

**Premier
Issue!**

GAY & LESBIAN Naturists

**THIS ISSUE IS DEDICATED TO
SHELLY SEIDMAN, CO-FOUNDER OF
TSMN AND THE GAY AND LESBIAN
NATURISTS. SEE PAGE THREE.**

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Just as we were going to press, we came across the newsletter of the Everglades Rawhides. Their statement of purpose expresses so well how we feel that we decided to quote them at length.

"Our basic purpose is to provide an atmosphere of social, NONSEXUAL nudity for gay men [and lesbians] in a variety of outdoor and indoor settings... We welcome the membership of any[lesbian or] gay male interested in communal nudity. There is no screening process and we do not practice discrimination, the only exceptions being those who insist on overt sexual behavior in public or those who heavily abuse drugs or alcohol in situations that might cause injury to individuals or the group's reputation."



As a national group without social activities in all areas (yet) we also see ourselves as a way to encourage networking among gay and lesbian naturists from all areas of the country... to provide a place to exchange information about our groups, our activities, and our reception at naturist groups and clubs. With these ideas we are starting this newsletter, and hope that you will all help by sharing with us your ideas, your hopes, and your problems.

EAST COAST CONFERENCE

The 1984 Naturist Society East Coast Conference will be held on June 15, 16, & 17 at Sunnyrest Lodge in Palmerton, PA. This is the annual meeting where Naturists from the Eastern half of the country gather to discuss naturism and socialize. This is your chance to make and renew friendships with fellow GLNers from the entire East and to provide input on which areas you think we (and the Naturist Society as a whole) should focus.

Special GLN plans include a consciousness-raising workshop on Gays and Lesbians within the Naturist Movement open to all conferees, and a meeting of GLN members both to get to know each other and to decide where we go from here.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION: Sunnyrest Lodge, RD 1, Box 95, Palmerton PA 18071. (215)377-2911. Swimming pool, whirlpool, sauna, volleyball, tennis, hiking trails, game room, night club, dining lodge, snack bar, on 76 acres of wooded ridge with a gorgeous mountain view. Only 2¼ hours from Manhattan, 1½ hours from Philadelphia, near Penn. Turnpike extension. Workshops, sports, and entertainment provided. Children under 18 pay no admission or registration, and get a 50% discount on meals. Registration: \$5 for Naturist Society members; \$10 for non-member guests. Sunnyrest, day-visitor grounds fee: \$10 for one day. Sunnyrest, Full weekend, Plan A: \$27.50 per person. Includes grounds fees Fri. eve through Sun. with full use of all facilities, breakfast Sat. and Sun., buffet dinner Sat., a \$2.50 credit at the snack bar, and a campsite with water
CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

 **GAYS IN NATURISM** 

In 1981 Lee Baxandall, founder and guiding light of the Naturist Society, expressed the vital need for a newsletter of Gay Awareness in an issue of "Outgoing". What he said then applies today just as well... "We also know that gay culture has the right to survive and to nurture and to be different. And as for nudity and culture, the ancient Greeks were of course mostly homosexual. To them we owe the very model of realistic sculpture, the ideal of human body proportioning, the notion of athletic 'games' as the meeting and interchange point for nations and cultures, the initiative for conducting sports in the nude (the very word 'gymnos' is Greek for nude), and the ideal of the beautiful body as the speaking symbol of the beautiful mind. How could the nudist subculture not feel itself indebted to its core to ancient Greece?

The free beach movement, too, has at most crucial points been pioneered by gay beachgoing groups. San Gregorio, the first nationally-known nude or free beach in the mid-1960's, was primarily gay then and now. At the same time heterosexual couples and singles always have felt safe and free to visit; and this has also been true around other primarily gay nude beaches of the West and East coasts. The interaction of the gay and the naturist value-systems in the development of the body freedom movement is a topic very much worth exploring."

GLN NEWSLETTER
ISSUE ONE, NUMBER ONE
SPRING / SUMMER 1984

Mailing Address: GLN,
c/o Murray Kaufman,
243 West End Avenue # 1508, NY, NY 10023

Murray Kaufman EDITOR
Peter Lewis DESIGNER
Mary Hatch &
Mark Goldfield PRODUCTION

A NEED FOR OPTIONS

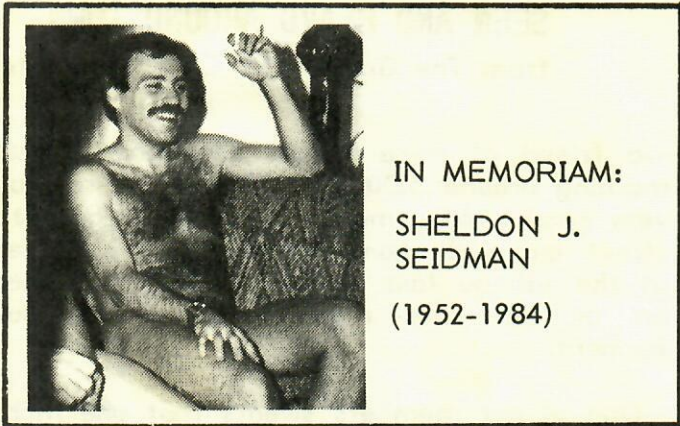
by Blake
Copyright 1984
All Rights Reserved

Joel writes from Iowa that things are tough outside of New York. David writes from New York that things have been tough but are getting better. The "thing" that is tough is socializing non-sexually within the gay community.

Twenty years ago it was tough all over, urban and rural. By 1984 in our large urban areas, we are creating the ways and means to join together as gays and lesbians, to join in community, to share in healthy, non-sexual activities. In our rural regions, things are not so easy. In Iowa, Kansas, New Hampshire our options are much more limited: where can we come together outside of the bars?

Many, probably most, folks in the straight world "know" that gays and lesbians come together only to cum together. They "know" that all gays and lesbians go to the bars on a regular basis and to the baths often. They "know" that the gay and lesbian community's only social outlet is the Bacchanalia. Twenty years ago, outside of a small circle of friends, our options were limited; today things are changing: quickly on our urban coasts, more slowly in between, and too often, not at all in the corners Iowa, Kansas and Washington.

It is our difficulty in communicating across the empty corners which keeps us isolated and inhibits social change. We need more options. The **GAY AND LESBIAN NATURISTS** organization will provide options in a non-sexual social context. Twenty years from now, all of the corners may be filled with the laughter of sunkissed men and women of all persuasions joined in community. It is up to us to create that reality.



IN MEMORIAM:

SHELDON J.
SEIDMAN

(1952-1984)

Sheldon Seidman, loved by so many of us, died of Hodgkin's Disease on March 20, 1984 after a four month battle to survive. Shelly's life was short but in his 31 years he found something that too few of us ever locate - a clear sense of what he was and of what he wanted out of life.

Shelly was a believer. He believed that society must accept gays as equals. In particular he always demanded that his relationship with his lover Jim, a relationship of central importance in his life, be accepted for what it was and be treated with the same respect and privileges as a hetero marriage. Shelly was always open about being gay. He was willing to spend hours patiently explaining his ideas and answering the questions of straights. "Education is so important", he'd say.

And because Shelly loved the freedom of going nude he brought these values to naturist circles. He would go to traditional nudist parks and try to talk them into giving couple's prices to him and his lover (and often succeeded!).

He was a founding member and officer of Tri-State Metro Naturists and never let them forget that gays were a significant part of their membership and must be treated as equals. When TSMN was first formed Shelly commented that we would eventually find that 10% or more of the membership would be gay. People chuckled in disbelief. Yet Shelly was proven correct - if anything, he underestimated.

He was part of the original group which organized gay social activities in the NYC area and, of course, was there when GLN was officially founded at last year's East Coast Conference. The last time we saw

him, two weeks before he died, and on one of his last coherent days, he was eagerly discussing plans for helping to write and edit the Gay and Lesbian Naturist newsletter.

Shelly wasn't just gay and/or just naturist, however. He integrated so many parts of his life so well. He loved New York City with a passion and expressed this love through his devotion to his work. He loved his work for the city for the financial challenge it presented, but also for its final goal - improving the Big Apple. Just last year he received a special award from the Mayor in recognition of his work.

When people think of Shelly there are certain things that are always mentioned. His meticulous attention to detail, his determination, his clarity and forthrightness of thought. When Shelly explained something, people always understood and believed. He had a real gift for making anything seem possible and for helping to work out the practical details to bring his dreams into being.

Shelly liked to have fun too. He loved to dance and was always willing to help organize social activities and give parties, or to rent a car and head for Goodland or the Minnewaska area for a day of skinnydipping.

More important than any of this, though, is the fact that Shelly was a warm and giving person who enriched the lives of many. Successful in his own personal and professional life, he never sat back smugly waiting for others to fail. Instead, he helped. For Shelly found the secret of combining the roles of do-er and nurturer, and succeeded in creating a complete human being.

Shelly, we miss you. But we won't forget the lessons that you taught: -To be open about what we are and to fight for acceptance on our own terms. -To be loving and caring and to treat all others as real human beings worthy of respect. -And to know that the individual effort matters. It was Shelly's belief that if you left it to the next guy it wouldn't get done. And with that in mind, I'm "doing it", we're "doing it", finally, and Gay and Lesbian Naturists has become a reality.

This one's for you Shel.

AT SOLAIR

by Jason Trent

Fresh, clean wind
strong enough to sprinkle the stars
like glittering grains of sand
across the cold night.
Coffee-brown lakes
of spring fed cedar water
cool and smooth
on our summer bodies.
Bright sun seeping
into every pore
of our free and open flesh,
sprawled easily out
upon warm gray mottled rock.
Naked boys and youths,
their new-minted sex
slender, pale and quivering
prance a joyous flow of life
upon the quiet, but consenting, sand.



FOR MY BROTHERS

(Taken from the book For My Brothers
by Robert Smith, Yellow Moon Press,
Cambridge, Mass., 1978.)

The light wispy clouds
in my dreams
are building into
dark low ones
that run before a squall.

The feeling of hugging
another man
quietly, warmly
without fear of being feminine
has begun boiling
along the desire
to never again know the sadness
of having the rhythms in my body
ignored
mired in anger
and driven in on themselves;
to speak of the need
to be sequoias
rooted in our own soil.

SEEN AND HEARD AROUND TOWN

from The Gay Nudist Club Newsletter

--a friend of mine swears that one Sunday morning around 5:00 or 6:00 am, he saw a very good looking man leave a party on 14th street and walk home on Washington Street in the village last summer with no clothes on at all! He made it home without incident.

--One of our members swears that one night around 3:00 am he ran into a naked man strolling Riverside Park in the 80's and 90's. I understand it happens with some regularity there in the summer late at night.

--A young man met at the baths told me that he occasionally cruises Central Park at night in the nude during the summer after hiding his clothes under a tree. This might be the safest way to avoid being mugged in the park. I wonder if the cops or the parks department would agree?

--The Pier at the foot of Perry Street where you could go for nude sunbathing has been demolished. Does anyone have any idea where we could start going as an alternative?

*****NETWORKING*****

Are you a member of or thinking of organizing a Gay & Lesbian Naturists Group in your area? Would you be willing to be listed in the next issue of this newsletter as a contact to help people in your area get together? WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU. Want to join a Naturist group in your area? We will publish names and locations of existing Gay and Lesbian Naturists groups as we hear about them, and/or provide you with contacts and information. Let us know if we can give your name to a local Naturist contact in your area.

Would you be willing to host or offer hospitality in your home to a visiting Gay or Lesbian Naturist? We would like to publish this in future issues.

POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES ???

Would you like us to coordinate a get together this summer to:

(Circle either A or B)

A- Camp Oneida, in New Milford, PA. Location: Take route 84 from New York area to Scranton and then follow I-81 North to exit 67. Turn right on route 492 and then 1/2 mile later turn left and drive three miles to the camp. Cost: \$13 per person per weekend for groups of ten or more. Facilities: Lodge and bunkhouse (accommodates eight, reservations in advance a must) or tenting areas, recreation hall, sauna, lake for swimming, 95 acres of trails, fields, woods, and group camping areas.

B- Summit Lodge, Rockbridge, OH. This is a rustic country lodge for Gays tucked away on 400 acres of private woodland deep in the Hocking Hills. You'll find a swimming pool, sundeck, sauna, showers, and snack bar.

Do you have an activity that you would like to coordinate? Let us know.

SUMMER

by L.E.W.



In summer, the world is almost enough;
even though in secret lovers still combine
They should lie here, resplendent, in the open,
in double number, and make innumerable lines
Oh that busy player
that blond boy with black trunks
Oh that siren
laughing, urging him to splash her; to swim.
Oh life is no less a monster.
No less chaste for notions of purity, or sin.
All will die, when the sword leaves
the genii's side. When he tires of your life, his
bride.
Bathe in life, illusions; dreamers,
Nothing is a greater illusion than your life:
yet bathe young, naked, in your days as all
your kind and
rise to the music of the genii's number;
the living water and the blood, the wine.

MEMBERSHIP

\$10.00 membership fee for the GLN includes:

1. Membership card.
2. Future issues of the newsletter for the calendar year through August 1985.
3. Fellowship- an opportunity for Lesbians and Gay men to meet in a non-sexual, non-threatening, naturist environment, both indoors and out, and enjoy clothes-optional social interaction with each other.
4. Networking- the opportunity to discover what other Gay and Lesbian Naturists are concerned about-- and to let them know what your concerns are.
5. The opportunity to locate other Gay and Lesbian Naturists in your local area.
6. Potential hosting and hospitality with other GLN members nationwide. Currently we can offer limited H/H in the New York City area. Write to GLN, c/o Murray Kaufman, 243 West End Ave #1508, New York, NY 10023 for information.
7. A forum for you to express yourself creatively. See your writing, and black and white line art work, in print. (Materials will not be returned unless you provide a SASE for return. All materials published at the discretion of the editors.)

OFFICIAL GLN MEMBERSHIP AND SUBSCRIPTION FORM !

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone() _____

Send us your check for \$10 made out to GLN and mail to: Murray Kaufman, 243 West End Ave., #1508, New York, NY 10023.

CONNECTIONS

This is YOUR column--- your chance to connect with other GLN members in your local area and nationwide. Let us know if we can print your name and/or address. This time, due to the huge volume of mail, we're printing excerpts from members across the country.

...I hope that the newsletter will function as a means of keeping the organization going, and notification of plans and activities. Will be happy to support it in some non-literary way. -P.K., Watertown, MA

...I'm an older gay who believes in but have had little opportunity to practice social nudity. My envelope to Lambda Soleil was returned unopened, stamped "Refused." -R.M., Alexandria, VA

...Being a gay, or bisexual, man I feel like a minority within a minority when it comes to gay naturism. I have been gay and a naturist for most of my adult life, and find it awkward that the only nudist group in my state is highly family oriented and so my true identity must be withheld even from this minority. I am proud that the national Naturist Society has taken a stand against gay discrimination. I would be proud to be a member of the Gay and Lesbian Naturists SIG. -G.K. Des Moines, IA

...Being gay and being a naturist is at best a difficult and often misunderstood lifestyle...Please pass my name and address on to anyone in my area that might also write to you. -J.P. Mt. Clemens, MI

...There are around ten to twelve of us gay fellows that have been practicing nudism for about five or six years...Most of us have tried to get into nudist groups but always get the door slammed in our face because of being single. So we let any male who is interested in nudism join us. -V.P. Kansas City, MO

...Perhaps you know that the California based "Gay Male Nudists" effort is folding. Perhaps just as well for its emphasis on sex rather than enjoyment of nudity among friends. Nevertheless, a void is left. -J.E. WI

...We enjoy being gay and being together, and we delight in nudity and being open. And the group, despite its wide range of ages and interests, is perhaps the most congenial I've ever experienced. We can smile and share and feel refreshed, as if we have touched on our essential humanity. I doubt that other groups would accomplish more. - T.S. San Francisco

...I would like to meet some gay or bisexual

naturists in "this neck of the woods" i.e. Oregon and Washington. -P.V. Olympia, WA

...I feel that networking is essential if we are ever going to be accepted within both straight and naturist communities. Murray and I established the Gay and Lesbian SIG at the last Eastern Naturist Conference, from a workshop which included 14 gay men and me. Actually, if I had known the extent of the homophobia at the conference I probably wouldn't have gone through with it and felt so comfortable with it. Later, Michelle and Lee told me it was the first gay workshop organized so I am sure a lot of people were shocked...Why do you feel it's important for gays and lesbians to be encouraged to join the Naturist Society?...The people who run the Rhode Island Alliance for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights are the same people who publish OPTIONS-RI's free gay newspaper. They don't believe in Naturism (it's just a few people who do all the work) and when I've spoken of it, the idea has been scorned. I think they feel it jeopardizes the movement or that people will think that gays are lewd, or something. -Cheryl, Kingston, RI

OTHER GAY NATURIST GROUPS...

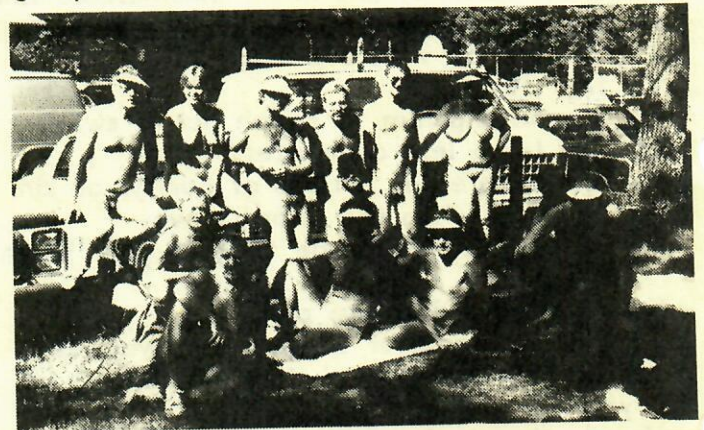
Lambda Soleil PO Box 2322, West Springfield, VA 22152-0322

Key West Naturists Joe Albertson, PO Box 2114, Key West, FLA 33045

Everglade Rawhides PO Box 331481, Miami, FLA 33233

The Gay Bares of Philadelphia PO Box 53814, Philadelphia, PA 19105

Also...Lots of Texas people have written in (lots!) Anyone interested in organizing a group down there?



SOLAIR CONFERENCE - SUMMER 1983

NATURISM IS NOT A CRIME

by Michelle Handler

(excerpted from the New York Native -
April 9-22, 1984)

It is supposed to be the age of deregulation, these Reagan years, but if the silly New York anti-nudity law, passed in 1983, is an example of other pieces of unnecessary legislation to be passed in this state, then we are witnessing just the opposite.

According to the 1983 Gallup Poll commissioned by the national Naturist Society, 72 percent of the American population supports nude sunbathing, and 15 percent skinnydip in co-ed situations. That means twice as many people skinnydip in America as in France where a similar Harris Poll found only 7 percent were users of nude beaches.

Though skinnydipping is centuries old in this country, the regular use of certain beaches, which became known as traditional nude beaches, began as long as 40 to 50 years ago. The nude use of many beaches like those on Cape Cod, or Moonstone Beach in Rhode Island, Fire Island in New York, Air Force Beach, Sanibel Island, and Honeymoon Island in Florida, began with gay men searching out isolated beaches. The tradition which gay naturists started has become the most fashionable way to vacation. But because of this new New York Anti-Nudity Law, the tradition is in danger of being swept away in a wave of conservatism. And this conservative wave can be successful - Florida is a prime example. All but one topless and one nude beach there have been closed. And the topless beach is scheduled to be closed by another new ordinance. Then there will be one. Soon, one might say, "And then there were none."

To combat this unconstitutional infringement on our rights, the national Naturist Society, a free beach organization formed four years ago, has developed a network for chapters around the country. Here in New York, the Tri-State Metro Naturists, having successfully challenged the New Jersey lewdness law in 1982, have begun the challenge to the New York anti-nudity law. On the day the law went into effect in July 1983, six Tri-State members went naked and were arrested. To

date, 18 others joining the original six in a major legal challenge have also been cited.

This is 1984 and the Gallup Poll results clearly show the law was enacted for a small minority of people who are against nude sunbathing. Indeed, the law was the result of a few complaints from a few vocal citizens in the Far Rockaways, and because of them 2.5 million New Yorkers (15 percent of the state's 17 million population) have immediately been branded criminals.

New York's existing disorderly conduct and lewdness statutes would have been sufficient to handle any problems which might occur such as a man or woman parading nude down Fifth Avenue, your basic subway flasher, or people masturbating or fornicating in public. Such overt sexual behavior is exhibitionism, not naturism, done with the purpose of shock or sexual arousal.

Just organized here is the Gay and Lesbian Naturists, a Special Interest Group (SIG) of the Naturist Society. Murray Kaufman, who three years ago founded Tri-State Metro Naturists, last year formed GLN along with Cheryl Auger, who heads the Gay and Lesbian SIG within the New England Naturists Association.

The Naturist Society accepts membership by household, and a gay couple can have both names on their card. It was decided that when naturist conferences are held in a nudist camp, the nudist camp must accept gay couples, or the conference will not be held there. The Naturist Society has always been non-discriminatory, and will continue to be so. Its growth within its first few years has been tremendous, obviously answering a need that the nudist organizations could not, or would not, fill.

Are you a nude sunbather who used to enjoy New York's nude beaches? Are you a hiker who enjoys skinnydipping along the trail (or who never tried it but would like to)? Are you angry that yet another silly law has infringed upon another one of your rights? You can do something about it. Write to your state legislators and join the Tri-State Metro Naturists. We can only win against unfair legislation if we have the support of the people who are affected by it.

"They have rights who dare defend them."
-Roger Baldwin

QUESTIONNAIRE

This questionnaire is for our exclusive use.
It will help us to serve you better.

- Age _____ Sex _____

- Why are you interested in the Naturist Movement?

- What do you like about the Naturist Movement? Find acceptable? Find unacceptable?

- Would you be interested in a national gathering of the GLN once a year?
Yes _____ No _____

- What kinds of events would you like to find at a Naturists' national gathering or conference?

- Would you be involved in the East Coast _____ or West Coast _____ conference?

- Would you be interested in travel with a Gay and Lesbian Naturist Group?
Yes _____ No _____

EAST COAST CONFERENCE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and electricity (some with sewage). Sunnyrest, Full weekend, Plan B: \$17.50 per person. Includes grounds fees for entire weekend, full use of facilities, a campsite with water and electricity (some with sewage). meals available at \$6 for dinner, \$3 for breakfast. Sunnyrest, Full weekend, Plan C: \$95 for two people. Includes double occupancy of motel/cottage for entire weekend, use of facilities, breakfast Sat. and Sun., Dinner for two nights, \$5 credit at snack bar. All charges subject to 6% PA sales tax. Mail reservations directly to Sunnyrest. RESERVE YOUR PLACE NOW!

PLEASE NOTE!!! The first issue of this newsletter is being distributed free of charge by the GLN SIG of the Naturist Society. In order to be part of the GLN and receive future newsletters and listings of events, you must send us \$10 (to pay for printing, postage, and those other expenses which just don't go away), as well as joining the Naturist Society, if you don't already belong. A year's membership in The Naturist Society, the national organization for the promotion of clothes-optional living, costs \$25 per household, and includes a subscription to the naturist quarterly "Clothed With the Sun". Gay and lesbian couples are encouraged to join as couples. Send your Naturist Society membership to us and we'll process it for you.

The mailing list of GLN newsletter is for our exclusive use ONLY. It will not be sold or traded. All mail will be sent in a plain white envelope with GLN and a mailing address in the upper left hand corner.

THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER. Your response is vital to its continuation. Let's hear from you.

We would be interested in hearing from more of our Lesbian sisters out there.

PERSONALS _____

\$1 FOR UP TO 20 WORDS---SPACE LIMITED

Looking for traveler to vacation in Greece, Yugoslavia, Mexico, or Canadian Maritimes--Aug, Sept, or Oct--Contact Murr Kaufman, 243 West End Ave, NY, NY 10023.