

judge rejects leniency pleas

A Superior Court judge in Newark, New Jersey, rejecting pleas for leniency from petitioners and letter-writers, has sentenced a Passaic, NJ, police officer to a minimum of two years in prison for his part in the deliberate burning of a gay Hackensack discotheque in 1976, according to Gay Community News.

The Newark Star-Ledger reports that Judge Paul R. Huot told Thomas Trotta that he would not be swayed from his decision by "sentimental concern for the family of a crooked cop. You stand convicted of arson for money -- a paid torch. This is a serious crime made more serious by the fact that you were a police officer."

Trotta has been suspended from the Passaic police department without pay, pending his appeal.

sage publishes anthology

For the last year, a group in New York has been working on a history of the experiences of gay men and women in the decades of the 20's to the 50's.

The Senior Action in a Gay Environment (SAGE) collective has published their work, which includes a diverse number of stories.

The anthology focuses on the experiences of four women and four men ranging in age from 47 to 78.

The volume, entitled SAGE WRITINGS, is available for \$2.50 from:

Teachers' and Writers'
Collaborative
84 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10011

guild sponsors writing award

The Feminist Writers' Guild has announced its first annual Woman of Promise Award for previously unpublished women writers, according to The Front Page.

The award will be sponsored yearly for various literary forms and will be administered by different Guild chapters on a rotating basis. The 1980-81 award will be in poetry and will be administered by the New York Chapter.

All Guild members will be eligible to become candidates for the award.

First, second, and third-place poets will be listed in the Guild's national newsletter and published in a women's small press magazine or journal. Honorable mentions will be listed in the newsletter.

A three-member judging panel selected by an advisory committee and approved by the local steering committee of the sponsoring chapter will choose the winners.

Manuscripts for the 1980-81 award in poetry may be submitted until November 15, 1980. Winners will be selected by January 15, 1981.

For more information on qualifications for entry or on the Guild, write:

The Feminist Writers'
Guild
P.O. Box 9396
Berkeley, CA 94709

first congressional hearings set

The Gay Rights National Lobby announced that the first Congressional Hearings in history on a lesbian and gay male civil rights bill, H.R. 2074, will take place on Oct. 10, in San Francisco.

The hearings, which were requested by Rep. Ted Weiss (D-NY), will take place before the Equal Employment Opportunity Subcommittee of the Committee on Education and Labor.

The chair of the subcommittee is Rep. Augustus Hawkins (D-CA), a co-sponsor of H.R. 2074.

Among those testifying in support of the bill are: Dr. Judd Marmor, former president of the American Psychiatric Association; Dolores Huerta, vice president of the United Farm Workers; Gwen Craig, vice president of the Harvey Milk Democratic Club; and Raymond Hartman, co-chair of the Gay Rights National Lobby Board.

Political and religious leaders are also expected to speak for the legislation.

Additional Congressional Hearings are expected next spring, probably in Washington, DC.