerged from the water.

"We thought you already had your baby, because we haven't seen you for a few days," he said. "You know the lifeguards are nervous about you. They have been taking bets on who will be on duty when you deliver in the pool."

College-age boys, and they still imagine that babies suddenly drop with no warning!

My noble fantasies took a dive. I had wanted to believe that, in my bikini, I was educating these boys about the facts of life. I thought I was showing the pool denizens that pregnant women are really regular women, except, for the moment, there's something filling up their bellies.

INSTEAD, they showed me that bared, pregnant bellies are not what's worn.

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WORKING WOMAN

By NIKI SCOTT

'The women customers treat us salesgirls like dirt.'

SHE IS 54 YEARS OLD, plump, blue-haired, bespectacled and harassed. She's employed by a large department store in a shopping mall near Hartford, Conn. The store is

nearly empty except for salespersons and store managers (all men) dressed in blue suits.

An hour later, we meet in the coffee shop downstairs.

"You write about women, huh? Let me tell you about women, honey. I've worked in one store or another

for 13 years, full time and part time. Before that, I was a waitress over at

Howard Johnson's," she said.

"Used to hate to see a table of women come in. They'd never tell you what they wanted all at one time, so you'd make an extra trip for mustard, catsup, more sugar — you name it."

"Then they'd get the check and sit there figuring out who owed what — for half an hour, while customers were waiting for the table."

"And a tip? Forget it. If you get one at all, it's whatever loose change they happen to have," she said, tapping her spoon for emphasis.

"Here, the women customers treat us girls like dirt. They get snooty if we try to help ('I'm just looking')

and mad if we don't ('Where's the help around here?')."

"And if there's a problem? A woman will put us down every time — blame everything on us. But let one of the store managers come around and they're nice as can be — just because he's a man."

"The men here have it made. Most of them are department managers and they're put where all the commissions are. Women get to sell lingerie and cosmetics and clothes — no commission."

"Men get to sell lawn mowers and washing machines and carpeting, where they get nice, fat commissions. And all we have in the head

office are men, so I guess that's that."

"No, it wouldn't help to have a woman in there. Wouldn't help if one was president, probably. They're worse than men, a lot of times."

"Now maybe the ERA will fix all that — I don't know. But I don't think so. And that's why I don't think women's liberation is going to do much for me..."

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Scott

"No More Money 'til We Get Our Money"

Michelle Triola Marvin is getting a bum rap. The newspapers call her the "Million Dollar Baby" and print stories which somehow always have the message that for a woman to be fighting for some money is shameful.

Lately they've been getting pretty ugly. They say she's a woman out for revenge, a sore loser. She gambled and lost, they say, and deserves what she gets.

But nobody has picked up on what the Marvin case and the Dozens which have followed are really about.

And that's housework.

Luigi Nolte, who's suing actor Nick Nolte in a suit much like Marvin's puts it plainly: "I was there, being his old lady, cooking, cleaning - there behind him. I was his good friend, his advisor, his lover, his mother, everything that is in a relationship."

And everything these women put into their relationships enabled their men to go out and make millions. There is a woman behind every great man, after all. Only these women are no longer content to work busily - and without pay - behind the scenes while their men grow rich and famous -- then drop them when they get to the top. Women are demanding that the fruits of their labor be returned to them.

It's happening everywhere. Last month a South Philly woman filed a \$1 million lawsuit against her ex-fiancee of 7 years. Sonia Schon is suing Russell Stephens, an airline pilot, with whom she lived as "companion, homemaker, housekeeper and cook." When Stephens walked out, Sonia Schon vowed she would not be left penniless after 7 years of doing her "wifely" duties - and she's going to court.

What does it all mean?

For one thing, it means that women aren't about to be duped by a "Sexual Revolution" that liberates men of their responsibilities at the expense of women losing the legal rights - few as they are - attached to marriage.

More importantly, these cases are part of a growing trend which demands that the work women do in the home be recognized, not just with compliments, but with dollars. Lots of them. Women's magazines each month publish new estimates on the value of housework. In December, McCall's reported that the American Council of Life Insurance now puts the value of the work of a full-time housewife at \$17,351.88 a year.

But since most men don't have a million dollars to split, or even \$17,351.88, the majority of women can't go the route of Michelle Marvin to claim their due. Most are in the position of Herta Tuttle, the Lawndale housewife and mother of two, who's fighting in Family Court for her right to stay home and raise her kids.

Mrs. Tuttle says her case is typical of most women's. "But," she adds, "most of us are slowly starved out."

The Philadelphia Wages for Housework Committee is championing Mrs. Tuttle's case. The Committee is part of the International Campaign for Wages for Housework, which is demanding pay for women's work from the government. They're asking that the government get the money from Big Business which profits from women's unpaid labor to the tune of \$350 billion every year.

The Marvin case is just one spectacular example of a movement that has been around for a long time. In the 1960's women - and children - surrounded Welfare offices and demanded that the work of raising children be recognized. One of them, a young Black woman, carried a sign that said "No More Honey 'til We Get Our Money."

Now that more and more women are insisting that their work be recognized - and paid - the young woman's sign is a fitting slogan for a movement that began with Welfare mothers and today includes Hollywood superstars.

- Mary Hawryshkiw

LESBIAN WOMEN ON THE MARCH

TOMMI AVICOLI

The Briggs Initiative (Proposition 6) in California would have made it illegal for schools to hire homosexuals — not only as teachers, but also as teacher's aides, administrators, and counselors. That this measure was overwhelmingly defeated by a two to one vote last month may seem surprising to some. But the California gay community was able to gather support both from the unions — several of which, including the Teacher's union and the California AFL-CIO, publicly opposed Proposition 6 — and the general electorate. Clearly, Briggs was counting on the paranoia concerning "proselytizing" gay teachers of Anita Bryant and her cohort's imagination to repeal gay rights laws. The California vote was the stoniest victory the gay movement has ever achieved. The odds were against us, and yet we won.

Part of the credit for its defeat goes to the numerous politicians and celebrities who came out against Proposition 6. Ed Asner, speaking at a benefit dinner in San Francisco's Fairmont Hotel, called the Initiative "the new McCarthy era for the entertainment industry." George Muscone, and now the acting mayor, Diane Feinstein, were there. That same evening letters of support for the gay community were received from such celebrities as Carol Burnett and Cher Bono and San Francisco's late mayor.

But perhaps the most surprising voice of opposition came from Republican presidential hopeful and former California governor Ronald Reagan who, as a result, received severe criticism from his party.

Much credit for the victory goes, of course, to the thousands of activists who organized the rallies and raised huge amounts of money. One of them is Maureen Rafferty, a member of Wages Due Lesbians/San Francisco and a leading organizer of the anti-Briggs forces. A lesbian activist for a number of years, Ms. Rafferty is currently on a nationwide speaking tour. She was in Philadelphia recently to speak at the University of Pennsylvania.

TA: How was the Briggs Initiative defeated?

MR: A really critical thing that happened in the whole Briggs campaign was that lesbians really did have a voice. One of the things Wages Due Lesbians was involved in was publicizing the letter we wrote to legislators, where we tried to bridge the gaps between different women — between lesbians and straight women. We talked about what we as lesbians have in common with all other women and how our fight around our children and our fight in the schools are really similar. What was really clear in the massive no vote on Proposition 6 was that people saw their stake in defeating it. No one wants the state in their bedroom. No one wants to be told they have no choices.

TA: Did the fact that it was happening in California also have something to do with the victory? Could a similar victory have been achieved in another — more conservative state?

MR: I think for sure it helped. I think that the power gay people have been able to build is really strong in California. Whereas if it happened in another state, it might not have been a landslide.

TA: Did the fact that big name people like Ronald Reagan and Jean Stapleton voiced opposition to Proposition 6 help to mobilize people?

MR: I think that it does tend to mobilize

people if those people identify with those (stars). I know that a lot of women can identify with the role Jean Stapleton plays. In the case of Ronald Reagan, it was really wise of us to use the state against the state. In a lot of leaflets they said, well, this is what Ronald Reagan said. I think it was critical to be that strategic about it and to use (his statement). The supposed right wing that there's this scare about, we can use them against themselves.

TA: How can we do that?

MR: If we address groups that people are saying are the new right wing. If we look at some of the issues they're posing, they're posing some of the same problems we feel in our lives. Part of what goes into this new right wing scare is a scorn for say, housewives who supposedly don't like the ERA. Then there are these women over here that aren't

movie A Question of Love?

MR: I thought it was a real show of our power that it got on. It made me feel a lot more visible. I think it would have been good if there had been more commentary after it was over about what's happened since... that more and more lesbians are winning their custody cases. (laughs) Yeah, really I've rarely ever seen lesbians shown on TV. And when we are shown, it's usually some kind of depiction where we're different from all other women. That's why I thought this show was particularly good — it showed that we were like every other woman. Usually the depiction is that we're lonely old women who teach in the schools and... terrorize kids, if not seduce them.

TA: What exactly are the Wages Due Lesbians? What does that name mean?

MR: They're wages are due every

there and this really validates that. It gives other women the opportunity to be out there because there is some kind of legal public thing that has passed, even though it's not a law we can use everywhere. A lot of the left and a lot of people are saying that it wasn't a victory.

TA: I've heard that. Why are they saying it's not a victory?

MR: A lot of groups in San Francisco said it's a hollow victory or a defeat because the Death Penalty Bill (Proposition 7) passed. Briggs sponsored both (bills), and he's right wing, so the right wing won. So we didn't have a victory.

TA: How do you respond to that rationale?

MR: I think it's that people aren't ready for victories. There's this wave of defeatism going on and people are planning in advance all these defeat rallies. And then once we had a victory, people were saying we won a privilege and we have to be careful how we use that privilege. Or that we really owe these politicians something now. I don't think I owe the politicians anything. Voters voted them in to represent us. And we represented ourselves when we voted and said no on Proposition 6.

TA: Your topic tonight is political organizing. How should gays be organizing now — within the system? Outside the system?

MR: I think we should be organizing for what we need. That's what I was going to talk about tonight — organizing autonomously as lesbians and really putting out what we need. That'll determine how people in public will respond to us. But if we're just involved with public officials and not with ourselves trying to figure out what we want, and strategizing about it and trying to get it, then they're not going to respond to us at all when we're working with them.

TA: Are certain parts of the movement projecting a "bad image" as some gay leaders are apt to caution? These leaders seem to feel that we have to be projecting a "respectable" image. How do you feel about that?

MR: What happened around the organizing against Briggs was that with certain elements of the gay community presenting respectability was the strategy. And what we lost in that strategy was that the issue was not addressed. It was addressed as: "See, I'm a respectable person, you should like me." We have to put out that as women we're making a fight of not having to be dependent on men. And how gay men want to be with children. Why are they in the schools? A lot of people talk about gay men in the schools as role models, but I see it as work, work that's always been seen as women's work. What does that mean to them? What are they trying to free themselves of? Those issues needed to come out. Presenting a respectable image is like we don't have anything to say. If those issues had come out more, it would have been a lot better than this whole respectability trip.

TA: Do you ever get so frustrated with fighting all the time that you just want to give up?

MR: Not really — I haven't felt that. Maybe I did before when I felt really isolated as a lesbian woman... and there was no way to connect to the different sectors of women who were not like me. I feel now that where ever I go I'm not me representing myself but there are lots of other women I can point to who are lesbians and coming from all different kinds of places.



Maureen Rafferty: letting their children decide

housewives who like the ERA. And I think there's real connections between those women that can be made. There are a lot of issues like economic issues that really do bring us together.

TA: What are some of reasons lesbians are seen as bad role models in child custody cases?

MR: The main reason — and it doesn't get put down in the books as the reason — is that lesbians are refusing to be dependent upon men. I think it can be lots of other things too. The truth of what is going on is that they're afraid that children will think they have a choice. That is what lesbians and all women are about — we want to be able to let our children have choices. And they see that as a real threat. We're not raising them that they have to be lesbians or gay men.

TA: How did you feel about the TV

woman who is doing unpaid housework. We've joined together as lesbians to make sure we can get economic independence. We're women, too, and we're doing the same kind of work as most women are. We get the same kind of low wages when we go outside of our homes to do work. We want more money. And we suffer the same kind of violence in the streets as other women. We want the same kind of compensation for that.

TA: Is there a chance of Briggs introducing another Proposition 6?

MR: He said he was going to.

TA: Do you think the huge defeat of Proposition 6 will discourage him from that?

MR: It should discourage him. I think claiming it as our victory is an important thing to do. I fought many years to be out