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since 1983

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The **display advertising** deadline is the Monday after the first and third Friday for the next issue.

**Classified ads** must be received at the office of **just out** by the Monday after the first and third Friday for the next issue, along with payment. Ads will not be taken over the telephone.

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# steppin' out

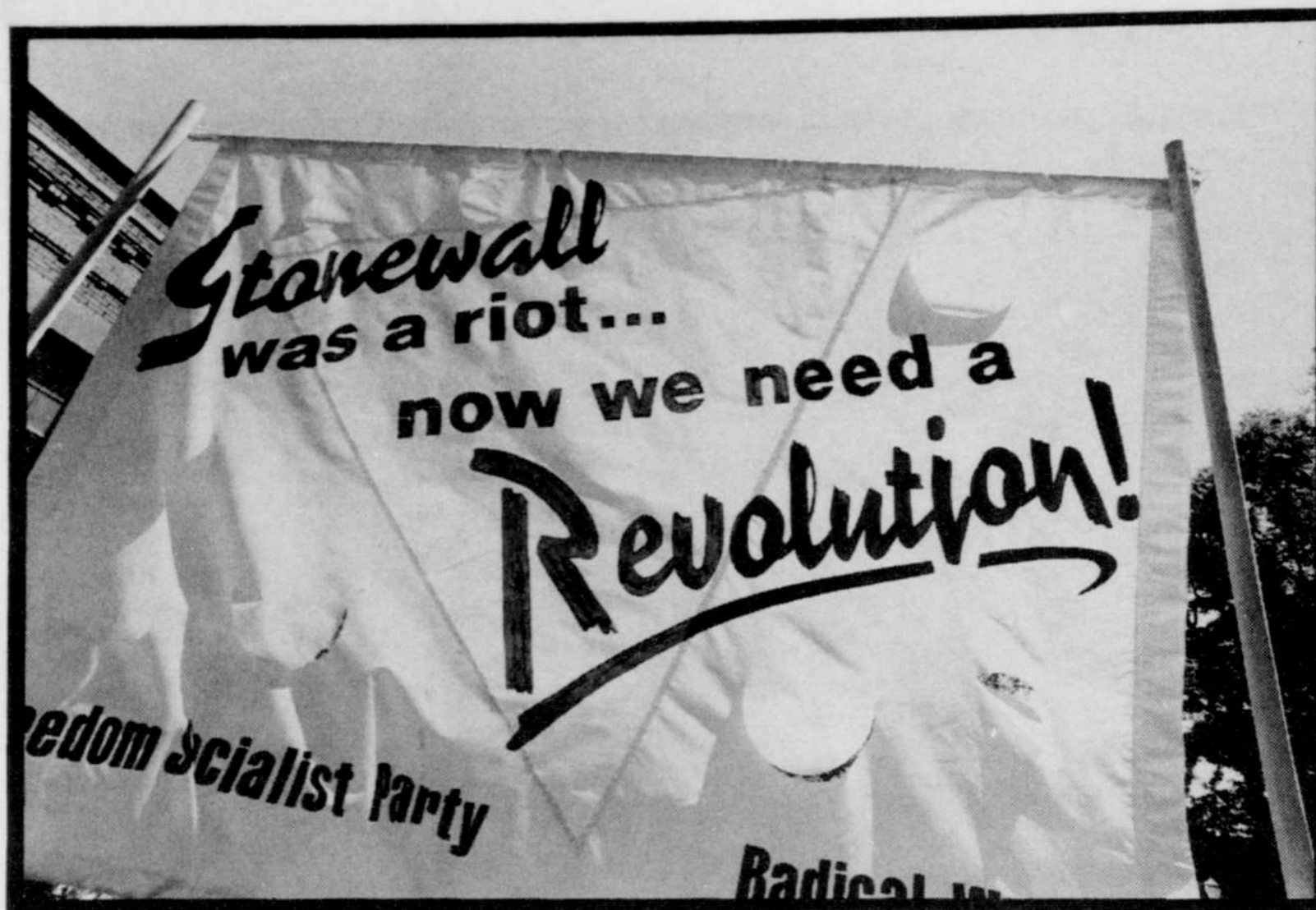


PHOTO BY LINDA KLEWER

## editorial

# The issue is NAMBLA

*It's time to face this organization that keeps hanging on to the queer community*

by Ariel Waterwoman

**T**he North American Man-Boy Love Association is rearing its ugly head again. For those of you who are unfamiliar with the organization, NAMBLA advocates removing all age laws regarding sex. This is not acceptable to most people. Children are not on equal footing with adults. As adults, our responsibility is to protect children from sexually predatory adults. NAMBLA's beliefs are contrary to the contemporary values of the lesbian and gay liberation movement. Most of us in the movement see NAMBLA as an organization that condones child sexual abuse.

An organization called the International Lesbian and Gay Association has worked to get recognition from the United Nations, and has become a nonvoting consultative member of the U.N. Economic and Social Council. The ILGA's membership was scrutinized by right-wing organizations that don't want it to have any recognition at all from the United Nations. NAMBLA was found to be a member of the ILGA. This delighted the homophobes to no end. They are now crying for the ILGA's removal because it has a pedophile group on its membership roster.

By the time this paper comes out, the ILGA will have voted on whether NAMBLA can be a part of its organization. It takes 80 percent of the voting membership to expel an organization from the ILGA. Beyond all comprehension, there are queer people in the United States and abroad who continue to support NAMBLA. Voting may be close. A vote to retain NAMBLA

would likely destroy the ILGA, as most of the group's leaders have said they would resign if NAMBLA were retained. If NAMBLA's membership is upheld, the ILGA will lose its consultative status at the United Nations.

A group calling itself the Spirit of Stonewall has formed to support NAMBLA in its beef with organizers of the Stonewall 25 Parade, from which it has been ousted. The Spirit of Stonewall released a statement which reads, "The issue is not intergenerational sex—although that is one the movement needs to confront honestly—the issues are censorship and inclusiveness."

This language can be confusing for people. The *issue* is adults having sex with children. Every country has laws concerning age of consent. Children would be even more sexually exploited without these laws. Calling it "intergenerational sex" further confuses the issue, because that phrase doesn't tell the truth. NAMBLA is about adults having sex with children. That is never OK.

In our struggle for liberation, we need to re-examine NAMBLA's role in our movement. I, for one, refuse to be part of a liberation movement that includes an organization that advocates having sex with children. This is not liberation, this is exploitation. It's time we faced that truth. We will never progress as a movement with NAMBLA tied to our boots. Let's stop the confusion about NAMBLA's civil liberties. I don't recall that pedophiles have any right to civil liberties.

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