

## Toronto Gays Face Censorship, Public Anger

Police harassment and criminal charges brought against "The Body Politic," Canada's most-respected gay publication, were protested last month by the New York-based National Gay Task Force.

Toronto police confiscated subscription and advertising lists which have effectively prevented publication of future "Body Politic" issues. Both the December-January issue of the periodical and "Loving Man," a sex manual previously cleared for distribution by Canadian customs, were charged with being obscene.

NGTF believes the real basis for the harassment of "Body Politic" was its December publication of an article entitled "Men Loving Boys Loving Men." "While we do not endorse the conclusions reached by that article," an NCTF editorial stated, "We believe it to have been in the best traditions of responsible journalism--offering important insights into a little-known and little-understood aspect of human sexuality in a completely unsensational way."

The censorship came in the midst of lingering public furor over the murder last summer of a 12-year-old Toronto boy, following a "homosexual orgy" (that there was an orgy is fact because the murderers and child molesters filmed the whole episode on 8mm). Though the gay community condemned the murder, the Portuguese community in Toronto from which the victim came proceeded to mount a huge demonstration for law and order and against gays. A popular writer for the "Toronto Sun" (a sensation-alist tabloid) fueled the fray with anti-gay columns.

### For the Record

"I think we are making the way for some witch hunts. This starts opening up what is for me a very sticky wicket--having categories of people who are unacceptable."

--the Rev. J. Michael Coram of High Point, N.C. after the 162nd annual convention of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina voted in Greensboro Jan. 28 to go on record "at this time" as opposing the ordination of avowed, practicing homosexuals. The approved motion said the church will administer "to and with" homosexuals.

The Episcopal Church was moved into deep controversy last year when Bishop Paul Moore of New York ordained Ellen M. Barrett, a professed lesbian, to the priesthood. The Episcopal House of Bishops last fall stopped short of censuring either Moore or Barrett, but announced that practicing homosexuals should not be ordained or married in the Church.

Barrett, a speaker at the AWS Women's Festival Jan. 24, takes issue with the structure of the Church as a male hierarchy. In Louie Crew's "The Gay Academic" the Rev. Barrett expresses her fear that "when gay men are accepted...lesbians will still be out in the cold because our sexuality is a total and radical affirmation of woman-nature, which the Church has never allowed."

On May 16-24 the General Assembly of the 2.6-million member United Presbyterian Church U.S.A. will act on a task force proposal (of Jan. 23) that regional governing bodies of the denomination be permitted to ordain qualified gay people to the ministry.