

## Duke Turned Me On To The Barb

I loved your article on the Duke (see **Barb**, April 29). I never buy the **Barb** and a friend bought the late April issue for the Ellington write-up. Appreciate the record listings too!! Did manage to tape a lot of his music when KJAZZ played 24 hours of the Duke on his birthday -- It was wonderful.

Thank you for doing such a beautiful job on a beautiful musician and man. My cousin Judith told me to thank you for her too when I told her I would write you.

Needless to say I'm a "good jazz" freak -- especially piano. There's so much shit on the radio that I've been mostly getting records out of the library and tuning into KJAZZ when my favorite DJ's are on -- you may want to listen to Bob Houlihan 7-9 p.m. Sundays KJAZZ -- plays a lot of good stuff -- Billie, Lester, Sarah, Ella, Waller, Tatum, Petersen, Basie, Duke, and on and on.

Also Thurs. nites and KPFA radio FM Ray Skjelbred & Dick Hadlock alternate with good music 10-12 midnite.

Happy listening.

Thanks again.

(Didja know Duke wrote Mood Indigo in a taxi one nite--!) Sincerely,

Ann Perlin

## Angela On The Dade County Vote

A few thoughts about the defeat of the Miami Gay Rights Ordinance:

If you were the average \$150-a-week (before taxes) worker in Dade County...who has never been able to scrape enough bucks together to have coffee in the decaying basement restaurant at The Fountainebleau, would you vote for the "rights" of a homosexual millionaire?

The fact that Jack Campbell, unsuccessful candidate for Miami city office in 1975, is a gay millionaire and was the central, imposing figure in the gay rights effort this time around may have had more than a sukoshi to do with the outcome of the voting. Campbell's snakewalkers also made a few fatal errors.

Miami has been, and is, a "queen's town." Transsexuals and transvestites have found it a haven for decades and an estimated 14,000 live in South Florida. But the suit-and-tie conservative gays, led by Campbell, strongly discouraged participation in the latest effort by such people, as "they present a bizarre image."

This failure of the gays to grasp the actuality of the situa-

tion helped their defeat, as TSS and TVs are well-loved in South Florida and have blended into overall society much better than the normal homosexuals of the boy-and-boy and girl-and-girl type. By showing their own prejudice against people who are more liked by overall society, Campbell's gays proved they were so separated from straight society that they had little concept of its reality.

To be sure, one wonders if a vote giving transsexuals and TVs' rights in Dade might win, although one for homosexuals would lose.

Campbell's forces also sneered at "mystics," represented by Bryant, and that was deadly in an area which is well-known as being a psychic and occult center, full of mystics, voodooists and occultists by the tens of thousands. (The prevalent religion among Miami's Cubans is not Catholicism; it's Santeria, a form of Afro-Cuban voodoo.)

Gays counted on voting support from blacks, straight women, the Jewish colony in Miami Beach and other elements, but failed to find such support. The average Jew in Miami Beach is 65 years old, nearly or completely senile, and thought they were talking about "goys," not gays. Jews view the gay movement in Florida as a threat; it's their turf, which they took from the Italians, and they aren't about to give it up to Christian homosexuals.

Blacks, who are confined to Opa-Locka, Liberty City and Coconut Grove (which is hardly a gay enclave, as erroneously reported by the mass media), voted against gays as they are jealous of gay attempts to place black rights into second-place and assume command of the civil rights movement. Cuban exiles, numbering around 250,000 in Dade County, voted against gays for cultural reasons and the same reason as blacks, although about 75 percent of Dade's gays happen to be Cuban-born or the children of Cuban exiles who have availed themselves of American generosity since 1959.

But many votes for the gays probably came from the rednecks in protest against Bryant's orangeneck trip. I know a lot of crackers, since I am one, and they are too busy getting laid, drunk or stoned to pay any attention to the Baptist bitch, much less go along with her to church or to the voting booth. Drag and gay bars have been redneck strongholds in Dade for decades and the anti-gay attitude of rednecks is exaggerated.

Feminists in Dade are very conservative. The local branch of NOW has difficulty approving abortion, much less lesbianism,

and is said to be under the control of federal agents anyway. Dade feminists probably voted against the gays. (Very few gay women were visible in the effort; it was almost entirely dominated by wealthy, sexist gay men.)

As for Dade gays, most simply left town (many went to Key West) for the duration of the voting hassles.

The "victory party" organized by Campbell's forces at the Fountainebleau (where a couple of high-priced drag contests have been held after they moved up from the Marco Polo) must have been quite a drag. In essence, Dade voters viewed the gay rights number as one run by gay snobs, far wealthier than they could dream of being, and the idea of "rights" became ridiculous. The workers who have to ride the overcrowded buses each day had little sympathy for the rich gays tooling around in ostentatious gas guzzlers, having a ball at the once-glamorous, now tacky and tired Fountainebleau.

To be sure, gays suffer discrimination in South Florida. It is a far shriek from the serene gay heaven as described by San Francisco Chronicle columnist Charles McCabe, who boldly lies that "at no time did they (Dade gays) complain of discrimination nor did they have any reason to complain." Torture, even murder of gays in Dade by police is fairly common; thousands were arrested in one month in 1973 during a war on gay bars and discos. Homosexual acts in Florida are illegal, and many people are in jail for it.

Federal and other legal actions were initiated by gay rights groups by the score in Florida against police repression and discrimination in general, and overall, gays in Florida live lives of great terror. But the tactics, form and leaders of the most recent effort just couldn't make it and it was doomed from the start.

Gays in San Francisco warned not to send money to the Dade effort as "there are plenty of money gays in Florida" and that was a correct assessment of the situation. Dozens of gay millionaires and thousands of wealthy gays reside in South Florida, but for some reason, the money had to come from San Francisco, New York and other areas to cover Campbell's forces' expenses...over \$300,000 from the San Francisco area alone.

Gays have been trying to buy up Florida for about a decade now, like they bought up Hawaii some time ago and split it with the Japanese. People in Florida know this, and this time around the gays weren't able to buy

enough votes, just a sad party at a one-time hot hotel in a dead and dying retirement home for New York Jews.

Angela Douglas

## Voodoo? Do It!

Just a note to say that the article on Voodoo in the multicultural issue was the first piece of writing on the subject that I've seen in an "underground" journal that was even near accurate.

Too much garbage gets printed about minority religions, even in minority papers. Thirty percent bull is a lot better than the usual 130 percent that gets published.

Black people of America! Forget this Christian and Moslem crap. It's the same evil that enslaved your ancestors. Voodoo is where it's at.

--Philip Jameson

## Sorry, Rollers!

Calling the Bay City Rollers a Punk Rock Band is wrong. They are nothing like any of the groups that have been playing punk.

If any name is to be given, it is Tot Rock.

Sincerely,  
Johnny Lasky

## Poet's Testimony

Regarding Gordon Kirkwood-Yates' (Folsom Prison) recent letter regarding Paul Krassner

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Editorial and Business Offices  
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Berkeley, California 94704

Phone: (415) 849-1040

Mailing Address:

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Berkeley, California 94701

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Managing Editor: Judy Kahn

Proof Reader: Curtis Chapman

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and Lawrence Kisinger (see **Barb**, June 3):

I think I can safely vouch for Gordon, and to be sure he is not a figment of anyone's imagination. He's a real-life person, Paul, just like you and me, Brother. Besides that, the guy is a boss-poet and a sensitive, groovy dude. On any rating scale, he'd quite easily pull down a solid ten!

I do not know anyone in The New Dawn Collective personally nor do I know Lawrence Kisinger personally, but obviously I know of them. And if Gordon Kirkwood-Yates says that Kisinger is his roommate up in Folsom, then its the Gospel Truth, for I only know of Gordon to be an unflinching man of his word.

Anyway, I'm not gonna get into a big thing about all this. Suffice to say, Folsom Prison is nowhere to be, especially a Poet, and even more especially if the Poet was jailed under most mysterious Kafkaesque circumstances.

I think we're all working hard on making the conditions of jails more human...e.g. The overcrowding of men (and women) into dinky "houses" (actually archaic, paleolithic cages); The constant overt surveillance; No conjugal visits...All these things and other such sadistic practices have just got to go. Not to mention the Closure of the Folsom Creative Writers' Workshop, which, God willing, will be "back in business" soon. (Smile)

Gordon, Paul, et all, listen: Let's all try and stay together with lots of Love, lots of Hope, and lots of Peace in our hearts and minds (not to mention our bodies...heh, heh). See you soon,  
Love,

Poet Gary A. Blackman  
San Francisco

P.S. While I'm here, a big hello! to Doc Stanley down there at Chino! Keep on!

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photo of the Ultra Room performers by  
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