

CONNECTIONS

JULY 1980

AUSTIN TEXAS

VOL.2 NO.7



MARY'S BUSTED FOR GAY PRIDE WEEK

The Houston police force observed the beginning of Gay Pride Week by raiding Mary's. Fifteen uniformed and plain-clothes officers entered the bar shortly after midnight on Friday, June 20 and arrested sixty-two patrons for "public intoxication." Several customers were arrested before they had finished their first drink.

Friday afternoon, Houston's acting Chief of Police held a press conference. He stated that sixty-two arrests wasn't an unusually large number and that it was only coincidence that the raid took place at the beginning of Gay Pride Week. He said the police action was based on a citizen's complaint, but declined to identify the individual making the complaint, citing police department policy.

Houston activist Ray Hill responded that this was the third year in a row of Houston Police harrassment during Gay Pride Week. A police spokesman denied any knowledge of previous attempts to intimidate the gay community and said he would look into it.

Charles Gillis, owner of the Wilde 'n' Stein Bookstore, told CONNECTIONS that the community's reaction was mainly "what else is new?" He characterized the police attitude as "making sure the queens don't get too pissy." The police action which drew the most criticism was crowding 30 people into one small van, slightly injuring several.

Despite the raid, the gay vs. police baseball game went ahead as planned. The gays lost, 22 to 7.

Gillis said the Houston television and newspaper coverage was "pretty positive." It "left the impression that the raid could have been police harrassment. It wasn't normal activity."

VICE SQUAD RAIDS AUSTIN BOOKSTORE

Owner Sexually Harrassed

by Jim Olinger

Members of the Austin Vice Squad joined narcotics officers in a raid on long-time CONNECTIONS advertiser Anarchodillo Slow Burning Books and Papers at 2401 Manor Road on Monday, June 2. They arrested owner Gene Berkman in the apparent belief that they were smashing a major drug distributor. It is unusual for Vice Squad members to participate in drug raids.

Although no hard drugs were found, \$6927 in cash, assets of Anarchodillo, the retail outlet of Berkman's Pacific Sunrise Trading Company, was seized as "evidence." Although Berkman cooperated fully with the police during the raid and has a history of community involvement fighting Austin's hard drug traffic, the police spent two and one half hours ransacking the store. Berkman was also subjected to sexual harrassment in the course of his arrest.

"I believe the Vice Squad members were brought from their assignments in gay bars to see if they recognized me as a patron," Berkman says. "Since I'm not gay and I don't drink alcohol, this proved just another waste of the taxpayers' money."

"The two Vice cops just stood around while the four narcotics officers searched," Berkman continued. "Finally, one offered to help because the search was taking so long. He found thirty-six boxes of Chinese

Continued on page 4

CONNECTIONS

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CONNECTIONS is dedicated to providing a forum for the lesbian/gay community of Austin and Texas. Publication of the name or photograph of any person or organization is not to be taken as any indication of the sexual orientation of that person or organization.

CONNECTIONS welcomes unsolicited news and/or feature articles, photographs, drawings, and poetry. If return or acknowledgement is requested, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope. CONNECTIONS will not assume responsibility for unsolicited material.

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AUSTIN GAY PRIDE RALLY

The gay pride parade and the town meeting, victims of Austin's low summer energy level and lesbian/gay organizations' conflicting commitments, were cancelled. However, several people met June 16 at Metropolitan Community Church of Austin to try to salvage some kind of Gay Pride Week celebration for Austin.

Those present were Dianne Draper, Scotty Scott, Michael Fernandes, Becky Badgett, Jim Olinger and Wayde Frey. The result was that a Gay Pride Rally was scheduled for Thursday, June 26, at Wooldridge Park, sponsored by Austin Lambda, Austin Lesbian-Gay Political Caucus, Gay Community Services and Metropolitan Community Church of Austin.

Michael Fernandes arranged for Jubilation to play at the event, which was to run from 6 to 10 p.m. Also lined up to entertain were Hektor Munoz and Teatro Alegre (Gay Theatre), Richard Howard, and Deanna Stevenson. Rev. Candace Naisbitt of MCCA also agreed to speak.

Fernandes printed up and distributed a leaflet advertising the rally. Jim Olinger arranged for the changed date for the park permit. Lynn Aday handled beer arrangements, so that GCS could recoup the costs of the park permit and other expenses for the event.

GCS had originally fronted the money for the rally to the Gay Pride Week Organizing Committee, which attempted to organize Gay Pride Week festivities for Austin, but then gave up and wanted to call everything off.

However, MCCA pastor Candace Naisbitt, Dianne Draper, other MCCA members, Fernandes, Olinger, and many others wanted to have some sort of gay pride celebration in Austin for 1980, and the June 26 rally was an outcome of their joint efforts.

Austin Lambda had scheduled a performance by Jubilation, but needed a place to hold a dance. GCS had reserved Wooldridge Park for a rally, but needed people to entertain. Fernandes and Olinger agreed to combine their efforts and to have Austin Lambda and GCS jointly sponsor one event for all of Austin, along with ALGPC and MCCA.

GCS COMPLETES OFFICE RENOVATION

Through the efforts of several people, the Gay Community Services office at 2330 Guadalupe has been renovated and airconditioned.

Larry Palmer, George, Leo Cazares, Michael, Gerry Tarr and Francisco stripped paint from window frames and the door, sheetrocked, taped, patched and painted walls, and scraped up asphalt tile, buffed the pinewood floor and varnished it to a lovely shine. Cork bulletin boards and a stuffed sofa and matching chairs completed the comfortable, homey decor. All this was done in January, 1980.

In March, Dick Ehlert organized a fund-raising benefit for GCS at the Austin Country. Part of the proceeds from this benefit was used to reimburse people who had bought materials for use in the office renovation and had rented a floor buffing machine.

In May, part of the proceeds from the benefit were spent on a window airconditioner for the GCS office. The work was completed just in time for summer and hot weather. GCS has also taken over an unused hall for additional storage.

Lynn Aday located and installed a used airconditioner. He and Gary Fitzsimmons planed, painted and installed a wooden door to keep the cool air inside the office area.

CONNECTIONS readers are invited to come by GCS and to enjoy the cool, attractive surroundings.

HELP GAY CUBAN REFUGEES

by Dianne Draper

Homosexuals are everywhere!

Today there are thousands of us - lesbians and gay men - in the Cuban refugee camps. They have been separated from the other refugees and placed in their own barracks. They have already known torment, torture, and abuse - not because they are refugees - but because they are homosexuals.

Reports of the abuse they received before leaving Cuba have reached us. The worst was walking a "gauntlet" of bayonets and being stabbed in the face, arms, body, legs. They were tortured because they were considered criminals. Their crime was being homosexual.

These men and women are presently incarcerated behind barbed wire in Indiantown Gap, Pa., Eglinton Air Force Bas, Fla., and Fort Chaffee, Ark.

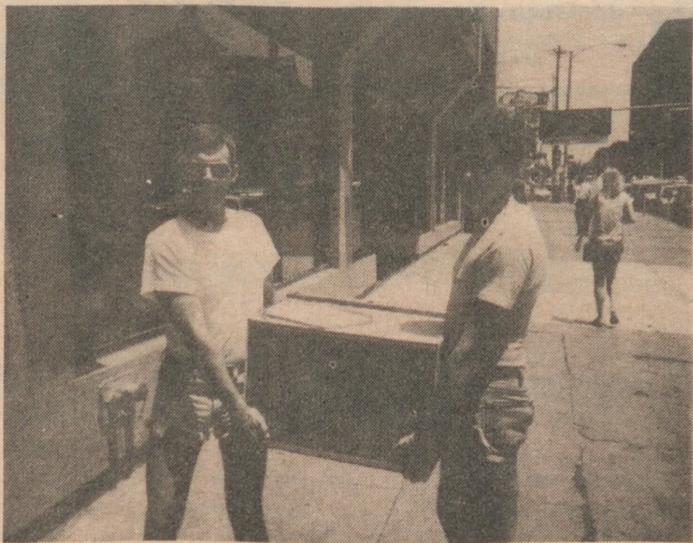
While many social agencies are willing to help the heterosexual Cuban refugees, no one has stepped forward to help our people.

The Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches believes that if one person is oppressed, all people are oppressed. This Fellowship, of which Metropolitan Community Church of Austin is a part, has determined to do something about helping the homosexual Cuban refugees. We cannot do it alone. We ask the help of the Austin gay community.

The Fellowship aims to negotiate with our government to facilitate the release and relocation of our brothers and sisters. Arrangements are being made to visit these people immediately and reassure them that the lesbian/gay community in this country cares about them.

Please help us with the negotiating, planning, and facilitating that will result in freeing our people, by contributing financially. Send your checks and money orders to Metropolitan Community Church of Austin, 614 East 6th Street, Austin, Texas 78701. These funds will be forwarded to the U.F.M.C.C. Cuban Refugee Relief Fund in Los Angeles. 65% of the funds will go for relocation expenses and 35% will go for administrative costs.

Thousands of years ago Moses cried to Pharaoh, "Let my people go!" Today we are crying out also, to the administration of this country, "Let our people go." But they must have somewhere to go. Won't you help us find them a place?



Jim Olinger

Lynn Aday (l) and Wayde Frey unload "new" G.C.S. air conditioner.



Jim Olinger

Lynn Aday and Gary Fitzsimmons installing new outer door for G.C.S. office.

WEDNESDAYS
10¢ DRAFT BEER AND
35¢ BAR DRINKS AND
CANNED BEER

THURSDAY
10 PM SHOW
STARRING
**TRAGEDY ANN
SABRINA**
AND GUEST

SUNDAY
COOK OUT
7-10 PM
35¢ BAR DRINKS
AND CANNED BEER

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BEER**
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MISS GAY USA-TEXAS JULY 6 AND 7

COMING JULY 4
4TH ANNUAL ALL GAY
PICNIC, CITY PARK
ON LAKE AUSTIN

AUSTIN
COUNTRY



Continued from page 1

hairbrushes and a letter addressed to 'Ms. Jean Berkman' and asked me, 'Are you a transvestite?' I explained about computer mailing lists."

Berkman was eventually charged with possession, not sale, of marijuana by narcotics officer Sargent Slayton. R. L. Chapman of the Vice Squad filed a warrant for seizure of the money. Berkman spent the night in jail before he was released on personal recognizance bond. In the morning, Berkman was given a styrofoam cup of "Florida orange juice," which tasted like a soft drink.

"The jailer came down the line of cells repeating 'Florida orange juice. Here's your Florida orange juice,'" Berkman relates. "He was obviously trying to get some kind of reaction out of me. I finally did what any native Californian would do. I said 'I'm from California. I want California orange juice.' The jailer replied, 'I hear when you suck a California orange, it sucks back.'"

Along with the harrassment, a clear-cut legal issue is involved, Berkman says. "The police are attacking the right of legitimate businesses to do business in cash and to maintain cash assets on the business premises. How many times have you taken marijuana to your place of work? Next time you go smoke a joint, you better bury the money in your cash register. And forget about the money in your safe."

The police rummaged through \$13,000 worth (wholesale value) of merchandise before seizing the \$7,000. "They acted like Bulls in a China shop," Berkman commented. Boxes of soap, books, hairbrushes, shoes, and dozens of other products were scattered and searched, including many products still in manufacturer's seals.

The police eventually left, taking Berkman's personal stash, The Queens, a book about transvestites, and a stack of invoices. "The cop said, 'Look at some of these titles,' when they showed my attorney the evidence they are introducing," Berkman states. These include Morals and Liberty, Why Wages Rise, Rule of Law, and Violence as a Product of Imposed Order. An invoice for bath towels, paper fans, and women's brocade slippers, is also being introduced. "I suppose that's evidence I'm a transvestite," Berkman remarked.

Berkman sees the charges he now faces, especially the civil suit to allow the police to keep the money, as "legalistic blackmail." "They seem to be acting on the principle that they have it in their possession and I won't contest their keeping it because I have something else to hide. I suspect they brought the Vice Squad in with the hope that I'd be afraid of being publicly identified as homosexual. But they can't blackmail me. I'm too proud of all my deviations."

Gene Berkman moved to Austin from California in 1977. He owns the Pacific Sunrise Trading Company, which wholesales imported products, and operates

Anarchodillo, which is a retail outlet and bookstore. The \$7,000 had been earmarked as the down payment on a building to house his expanding business. He had been in contact with several realtors concerning the acquisition of a South Austin property in the week preceding his arrest. The new location, at 1712 South Congress Avenue, is scheduled to open in September, 1980.

The preliminary hearing was set for Monday, June 23. However, the District Attorney has requested a continuance, which is a tactic usually employed by defense counsel. The hearing will be delayed until early July.

Berkman has retained the Austin law firm of Presse and Grizzard, specialists in drug laws and money seizure cases, for his defense. Libertarian publications are giving the case nationwide publicity. Friends have formed the Pacific Sunrise Defense Committee to finance his legal fees in the separate criminal and civil cases. Contributions should be sent to Pacific Sunrise Defense and Reconstruction Fund, Box 6023, Austin, Texas 78722.



Anarchodillo owner Gene Berkman.

Jim Olinger



Metropolitan Community Church

614 E. 6th ST., AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701
(512) 477-7747

SUNDAY SERVICES 12:00 NOON AND 7:30 P.M. WEDNESDAY 7:30 P.M.

REV. CANDACE A. NAISBITT
Pastor

Tuesday Bible Study: 7:30 pm

POTLUCK SUPPER SATURDAY JULY 19, 7:30 P.M.

CHURCH PROGRAMS

Sunday Worship: 12:00 noon and 7:30 pm

Wednesday Counseling: 7:30 - 9:30 pm

VICE SQUAD ACCUSED OF BEING POLITICAL TOOL

DENVER-(IGNA) - Both a gay bathhouse and a gay theater have filed suits here to try to stop police harassment of their patrons.

The Ballpark Health Club and the Spartan Theater claim they have been singled out for persecution by the vice squad. Gay activists claim the businesses have been harassed because some gay activists refused to support the re-election of Mayor William H. McNichols, Jr.

Denver District Judge Clifton Flowers ordered police to curtail checks of the health club until arguments can be heard.

Attorney Arthur M. Schwartz, representing the Spartan Theater, claims a local ordinance governing amusement rooms is both unconstitutional and inapplicable to the Spartan. A basement room there, is allegedly used for homosexual activity. Schwartz said the room is not open to the public.

The Spartan Theater got into the news last summer when former Englewood City Councilman Donald Weber was arrested there for allegedly violating a city ordinance against "fondling." He was later acquitted of the charge.

The Spartan is asking for a restraining order, plus \$300,000 in damages.



Photo by Kit Brooking

Rep. Wilhelmina Delco shares Jimmy Snell's victory jubilation.

JIMMY SNELL WINS RUNOFF

On June 7, Jimmy Snell won the runoff for the Democratic nomination for Travis County commissioner, precinct 1. Endorsed by the Austin Lesbian-Gay Political Caucus, Snell campaigned in the Austin Country and in other gay bars in town. Snell also advertised in the June issue of CONNECTIONS. ALGPC workers staffed phone banks in the Snell campaign headquarters to help get out the vote. Snell's 532-vote margin over his opponent, Irene Snyder, can be attributed to the efforts of the ALGPC campaign volunteers as well as to Snell's vigorous campaigning among black voters in East Austin.



Jim Olinger

Austin party in honor of Donald Baker, who is challenging Section 21.06, the "Anti-Sodomy" law, in court. From left: Dan Boyle, Don Baker, Janna Zumbrun, Steve Thomas, Donna Johnson, and Rev. Candace Naisbitt.

JANNA ZUMBRUN NAMED TO DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL PLATFORM COMMITTEE

Janna Zumbrun was elected to the National Platform Committee of the Democratic Party Saturday at the State Democratic Party Convention held in San Antonio June 20-21.

Zumbrun, a delegate from Travis County, immediately flew to Washington, D.C. for the convening of the committee, which began meeting Sunday morning, June 22. The 150 committee members from all parts of the country will continue meeting at least through Wednesday to write the party platform that will be presented to the National Convention in August.

Recently reappointed to the Austin Human Relations Commission, Zumbrun is also out-going co-chairperson of the Lesbian/Gay Democrats of Texas and a former co-chairperson of the Austin Lesbian/Gay Political Caucus.

For a strong voice against south Texas Nuclear Project.. Elect:

JIMMY SNELL

TRAVIS COUNTY COMMISSIONER

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P.O. Box 185, Manitou Springs, Colorado 80829

May 10, 1980

Gay Community Services
2330 Guadalupe
Austin, Texas

Punky Dears:

If you have to spread your "open" minded type propagandas, please be aware of some things.

We are far better than you are, because we face the highest emotions of living, and YOU are faggots.

And what YOU FAGS do is so nasty. You take a clean, sensitive, personal weiner and mate it with another man's shit hole! You filthy rotten abusers of sexuality!!

And besides, our bips FIT. And YOURS DON'T!

We can find the super-ultimate sexual experience and you can't, because you don't even have any right to exist and nature hasn't made any plans for you, homo.

And even if they did fit, your bips are like rocks - you can't even feel what you're doing very well. And you don't get hard enough to really do the thing, either.

And we're not going to have any of you "bisexual" or "jocker" punks on our girls, either. When you enter a woman, you're supposed to be carried away with passion. What happened to that, faggy?

We'll tell you what: You're half numb, half hard, and half head!

A damn freak that wants under another man's pants. You think we're going to let you on STRAIGHT GIRLS?

We're way over you, and we're not going to have YOU on anything we're on. Period. You just haven't got it. Take your mother, so you can claim to be "bigger" yet.

We've also heard that you like to call whole-some people like us, "sick."

But even YOU know that the only real "sickness" is your filthy, homosexually diseased self.

You have no right to get another male's pants down - you are a crime against life, de-generate.

/Page 2 - Bent Bip Services/

Anyway, your sex organs don't work as good as ours do - at all. We're so much higher than you, that your lives are worth no more than piss-ants.

And don't give us your pseudo-equality crap.

You were created EQUAL. And you're so diseased you STILL try to ebecneez on another man! That's why you've got to go.

You know something you filthy perverts, every time we turn around we get reports on perverts covertly interfering between two might-be lovers, to see if you perverts could do your filthy numbers on one of them instead of a love affair happening! (And by the way, since you just haven't got it, why don't you just claim that there's really no such thing as love, openly, so you look better?)

We know your tactics of covert fear and degradation and deceit. You scare us, but we get stronger because of it. We are just about through turning the other cheek to you hateful, clandestine aliens to happiness and joy.

You're "different," all right, and so is your brother Satan, whom God hates as we hate you.

We know it is YOU who murder our girls, and we know in our hearts that you can't possibly have anything like the souls we do, or, any soul at all.

And you're not going to be in our environment, so you can just get THAT crazy idea out of your heads.

And one thing cannot be shunned: YOU are the l o s e r s.

We have to tell you that you cannot continue to put out your poisonous propaganda and expect it to go unnoticed by people who just won't let you slip by.

We know that you secretly long for the peace of oblivion, and no one wants to sit down somewhere and hear you homos spit out the dribble that you spread, so until we come for you, you will do well to help us out by refraining from your idiotic propaganda.

And keep your hands off straight girls, because you could get your heads blowed off, if you don't.

Yours for freedom from homosexuals,
EUTHANASIA FOR PERVERTS CAMPAIGN OFFICE
(signed) Michael
Michael Johnson, executive secretary
MJ/dml
no enclosures

Headquarters, Yes on Euthanasia for Sexual
Perverts, P.O. Box 185, Manitou Springs,
Colorado 80829

James Farmer, the longtime civil rights activist, said at a news conference on the afternoon of the "Washington for Jesus" rally of right-wing fundamentalists in Washington April 28-29, 1980, that "if God looked down on [the Mall] today, He probably would say, Thank God, I'm not a Christian."

The organizers of "Washington for Jesus" did drum up a sizeable crowd. An estimated 200,000 showed up, according to U.S. Park Police. That was some 25,000 more than turned out last October to see the Pope give



CHRISTOPHER BROWN PICTURE GROUP

THE LEADERS ISSUED A
"CHRISTIAN DECLARATION"
DENOUNCING HOMOSEXUALITY.

Mass, but all the same well below the one million promised by "One Nation Under God," the collection of video preachers, tent-show revivalists and squeaky-clean entertainment figures who put the show together.

They sang and they prayed, come rain or come shine - mostly come rain. The red, white and blue bunting that festooned the bandstand from which the preachers held forth was streaked and stained from two days' drizzle, but the crowd remained in high spirits nonetheless. In fact, a picnic atmosphere prevailed, as the Faithful from all over sat in folding chairs and knelt in prayer on muddy blankets.

They heard one preacher after another all day long, and the notion of American Paradise Lost got big play. According to the Reverend Bill Bright who heads Campus Crusade International, America "is disintegrating because we have turned from the faith of our fathers." But others insisted that there's still hope. "In time of crisis in our land, to come and say, God of our fathers, you will save us - that is why we are here," said the Reverend Pat Robertson who, as host of the Christian Broadcasting Network's "700 Club," doubles as the Johnny Carson of the Hookworm Belt.

There was at least a trickle of politics on tap. Most of the preachers railed against abortion, homosexuality and "permissiveness" in general, and the Rev. Bright even took on Communism and the sad state of America's defenses.

Specialists in the field say Robertson and his ilk reach some 100 million Americans each week on 36 wholly religious television channels, 1,300 radio stations and dozens of gospel television shows that buy time on commercial TV. Their entire constituency nationwide may consist of more than 50 million "born again" Christians, mostly Protestants, plus 30 million "morally conservative" Roman Catholics and a few million Mormons and Jews. That's "enough votes to run the country," Robertson told U.S. News and World Report. "And when the people say, 'We've had enough,' we are going to take over."

Washington lesbian and gay groups and assorted liberals had been bracing for the arrival of the Twice Born since planning began months ago. Back then the rally was to have been explicitly political, with Christian Voice - a Pasadena-based political lobby that re-

cently issued a Congressional report card rating elected officials on "moral issues" - consulting in the preparations.

Senators Jesse Helms of North Carolina and John Warner of Virginia were active, too. The rally would feature sympathetic politicians who would be asked to address the throng. Original preparations also called for the platform from which the sermons were broadcast to have seats for every Member of Congress, with their names emblazoned on them. That way, one Washington-based Christian activist told me, the preachers could acknowledge the politicoes who showed up and "zero in on the empty chairs."

In January, the leaders went so far as to issue a "Christian Declaration" that denounced abortion, homosexuality and excessive government spending. Oregon Senator Mark Hatfield, a "born again" Christian but a liberal, was especially outraged. He met with the leaders to express his misgivings. A source close to the planning says it was made clear at the meeting that if the right-wingers did not back off, the tax-exempt status of "One Nation Under God" would receive very close attention indeed.

At that point, the leaders "did a 180-degree turn," announcing that there would be no political speeches and no politicians would be allowed to address the crowd. Even so, the rally was attended by Senators

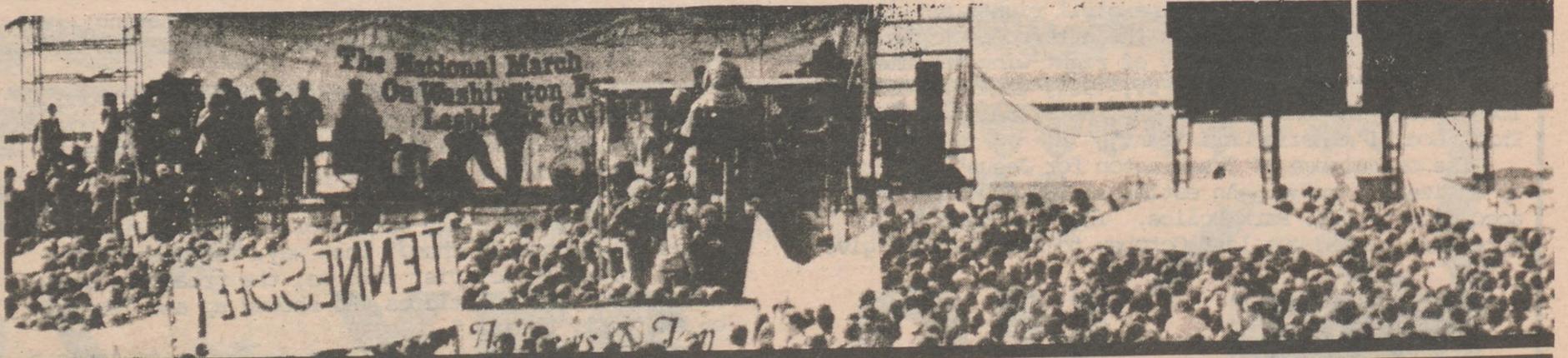


Helms and Orrin Hatch (a Utah Mormon) and several congressmen. Pat Boone, who had come to croon at the stadium songfest, put in an appearance at a New Right fundraiser.

At the rally itself, however, much care was taken to make sure the speakers didn't get too political - with a fair amount of success.

by Alan Crawford
from THE LIBERTARIAN REVIEW

Backward Christian Soldiers



"GAY POWER-GAY POLITICS"

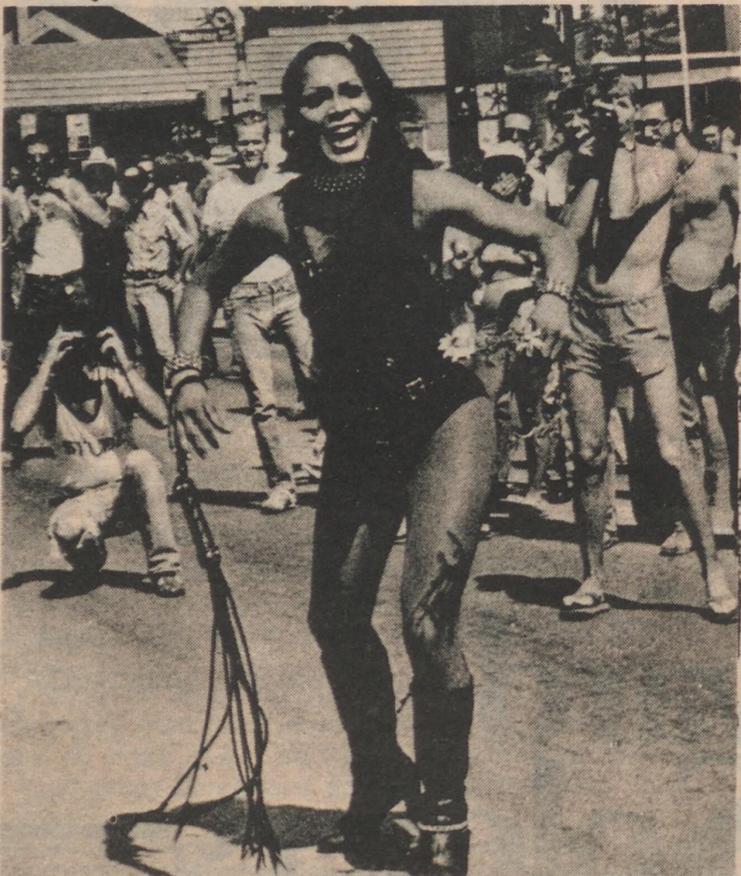
TRANSCRIPT OF GAY POWER, GAY POLITICS

CBS (Commentator Harry Reasoner): "According to Kinsey one out of every 10 of us is homosexual. It used to be that it was something to hide. But last October the homosexuals of this country publically proclaimed themselves to be the newest legitimate minority. They did it just like all the others before them - with a march on Washington..."

Lesbian Speaker at Washington March: "You know us, America. We are some your best friends. We're some of your best relatives. Your sisters. Your brothers. Your mothers. Your fathers. Your daughters. And your sons. In the eighties we are moving from gay pride to gay politics..."

CBS: "For someone of my generation it sounds a bit preposterous. Political power for homosexuals? But those predictions are already coming true. In this report we'll see how the gays of San Francisco are using the political process to further their own special interests - gay power, gay politics. That's what this report is about. It's not a report about lifestyles or the average gay experience. What we'll see is the birth of a political movement..."

"The assassinations of San Francisco Mayor Moscone and Harvey Milk, the openly gay member of the city's board of Supervisors, on November 27, 1978, are considered by many to be a political turning point in San Francisco gay politics. Diane Feinstein, then the president of the Board of Supervisors said, 'As president of the Board of Supervisors it is my duty to



make this announcement: Both Mayor Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk have been shot and killed. The suspect is Supervisor Dan White."

CBS: "And so Diane Feinstein became the new mayor and San Francisco was about to become a dangerously divided city."

THE DOCUMENTARY CONTINUED TO FOLLOW THE MAYORAL RACE, EMPHASIZING THAT FEINSTEIN QUICKLY LEARNED THAT SHE WAS DEALING WITH AN IMPORTANT SEGMENT OF THE VOTING POPULATION BY VIRTUE OF NUMBERS AND THEREFORE CLOUT. SHE BEGAN TO ATTEND GAY FUNCTIONS SUCH AS THE POPULAR BEAUX ARTS BALL. CBS EMPHASIZED THE STRENGTH OF THE GAY COMMUNITY PRIMARILY THROUGH ITS VOTING POWER ALONE AND NOT THROUGH AN UNDERSTANDING OR CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS,

CBS: "There's a consequence to the homosexual lifestyle here. Traditional values are under attack. The estimates of gays in San Francisco range from 75,000 to 175,000. From 12% of the city to 25%. A Kinsey report on San Francisco's gay colony was just completed. According to its findings the average gay man here has had sexual encounters with at least 500 different men. 28% with more than 1000. Most San Franciscans have come to accept the open cruising on Castro Street. It's not unlike the singles scene in the straight world. A place where boy meets boy in the light of day. But this is just the tip of the iceberg. When you take the next step you find yourself in places with no counterpart in the straight world.

For instance, should public parks be used for sex? Today it's (Buena Vista Park) one of the pieces of territory claimed by the gay community. When we came here with our camera crew a group of gay men surrounded us and forced us to leave. A week later we came back without our crew but with a home movie camera. This is what we found: From sun up to sun down, men everywhere. Hundreds of them come into this park each day for public sex."

Child interviewed by CBS: "We went up there and we saw a stalker and another man which was with him said if we told anyone he'd beat us up."

CBS: "For the gay men of San Francisco, cruising in Buena Vista Park is done without shame...The men don't exchange names. They barely even talk as they follow each other into the bushes for sex."

ANOTHER INVESTIGATION WAS OF S&M ACTIVITIES:

CBS: "We were told about an institution in this city where people are involved in S&M activity in which they are so dangerous that they have a gynecological table there with a doctor and nurse on hand to sew people up."

City Coroner: "Yes, I've heard of those places. Why are they allowed to flourish? Currently there is no law against it."

CBS: "And, you as the coroner, when you go to the city's politicians or the police force and tell them that you are seeing something which is growing and may be very dangerous, what sort of response do you get?"

Coroner: "From the police department we get great response. The police department and my office work together very closely. From the city we get no response."

CBS CONTINUED WITH EXPLANATIONS OF THE PROCESS BY WHICH DIANNE FEINSTEIN GAINED THE MAJORITY OF THE GAY VOTE. BASICALLY THE DOCUMENTARY INDICATED THAT INCREASINGLY SHE BECAME AWARE OF THE NEED TO COURT THE GAY VOTERS OF SAN FRANCISCO AND THAT TO WIN THEIR SUPPORT SHE WOULD HAVE TO SUPPORT THEIR LIFESTYLES.

CBS: "What if Mayor Feinstein had gone through the campaign making the same kinds of comments she did to the Ladies Home Journal (i.e. that gays should observe community standards and not impose their lifestyle on others). What would have happened to her in terms of the gay vote?"

Gay spokesperson: "She would not have had it."

Mayor Feinstein (to the gay community): "I don't come to you as a perfect person that knows all of the answers, and that doesn't make mistakes, but I do come to you as a someone who has a heart and a concern and a very deep interest and desire to represent this community. And maybe at times I have been insensitive. It wasn't because of any calculated reason. If I've said things that the community has found offensive, or doesn't understand, I apologize for that."

Question from audience: "What I want to know is what changed your mind from June when you didn't think you needed us to three weeks before the election when you thought you needed us."

CBS: "She didn't answer this question to anyone's satisfaction. But it didn't matter. Everyone here knew



that the mayor had just apologized. And it wasn't just an apology. She offered them a gay police commissioner. And political appointments in proportion to their political numbers in the city. In short, she had given them all they had asked for."

CBS: "It may be that San Francisco is unique. That it couldn't happen anywhere else. But if Kinsey is right, upwards of 20 million Americans are homosexual. And, as we saw at that march in Washington last October, gay political organizations are acting all across the country. The right of homosexuals to organize like any other minority seeking to further its own interests is no longer in question. The question is what will those interests be? Will they include a demand for absolute sexual freedom as they did in San Francisco? And if so, will this challenge to traditional values provoke far more hostility and controversy when it is put to the test elsewhere? It is no longer a matter of whether homosexuals will achieve political power, but what will they attempt to do with it. I'm Harry Reasoner. Goodnight."

SAN FRANCISCO PREPARES COMPLAINT

New York City (NGTF) The National Gay Task Force, with the cooperation of the leadership of the San Francisco gay community, Supervisor Harry Britt and Mayor Dianne Feinstein, is preparing a National News Council complaint regarding the recent CBS News Special "Gay Power, Gay Politics."

NGTF Co-Directors Charles F. Brydon and Lucia L. Valeska said: "We believe that CBS News in its program 'Gay Power, Gay Politics,' failed to meet reasonable standards of accuracy or fairness for broadcast journalism. CBS went beyond the bounds of legitimate robust journalism into the realm of misrepresentation, distortion and sensationalism. The program reflects inadequate and shoddy research and was edited in such a fashion as to negatively manipulate the viewing public's attitude toward the gay rights movement. This manipulation occurred through the omission of vital facts fundamental to an understanding of the events portrayed.

"We condemn this style of journalism and its consequences - damage to the cause of civil rights and human dignity for the nation's lesbian and gay citizens and a further erosion of public confidence in the media's ability to accurately and fairly report the truth."



Photo by Robert Puzan

Mayor
Dianne Feinstein

TEATRO ALEGRE TO APPEAR AT GASLIGHT THEATRE

Teatro Alegre (Gay Theatre) has been delighting Austin audiences with "Jotos" ("Queers", reviewed in May, 1980 CONNECTIONS) for the past two months. Now this talented Latino lesbian/gay theatre group is rehearsing for "El Osito Bailarin" ("The Dancing Bear.") It will be presented for six afternoons in July at the Gaslight Theatre, 214 West 4th.

Author Hektor Munoz describes "El Osito Bailarin" as "a children's play which is also for adults. It's something like 'the three bears go disco,' only different." It's about Teddy Bear, who wants to be a disco dancer but who must struggle with society's prejudices and a big, bad wolf.

Teddy Bear will be played by Hektor Munoz. Pancha, the Disco Queen (Pamela Leighton) accompanies him in his adventure. Cliff Manuel plays Mr. M., the wolf, and Diana Soliz is the Fairy ("no pun intended").

"El Osito Bailarin" is Teatro Alegre's second production and it promises to be every bit as entertaining as "Jotos." The bilingual production will play at 3:15 pm on Friday, July 11, 18, 25 and at 11:00 am on Saturday, July 12, 19, 26. Part of the proceeds will be donated to G.C.S. Don't miss it.

TEXAS MONTHLY FINALLY

ACKNOWLEDGES GAYS EXIST

After eight years of publishing, TEXAS MONTHLY has printed its first feature article on lesbians and gays in its June 1980 issue.

Written by Michael Ennis and titled "What Do These Rugged Texas He-Men Have in Common?", the article describes gay life in Dallas and Houston, but skips Austin, San Antonio, and other Texas cities.

Ennis concludes his article by saying that the merger of the gay subculture and the straight mainstream is already an accomplished fact. The real challenge for society, TEXAS MONTHLY says, is not the restriction or isolation of gay culture but the assimilation of it.

Hear, hear!



The GASLIGHT THEATER presents.....

TEATRO ALEGRE



EL OSITO BAÍLARIN
(the dancing bear) ★

BY HÉKTOR MUÑOZ

JULY 11-26, 1980

MATINEES
FRIDAYS at 3:15 pm
SATURDAYS at 11 am

CONNECTIONS CALENDAR JULY, 1980

- Wed July 2 8pm, Gay Community Services coordinators meeting, University Y office
- Thu July 3 7:30pm, first meeting of Austin Parents and Friends of Gays at Metropolitan Community Church of Austin
8pm, Austin Lambda Cultural independence celebration
10pm, Showtime at Austin Country with Donna Day
- Fri July 4 12 noon, Annual 4th of July gay picnic, City Park, Lake Austin
- Sun July 6 3pm, Austin Lambda Cultural hike for women
9pm, Miss USA-Texas contest at the Austin Country
- Tue July 8 8pm, Austin Lambda Cultural support group for bisexual women
- Thu July 10 10pm, Showtime at Austin Country with Monique and Candy Love
- Fri July 11 3:15pm, Teatro Alegre (Gay Theatre) presents "El Osito Bailarin" (The Dancing Bear) at the Gaslight Theatre, 214 West 4th. Bilingual, for children, the 3 bears go disco.
- Sat July 12 10am-1pm, Austin Lambda Cultural speakers bureau training
11am, Teatro Alegre presents "El Osito Bailarin" at the Gaslight Theatre
6pm, Austin Lambda AA covered dish supper
8pm, Austin Lambda Cultural lesbian dance
- Mon July 14 10pm-2am, free sexually transmitted disease (STD) screening by Gay Nurses' Alliance of Austin (GNAA) and Austin-Travis County Health Department (A-TCHD) at the New Apartment Lounge
- Wed July 16 7pm, Austin Lambda Cultural lesbian potluck supper
8pm, Gay Community Services general business meeting, University Y office
- Thu July 17 10pm, Showtime at Austin Country with Angela Aaron
- Fri July 18 3:15 pm, Teatro Alegre presents "El Osito Bailarin" (See Fri July 11)
12 midnight, Gay Nurses' Alliance of Austin meeting. Call 453-0816 for location.
- Sat July 19 11am, Teatro Alegre presents "El Osito Bailarin" (See Fri July 11)
7:30pm, MCCA potluck supper
8:30pm, Austin Lambda Cultural reshewing of slides of Judy Chicago's "Dinner Party"
- Sun July 20 8pm, Ruth and Gail benefit concert for Austin Lambda Cultural at Liberty Lunch. \$2.50
- Tue July 22 7:30pm, ALGPC meeting, Austin Lambda Cultural
- Thu July 24 10pm, Showtime at Austin Country with Vonda Delaine and Dione Martell
- Fri July 25 3:15pm, Teatro Alegre presents "El Osito Bailarin" (See Fri July 11)
- Sat July 26 11am, Teatro Alegre presents "El Osito Bailarin" (See Fri July 11)
10pm-3am, free STD screening by GNAA and A-TCHD at the Club Baths
- Sun July 27 3pm, Austin Lambda Cultural men's potluck supper, Woods Park, 9th Street east of Lamar
- Thu July 31 Conference on sexual assault begins at UT
10pm, Showtime at Austin Country with Lee Shannon

WEEKLY EVENTS IN JULY '80

- Sunday 12 noon and 7:30pm, worship services at Metropolitan Community Church of Austin
1pm, liturgical services, Holy Trinity Church of Austin
3pm, Austin Lambda AA Twelve Traditions Study
4pm, Volleyball, Waterloo Park (Red River between 11th and 15th streets)
8pm, Dignity liturgy. Call 477-6699 for location.
8pm, Austin Lambda AA Sex and Sobriety Study
- Monday 8pm, Austin Lambda AA Monday group
8-10pm, Austin Lambda Cultural gay men's awareness group. \$1 donation asked from non-sponsors
- Tuesday 7:30pm, Bible study, MCCA
8pm, Austin Lambda AA Big Book study
- Wednesday 7:30pm, Austin Lambda AA Women Together Group
7:30-9:30pm, Counseling, MCCA
8:30pm, Austin Lambda AA Big Book Stories Study
- Thursday 8-10pm, Austin Lambda Cultural lesbian awareness group. \$1 donation asked from non-sponsors
8pm, Austin Lambda AA steps study group
- Friday 8pm, CCAA bowling, Brunswick Capitol Bowling Center, 5700 Grover
8pm, Austin Lambda AA open discussion
- Saturday 8pm, Austin Lambda AA meeting open to all gays

AUSTIN ORGANIZATIONS

- Austin Lambda AA Center 1403 East Sixth
6:30 - 10:30pm nightly 472-0336
- Austin Lambda Cultural Center 603 West Twelfth
7 - 10pm nightly 478-8653
- Austin Lesbian Gay Political Caucus P.O. Box 822
Austin, Texas 78767
- Gay Community Services 2330 Guadalupe
6 - 10pm nightly 477-6699
- Gay Law Students 2501 Oldham #207
. 478-4595
- Gay Nurses Alliance of Austin . 1010-B Romeria Drive
Austin, Texas 78757 453-0816
- Holy Trinity Church of Austin . .1606 South Congress
. 447-7359
- Metropolitan Community Church of Austin .614 East 6th
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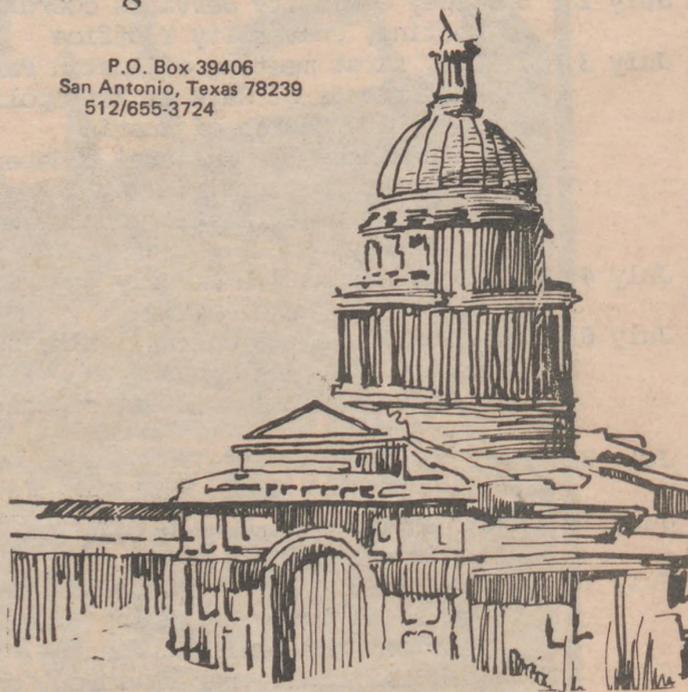
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