

Other Supporters

and priests. Also endorsing statement are official diocesan offices from Richmond (VA), Brooklyn (NY), Connecticut and New Orleans (LA).

The Coalition statement is intended to serve as a "Catholic voice" to the gay community that Roman Catholics are deeply concerned about the human and rights of homosexual persons. Quotes from the American Catholic Bishops' 1976 Pastoral Letter, "Live in Christ Jesus," which stated that homosexual persons should not suffer from prejudice at their basic human rights" also reaffirms the resolutions by ministry from the Detroit Action meeting which urged policies to "root out structures and attitudes which foster discrimination" and "to provide information, counseling and support to les whose members are part of the minority."

The Coalition was initiated in the spring of 1978 by New Ways, a Washington based, public-oriented group engaged in workshops, retreats, counseling, education and research, which defines itself as a "ministry of re-

conciliation and social justice for Catholic gay persons, other sexual minorities, their families, friends and the larger Catholic community."

Coalition coordinators, Fr. Robert Nugent and Sr. Jeannine Gramick, say that their work is a response to the bishops' statement that the Christian community "should provide them [homosexuals] a special degree of pastoral understanding and care." They have been involved in gay ministry since 1971 and have written and lectured extensively on the topic in the U.S. and Canada. They spent this past summer on a fact-finding tour of England and the Netherlands, meeting with Church officials including bishops, pastors, theologians as well as Catholic gay groups and others engaged in similar work. They are currently exploring international link-ups for gay Catholic groups throughout the world, including third world nations.

Copies of the statement and a full list of endorsers can be obtained from the Coalition, 3312 Buchanan St., #302, Mt. Rainier, MD 20822, (301) 277-5674.

to Film *Rubyfruit Jungle*

by a three-person partnership Iris Production Co. Since however, Iris has not been able to raise sufficient funds to get the film into production.

A lot of work has been accomplished. The script, written by Mae Brown and Arnie Reisman, a member of Iris and the author of *Hollywood on Trial*, is in its fourth revision. It has reached "faithful to the spirit" of the book, says Myers. Casting and editing are still undone. The film has been left with the agents of any actresses and actors, but only Bolt, the story's protagonist, has not yet been selected. The commitment of a "big budget" might help to raise money, film's producers are very confident that the audience like it and so are hoping not to compromise.

In order for the film to stay at the end be completed there, investments are desperately needed. Producers originally set their sights on Hollywood as the place to seek co-producers with cash, but the nature of the subject matter, which industry people would not be a money-maker, has held things up considerably. The producers, therefore, have changed their strategy and have begun to solicit investments from feminists and gays.

What is needed in dollars and cents is a total of \$875,000, which is a relatively low budget for a feature picture. If Iris could find a number of thirty-five investors

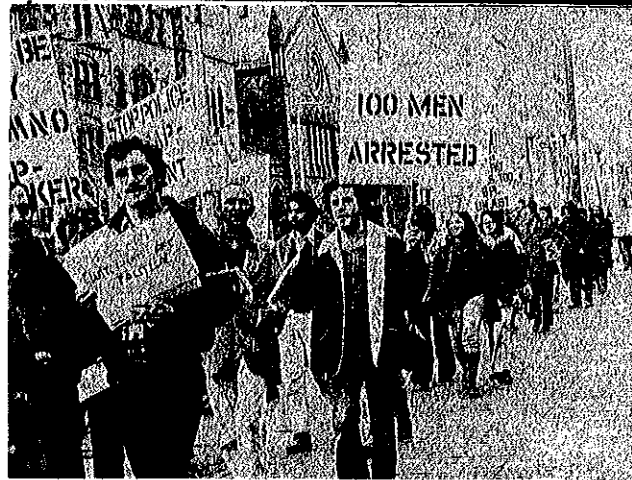
to commit \$25,000 each, *Rubyfruit* the movie would soon become a reality.

The more control Iris retains over the film, the more likely it is that it will not only remain true to the book but will be a more positive expression of the lesbian experience. If private money is raised through the feminist and gay communities, then Iris may select, for example, the director of its choice, which in all likelihood will be a woman.

The producers hope to convince would-be investors to change the type of investments they make by turning in the ITT stock portfolio for a piece of the film. Myers explained that the final product would be "very professional and quite able to stand up to other projects of an equal budget," such as films like *Outrageous*, *Girlfriends*, and *American Graffiti*. She stresses that the time is right to make a film like *Rubyfruit Jungle*, with its positive lesbian content, and she considers the project "a good political move."

If enough money is not raised from gays and feminists, Iris will have to protect its investment and sell the production rights to outside buyers who may or may not have "a feeling for the book."

If you would like to get in touch with Iris Production Company about the prospect of an investment, you can reach the producers through Cindy Stein, c/o Gay Community News, 22 Bromfield Street, Boston, MA 02108.



Protesters marched against entrapment at the Boston Public Library on April 1, 1978.

Ken Rabb photo

Man Sues Boston

BOSTON, MA — A \$500,000 civil rights suit against the City of Boston on behalf of "John Doe," a 35-year old Boston man, has been filed in U.S. District Court by Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD). In the suit, GLAD charges Boston Public Library Director Philip J. McNiff, Police Commissioner Joseph M. Jordan, Deputy Police Supt. James J. McDonald, District Four Captain James M. McDonald, and Police Officer Angelo Terrizzi with conspiring to deprive him of his civil rights by falsely arresting him for prostitution.

Doe was one of over 100 men arrested during a two-week-long crackdown on alleged gay male cruising at the Boston Public Library in March of last year. The mass arrests incited some of the vocal anti-entrapment protests ever launched in Boston. Judges at Boston Municipal Court appeared sensitive to the accusations of entrapment, as nearly half the men who went to trial were found not guilty. (see GCN Vol. 6, No. 36).

In the suit, GLAD accuses the city of launching "a campaign of harassment and intimidation of persons believed to be or suspected of being homosexuals . . . to prevent suspected homosexuals from using the Boston Public Library." The suit charges that, after a 2-3 week plainclothes surveillance of the library "produced no evidence of criminal activity, the police officers undertook a campaign of entrapment of innocent persons solely because they appeared to said officers to be homosexuals." The police officers loitered in the men's room and other areas of the library and tried to encourage homosexual solicitations and even exposed their own genitals "in the apparent belief that this would result in an expres-

sion of sexual interest."

Doe was in the library to attend a concert when he was approached by Terrizzi — a young, attractive plainclothes officer — who asked him to have sex. Doe declined, but Terrizzi continued to repeat his offer until he agreed. Doe was then arrested for prostitution, and Terrizzi later testified in Boston Municipal Court that Doe had solicited him for oral sex for \$20. Doe was found not guilty.

The suit accuses city officials of depriving Doe of his rights to freedom from illegal detention and imprisonment under the Fourth Amendment; freedom from intimidation and humiliation, enjoyment of life, liberty, and property, and freedom from deprivation of due process and equal protection of the law under the Fourteenth Amendment; rights, privileges, and immunities under the First Amendment. The conduct of the defendants is called "false arrest, negligence, malicious prosecution, and civil conspiracy."

A spokesperson for GLAD, which is one of several public-interest gay law firms in the country, said that one anticipated effect of the suit is its "deterrent effect." Similar suits in other parts of the country have been successful, and it is irrelevant that this case involved an entrapped gay man, since any acquittal of this sort is grounds for a false arrest suit.

Any other "library defendant" who wishes to join in as a co-plaintiff in this case should contact GLAD at (617) 426-1350. With four new judges recently added to the federal bench in Boston, a trial could be scheduled within two years.

The Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts is appearing as co-counsel in the suit.