150 people turned up for the day-long series of panels discussing the issue of man-boy love; organizer Tom Reeves expected several dozen.

**THE BOSTON CONFERENCE**

Anna Bryant would not have been amused. Nick Kelley, 16, was explaining why he wanted to be with an older man, an adult. "I had too much to offer, and what really bothered me was the fact that someone was actually concerned about the fact that I had been in his car, and that someone somewhere would not like it." The event was the first ever semi-public gathering in North America of men who are involved in relationships with male youngsters, of the boys themselves, as well as of assorted other r "professionals" in some way connected with the issue of man-boy love. 150 people turned up for the invasion-only conference, held at Boston's Community Church December 2, 1978, for a day-long series of panels discussing psychological, ethical, political, and legal problems involved in such relationships.

The overwhelming turnout exceeded the expectations of conference organizer Tom Reeves, who had only expected several dozen people. Reeves, a political science professor at Roskilde College, a member of the Massachusetts Committee, formed last year after the indictments of two dozen men in the so-called Revere cases. The men were charged with separate violations of the law for illegal sexual acts with (mostly teenage) minors.

The range of views expressed by the panelists and conferences were, by and large, generally supportive of man-boy relationships. Different people from different backgrounds and careers appeared to agree that the legal problems faced by the men arrested in such cases were appalling, and that the punishment was worse than the crime. In Massachusetts, one could be committed for life as a sexual dangerous person.

The audience heard one of the Revere defendants, Ed Kleele, describe himself as a "homosexual in Boston; basically facing a possible life sentence for sexual acts with a teenager. The teenager had been picked up in a club near the Boston Lyceum, and later turned state's witness, as a result. Kleele's supporters have accused of pressure from the police.

Kleele was philosophical about his fate, so was Kelley, who used to explain the opposition to his relationship with an adult: "I guess the problem is that parents want very much to protect their children, and I don't think the protection is necessary. This brought up insights from the audience. Kelley continued: "It's not kids, basically, that know what they're doing, they know what they want and they know that they are not that easily manipulated as people would like us to think they are.

Another Bostoner per se, Rich McDougall, of the N.E.A. defeated teenage hustling: "For most youth, it's the only way to get exposed, the only way to get sex with men. I knew I was a homosexual at 16 years old, but I knew what I wanted." McDougall said, but the only way I knew how to get it was to go to the theater and ask for money. Maybe that's kids, but it was very fulfilling, it served its purpose.

McDougall said he was never seduced by any man. Instead, it was kind of fun to go to the Combat Zone and make a few dollars by singing in a movie theater and picking your own audience. It's a good way to make a few bucks.

McDougall was one of many speakers to talk out of the lied: Clinton's decision to keep sex education from school. "You say it's not for kids, but you've got to teach kids about sex," he said, "and don't lead to disease, not even cancer.

Several voices echoed the endorsement of love between men and boy. Canon Canon Jones, pastor of Christ Church Cathedral, Hartford, Connecticut, described a Roman Catholic priest who was a friend of his, and who was a "beautiful person, because he was loved by a man as a boy." He expressed concern for men who are forced to hide their homosexuality. "They become marked men as often for the rest of their lives, and that there is a terrible imposition of society." He described several people who were sent back to prison just because they were in the same room with a boy. The general sex took place—in the same room. But a woman is, it's very single.

BY DANIEL TSANG
PHOTOGRAPHED BY WALTER FRIEDMAN

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The conference was also an occasion for many to come out in support of the cause. One, a guardian of the American Civil War, spoke for the New York City's Committee for the Enforcement of the Negro's Right to Vote. He said, "I want to say that I was not at all surprised at the attendance here. The issue is too important for us to overlook."

Joe Owen, a black artist from New York City, spoke about the need to keep up the fight for civil rights. He emphasized the need for the community to rise up and demand its rights. "We cannot afford to sit back and allow the forces of oppression to have their way," he said. "We must stand up and demand our place in this society."