

CONNECTIONS

JUNE 1980

AUSTIN TEXAS

VOL.2 NO.6



Breakfast Festival for Human Rights, May 7, 1978,
Town Lake Park, Austin

Alan Poque

GAY PRIDE WEEK FOR AUSTIN

A parade and rally, a "town meeting" and numerous cultural events are in store for Austin as the city's lesbian/gay community gears up for the eleventh national "Gay Pride Week." This event celebrates the Stonewall Resistance of 1969, which was the beginning of the lesbian/gay community's emergence as a political and social force in the United States.

This year's celebration will begin on Sunday, June 22 with Austin's first lesbian and gay "town meeting." The meeting will offer a grass-roots discussion of lesbian/gay issues in Austin. Representatives from various organizations will be on hand for a question and answer session.

The Lesbian/Gay Pride Parade will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 28. Marchers will gather at the fire tower on Town Lake, at East First and Colorado, beside the Sheraton-Crest Inn. They will proceed up Congress Avenue until they reach the Capitol. They will turn east at Eleventh Street and march to Wooldridge Park at Tenth and Guadalupe.

The rally will begin at 12 noon at Wooldridge Park. Teatro Alegre will perform excerpts from "Jotos" and various other Austin entertainers will perform. Prominent lesbian/gay social and political leaders will be guest speakers. Alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks will be available. Feminist, lesbian, and gay businesses will display their wares.

Austin Lambda Cultural Center will present workshops, poetry readings, and various other lesbian/gay cultural activities throughout the week.

This year's Austin Lesbian/Gay Pride Week will be both eventful and entertaining. Don't go to Houston or Dallas. Stay right here and give our community's straight population a good dose of lesbian/gay pride. Nowhere else but Austin!

Anyone who is interested in working on one of the planned events or in coordinating one of their own may contact the Gay Pride Week Planning Committee through Gay Community Services at 477-6699 between 6:00 and 10:00 p.m.

kut-fm cancels different drummer

Austin's gay radio program, *A Different Drummer*, has been cancelled by KUT-FM station manager William Giorda. The program, produced by Carr Strong and the Austin Gay Radio Collective, ended May 25, after only thirteen shows. This cancellation comes in spite of a warm reception of the program in both the gay and straight communities of Austin.

Manager Giorda said, "This series, over the past 3 (sic) months, has provided a service of interest to one of the numerous segments of the community. Regrettably, air time that is available for these sorts of special interest programs is finite; and, as a consequence, it needs to be shared as equitably as possible amongst other segments of the community."

(continued on page 3)

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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Gay Community Services Coordinating Council

Membership Lynn Aday
Office Rob Gips
Speakers Bureau Troy Stokes
Publications Jim Olinger
Univ. Y Liaison Gary Fitzsimmons

GAY POWER, GAY PRIDE

Sunday, May 25, A Different Drummer made its last broadcast. The program was canceled because lesbians and gays are "a special interest group" which has gotten all the attention we deserve. There is only one lesbian/gay radio program left in Texas. Significantly, the manager of the station which broadcasts it is gay.

April 26, CBS Television broadcast "Gay Power, Gay Politics," which purported to be a documentary. It depicted gay men as satanic creatures out to destroy "the wholesome American nuclear family" and ignored lesbians. The fear this program has engendered among straights has already been used against us at the Travis County Democratic Convention (see page 11).

My way of screaming "I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to take it anymore" is publishing this newspaper. This month, I'm going to do some other screaming: at KUT-FM, at CBS Television News, at the Austin CBS affiliate, KTBC, and probably at the Federal Communications Commission.

Please join me. Write a letter to KUT-FM and tell them that thirteen shows aren't enough to correct centuries of fear and superstition. Write CBS-TV News and tell them you won't tolerate irresponsible, biased journalism any longer. Write the FCC and tell them you don't like seeing your airwaves polluted by slander.

The FCC has finally recognized lesbians and gays as a "legitimate minority group" which broadcasters must consider in their programming. Write your local station and tell them you want programming on homosexuality which isn't poisoned by fear and superstition.

We have gotten this far by working together. But we can lose everything we've gained very quickly. We must support and protect all our lesbian/gay media and all our gay brothers and sisters. If we don't hang together, we will surely hang separately. Please help us show what gay power and gay pride really are.

Jim Olinger

Addresses

Federal Communications Commission
Complaints and Compliance Division
Washington, D.C. 20036
KTBC-TV
P.O. Box 2223
Austin, Texas 78768
Station Manager
KUT-FM Radio
Communications Building B
University of Texas at Austin
Austin, Texas 78712
CBS Television News
524 West 57th
New York, New York
10019

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
. 447-7747

Advertisement for Gay Community Services Hotline featuring the word 'Questions?' surrounded by question marks and the phone number 477-6699.

DIGNITY CONVENTION IN AUSTIN

Dignity/Austin will host the Dignity Region VII Convention June 6, 7, and 8 at the Castilian, 2323 San Antonio. Dignity members from Houston, San Antonio, Dallas, Fort Worth, Lubbock, and El Paso are expected to attend.

Tom Oddo, CSC, a pioneer in the gay Catholic movement in the United States, will be a featured speaker and guest homilist. Mike Caudry, SJ, formerly of the University of Washington, will also be a featured speaker.

The theme of the convention is The Homosexual Christian: Past, Present, and Future. Dignity/Austin plans the weekend as an educational experience as well as an opportunity to promote fellowship among gay Christians. Of course, it will also be a lot of fun.

Father Thomas Oddo, Congregation of the Holy Cross (CSC), is a national figure in ministry to gay Catholics. He is a Holy Cross priest and is currently assistant professor of religious studies at Stonehill College outside of Boston. He has a Ph.D. in theology from Harvard University.

Father Oddo has been active in gay ministry for nine years. He served for four years as Secretary to Dignity, Inc. and continues to serve as Chaplain to Dignity/Boston and columnist for the Dignity, Inc. Newsletter.

He will give a workshop on being gay and dealing with one's sexuality in today's society and Church. He will also speak on the future of gay Christians in his homily during the convention's liturgy.

Further information about the convention can be obtained by calling 477-6699 or by writing P.O. Box 7471, Austin, Texas 78712.

GAY COMMUNITY SERVICES HOLDS COUNSELLING WORKSHOP

On May 3, 1980, Gay Community Services of Austin sponsored a telephone counselling and interpersonal communications workshop. Fifteen volunteers from GCS and Metropolitan Community Church of Austin attended. The workshop was led by Michael Menefee and Rich Kline, two psychologists associated with the University of Texas at Austin.

The workshop consisted of brief lectures and discussion sessions, as well as role-playing exercises intended to help teach the participants how to communicate more effectively with telephone clients, such as those GCS and MCCA encounter.

Another workshop is being planned for early summer. Any interested individual is welcome to attend, but the number of participants is limited. For more information, call Gay Community Services at 477-6699 between 6:00 and 10:00 p.m.

GCS PHONE COUNSELORS NEEDED

by Rob Gips

Gay Community Services currently needs volunteer counselors. Duties include telephone and drop-in peer counseling, as well as making referrals to various Austin service organizations, businesses and professionals.

We need mature, service oriented, individuals to work from 6:00 to 10:00 PM one night per week. You'll be performing a valuable service for Austin. Peer counseling is a lot of fun, too!

Interested lesbians and gay men should telephone the GCS office at 477-6699 any evening between 6:00 and 10:00 PM for more information.

(continued from page 1) Gary Reese (left) and Gary Fitzsimmons sign off final Different Drummer.



Program producer Strong was shocked by the news that A Different Drummer had been cancelled. "The news came very suddenly to us, after we had already planned out and started production on June's programs. I was not officially notified until over a week after the program had been cancelled." The program is being replaced with SoundSight, four hours of programs for the blind on Sunday morning. A two-hour time slot had opened up on Sunday evenings and Strong had hoped A Different Drummer might get a half-hour. Giorda refused.

The KUT-FM programming department also offered A Different Drummer a prime time 7:30 Friday night slot, and the 3:00 Wednesday afternoon space usually devoted to minority programming. Both time slots are currently running "filler." KUT-FM is seeking regular programs for them. Giorda has flatly refused to consider A Different Drummer for either space.

Strong responded, "When the positive audience response and the gay community's reactions are con-

sidered, the program must be termed a success. The only reasons I can see for its cancellation are political - there may have been pressure from the University of Texas administration. We did get some pressure during the early days of the series, but I thought it had abated. Another possible reason is the fear the program created among the possibly gay high-level management of the Communication Center."

Strong also said, "It seems strange to me that Giorda would consider three months of half-hour programs as being an 'equitable share' of air time for gays. The blind will have four hours per week, and eventually a full-time reading service on KUT's SCA sub-channel. The Blacks have three hours every weeknight. Women have an hour weekly. We are asking for a very small amount of time in comparison."

The Gay Radio Collective will now try to start the series up on another Austin radio station.

Gay Nurses' Alliance



GNA NEWS

The Gay Nurses' Alliance of Austin held its third meeting on April 28, 1980. We welcomed two more female nurses into membership. The Alliance membership now stands at 17.

The STD program reported that as of April 28, they had obtained 392 blood samples for syphilis screening and 155 cultures for gonorrhea screening. Results from 133 syphilis tests have been returned so far. Ten new, untreated, contagious cases of syphilis were found. That's 7.5% of the individuals tested. The majority of these ten new cases came from the bookstores and baths. We are contemplating increasing the frequency of the STD clinics. A stationary clinic is also under consideration. (See survey).

The Third National Lesbian and Gay Health Conference will be held in San Francisco, June 18-22 at the San Francisco State University. Registration fee is \$45.00 for a working professional and \$10.00 for students. Continuing Educational Units will be available for nurses and possibly for physicians. Please add \$15.00 to the registration fee for CEU credits. Registration forms are available through the Gay Nurses' Alliance of Austin, 1010B Romeria Dr., Austin 78757, phone 453-0816.

The Alliance has decided to conduct Voter Registration Drives during the STD clinics. No candidates have been endorsed at the present time. We will focus on getting individuals registered to vote.

The Gay Nurses' Alliance of Austin does not limit its membership solely to nurses. Individuals who are involved in health care and are concerned about gay health care issues are welcomed to join us. We invite your suggestions, criticism, complaints and/or compliments.

GNA SURVEY

The Gay Nurses' Alliance of Austin is seeking your input on issues which directly concern your health. Gay Community Services of Austin has offered a room at the University Y (2330 Guadalupe) where GNA can conduct a stationary sexually transmitted disease (STD) clinic to screen for syphilis and gonorrhea.

GNA wishes to thank GCS for the beautiful invitation and for their concern about gay health issues. If GNA establishes a stationary STD clinic, it would replace the STD clinics now being held at various gay establishments.

Since this issue directly affects you, we want your opinions. PLEASE complete the questionnaire below and return it to GNA at your earliest convenience. It is very important that we know your feelings.

Thank you for your time and cooperation.

In Gay Pride,
The Gay Nurses' Alliance of Austin

(questionnaire)

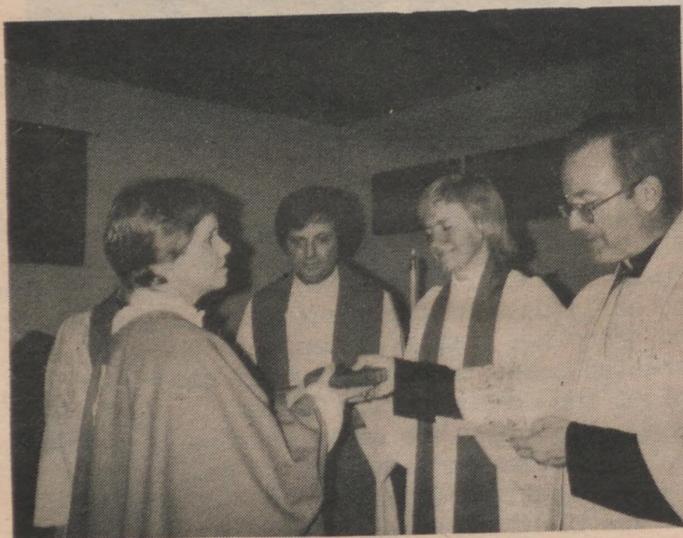
- 1) I feel that a stationary STD clinic at 2330 Guadalupe would better suit my needs and/or the needs of the community. I understand that the STD clinics currently conducted at various gay establishments would stop.
- 2) I feel that you should continue to hold the STD clinics at the various gay establishments, as this would better suit my needs and/or the needs of the community.

(CIRCLE ONE)

Yes No I would like to see the establishment of a "gay clinic" which would deal specifically with gay health care. (The name and location of such a clinic would not necessarily be the above.)

Please return your questionnaire to GNA, 1010B Romeria Drive, Austin, Texas 78757. Thank you.

REVEREND NAISBITT ORDAINED



Ordination Service for M.C.C. Austin pastor Rev. Candace A. Naisbitt, May 25 at M.C.C.A. From left: Rev. Naisbitt, Rev. Don Eastman - Dallas, Rev. Elder Freda Smith - former pastor of the first church where Rev. Naisbitt was Exhorter, Rev. Chuck Larson - Houston. Rev. Naisbitt is the new M.C.C. South Central District Co-ordinator.



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

Tuesday, June 10:

Board of Directors Meeting - 7:30pm

Saturday, June 21:

Pot Luck Supper and Awards
Dinner - 7:30 pm

CHURCH PROGRAMS

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

Wednesday Counseling: 7:30 - 9:30 pm

SYPHILIS / GONORRHEA

SYPHILIS / GONORRHEA

by Gerry Tarr

One of life's great joys is the thrill and excitement of sexuality. Since the beginning of time, individuals have indulged themselves in erotic ecstasy. But, as with most things, there are drawbacks.

Syphilis and gonorrhea are spread by sexual contact. In Texas, over the past two years, infectious syphilis increased 36% among women and men 20-24 years old. It increased 18% for those 15-19 years of age. Over the past four years, gonorrhea increased 23% in the 15-19 age group and 24% in the 20-24 age group. Significant increases in both syphilis and gonorrhea have been seen in the age group 25 and over.

With syphilis, if any symptoms appear at all, the first stage symptoms will generally begin 10-90 days (average 21 days) after exposure. A painless lesion (sore) appears on the genitals, mouth, rectum, vagina, or any other site exposed to the germs. This lesion may last several days or weeks. It will gradually disappear without treatment.

Within a few days, or even up to 10 weeks after the first lesion disappears, a body rash, whitish patches in the mouth, swollen joints, flu-like illness, and/or loss of hair may occur. Any of these symptoms will last several weeks and then disappear without treatment.

In the last stage of syphilis, if untreated, these complications may occur 5, 10, 15, even 20 years after

infection: brain and organ damage, insanity, paralysis, heart disease, death.

The symptoms of gonorrhea usually appear 2-6 days after contact with an infected individual. They may be so mild that they go unnoticed or they may not appear at all. Men may have a burning pain when urinating and a discharge of whitish pus from the penis. Some men with the disease have no apparent symptoms. There are usually no symptoms of gonorrhea in women. For both sexes, there may be no symptoms or a mild to severe sore throat, fever and chills, if the infection is oral. An anal infection may have either no symptoms, or a discharge, intense rectal irritation, a feeling of an incomplete bowel movement, and burning during defecation or intercourse.

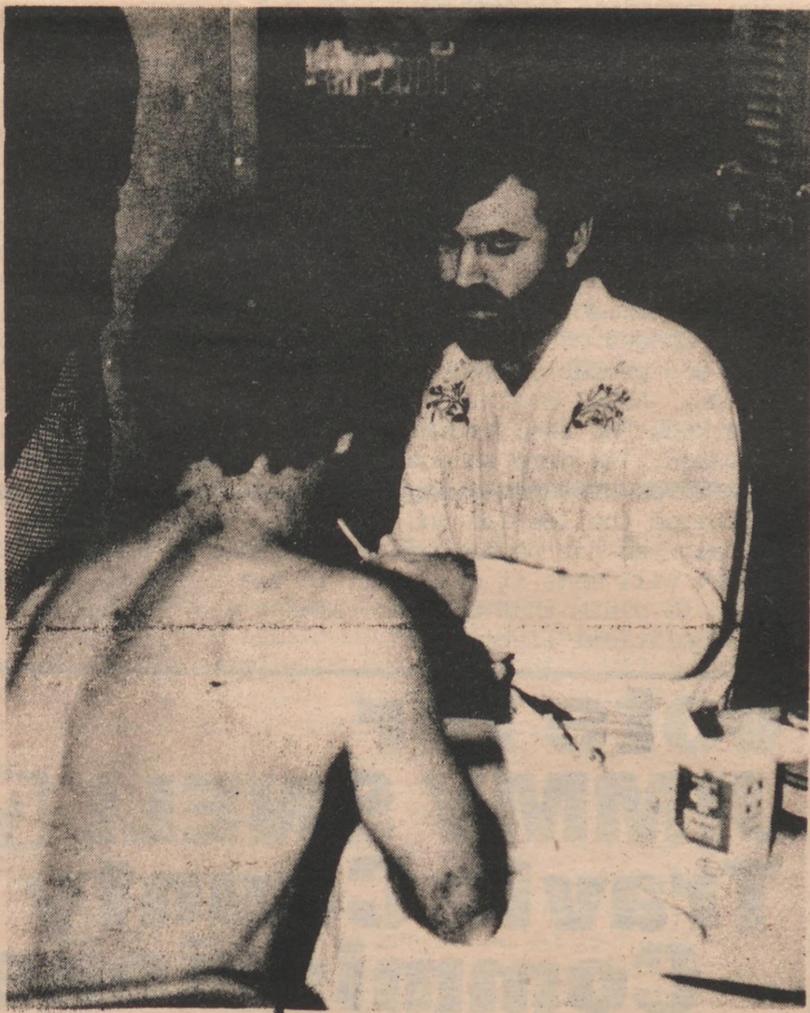
If untreated, Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID) is the most common and dangerous complication of gonorrhea in women.

Every case of syphilis and/or gonorrhea requires immediate examination and treatment of all sexual partners in order to prevent serious complications and the possibility of further spread.

By state law, all cases are confidential. Minors may request their own examination and treatment without fear of parents or guardians finding out.

Remember, only you can protect your health and that of those you care about! For further assistance, call your physician, local health department, the Gay Nurses' Alliance of Austin, or the National Hotline, (toll free) 1-800-523-1885.

Protect yourself and others!



Syphilis screening at Club Dallas baths. STD clinics are appearing all over the country.

Roy Hall/METRO STAR

Human Rights Advocates

P.O. Box 39406
San Antonio, Texas 78239
512/655-3724



YES! I believe in a professional approach to legislative advocacy for gay civil rights in Texas.

PLEASE INCLUDE MY NAME ON THE LEGISLATIVE ALERT LIST.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

ALGPC

ALGPC ENDORSES JIMMY SNELL

"Jimmy Snell has been the kind of friend we need to keep in public office," says Co-Chair Scotty Scott, as the Austin Lesbian/Gay Political Caucus announced endorsement of Jimmy Snell in his run-off election for Travis County Commissioner of Precinct 1 on June 7. In the May 3 Primary, Snell and his opponent, Irene Snyder, ran neck and neck, with each garnering 44% of the vote. A third candidate, Hylon Adams, forced the run-off by receiving 12% of the vote.

The endorsement was issued after ALGPC officers interviewed both candidates. It was based on Snell's proven record of support of gay rights. Snell is currently serving his third term on the Austin City Council. Shortly after his first election in 1975, Snell supported the enactment of Austin's Equal Employment Opportunities Ordinance, a progressive measure which extended civil rights to lesbians and gay men. In early 1976, Snell worked for the Public Accommodations Ordinance which also prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation. In mid-1977, the Council considered a powerful, comprehensive Fair Housing Ordinance. In the wake of Anita Bryant and Dade County, the sexual orientation provision of the ordinance became the central issue of debate. Subsequently, the McClellan majority deleted the protection of gays and enacted a weakened, impotent version of the ordinance. Throughout the several-months-long battle, Snell consistently worked for the inclusion of gays. He, along with Councilmembers Goodman and Trevino, voted against the McClellan housing ordinance, declaring it a civil rights farce.

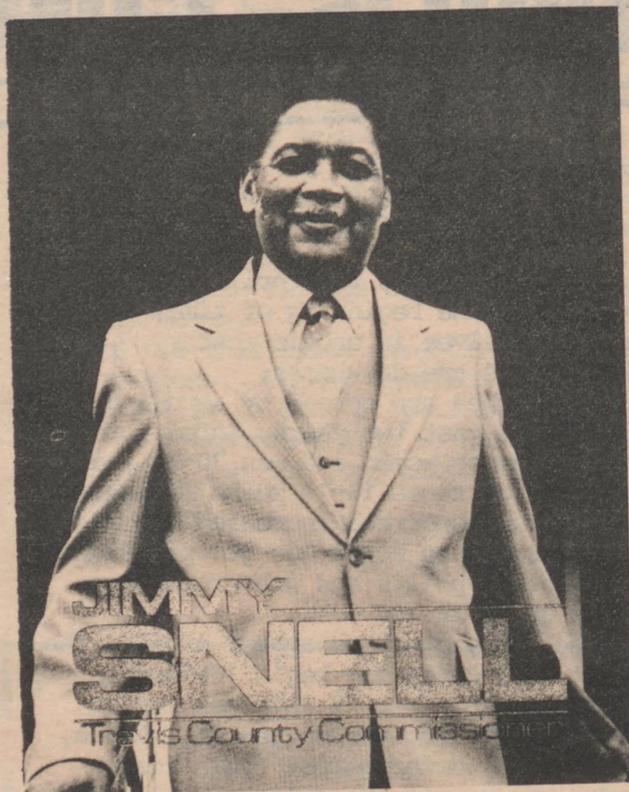
Recently, Snell (again with Goodman and Trevino) fought a behind-the-scenes battle to reappoint former ALGPC Co-Chair Janna Zumbun to a third term on the Human Relations Commission. The McClellan majority was well on its way to retiring Zumbun from the Commission when Councilmember Ron Mullen defected to the liberal camp, ensuring a majority vote in favor of the reappointment.

Finally, as much as is possible within the constraints of a Council-Manager form of government, Snell has advocated on behalf of gay city employees who have been harrassed or discriminated against on the job.

The Snell endorsement follows on the heels of the ALGPC endorsement of and successful campaign work for Guy Herman, who was elected Justice of the Peace. ALGPC Co-Chair Scotty Scott commented, "We proved to ourselves and to local politicians that we are an asset to a candidate, that we can turn out the lesbian and gay voters for a friend. Jimmy Snell has been the kind of friend we need to keep in public office. We can count on Jimmy as a County Commissioner to work for equal opportunity in County personnel policies, to look out for our interests in County funding of social services, and to help ensure that gays are treated fairly by the County criminal justice system."

ALGPC is organizing volunteers to assist in Jimmy Snell's campaign. Workers are needed each evening to staff phone banks and identify Snell supporters. Volunteers are also needed to help with mailouts, putting up yard signs, placing doorhangers on Precinct 1 houses, and handing out campaign literature at the gay bars.

The Snell phone bank is located in Suite 802 of the Vaughn Building, 807 Brazos. The Snell campaign headquarters is at 3124 Manor Road (1 block east of Airport Blvd.), phone number 472-4898.



S N E L L

ALGPC-BACKED GUY HERMAN WINS JP5 RACE

Guy Herman handily won his May 3 Primary race for Justice of the Peace, Precinct 5. Herman tallied 4,685 votes to opponent David Brooks's 3,030. Herman had been endorsed by the Austin Lesbian/Gay Political Caucus after the Steering Committee conducted extensive candidate interviews.

Herman acknowledged the ALGPC endorsement in a display ad in the DAILY TEXAN. He also became the first political candidate to campaign in gay bars in Austin. ALGPC members accompanied Herman to the Private Cellar, the Austin Country, and Tex's Colorado Street bars. ALGPC leafleted bars, mailed out endorsement information, and staffed a phone bank to identify gays in Precinct 5 on election day. ALGPC also formed a Political Action Committee, which contributed \$125 to Herman's campaign.

Caucus officers estimate we reached some 4,000 gays and probably produced hundreds of votes for Herman. ALGPC Political Action Chair Scotty Scott remarked, "We feel we made a real difference in this campaign. We were so enthusiastic about Guy in general, as well as his strong support for our issues, that we organized the lesbian and gay communities behind a campaign as has never been done before in Austin. This effort will make it difficult in the future for candidates to claim that our endorsement and our assistance is a political liability."

**vote for
JIMMY SNELL
Travis County
Commissioner
precinct one**

Endorsed by the Austin Lesbian/Gay Political Caucus

Pol. Ad. Pd. for by the Jimmy Snell Election Comm. 472-4898
3124 Manor Road, Austin, Texas 78723, Charles Urdy, Treas

LESBIAN/GAY DEMOCRATS OF TEXAS NEED HELP

The Lesbian/Gay Democrats of Texas desperately need your support if an effective gay voice is to be heard at the Texas State Democratic Convention in San Antonio June 21-22.

More than one hundred lesbian and gay delegates were elected at their county and senatorial district conventions in May. They will represent the gay and lesbian constituency of Texas. LGDT is trying to coordinate a concerted statewide effort so that the convention as a whole will have to seriously address the issues of gay rights.

Specifically, this means getting a gay rights resolution on the floor of the convention to be voted on by all the delegates present; placing gay and lesbian delegates in important positions on convention committees, such as Nominations and Resolutions; educating non-gay delegates on gay-related issues; and being visible, showing straight, uptight Texas that we will not fade away, but intend to take an active role in the power brokerage of this state.

The gay rights resolution, as passed in county and senatorial district conventions across the state, calls for repeal of Section 21.06 of the Texas Penal Code (the so-called "Sodomy Law"), an end to discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations, and an end to considering a person's sexual orientation as the sole criterion in civil and criminal courts, such as in child custody cases. LGDT intends to see this resolution incorporated in the Democratic Party's national platform.

Because of skillful grassroots organization, we are three times stronger than we were at the last state Democratic Convention two years ago. But, our delegates at San Antonio won't be able to flex any gay political muscle if they don't have the funds to publicize our concerns and political goals.

That means MONEY! Projected total costs for the statewide effort approach \$2,000. This amount will cover the costs of advertising, publicity flyers and leaflets, some travel expenses, phone charges and renting a "hospitality suite" (where much of present-day politicking goes on).

Austin's share is \$300. Area gay and lesbian organizations have already offered their support, but we can't make it happen without you. Contributions and requests for more information about the Lesbian/Gay Democrats of Texas effort should be addressed to LGDT, P.O. Box 822, Austin, Texas 78767, or call 512/472-1221.

It's not much to ask for the people who are standing up for your rights.

SCOTT, STRONG ELECTED ALGPC CO-CHAIRS

Scotty Scott and Carr Strong were elected as Austin Lesbian/Gay Political Caucus Co-Chairs at the regular monthly meeting on May 20. Scotty has served as Political Action Chair for the Caucus during the past year, and has led Austin's participation in the March on Washington, the showing of the film "Word is Out" as an alternative to the movie "Cruising," the voter registration drive, and the recent Guy Herman campaign. Strong has served as General Coordinator of Gay Community Services. He recently produced "A Different Drummer," a gay radio series on KUT-FM.

Other officers elected are Donna Johnson, finance chair; Ginny Cleaver, program chair; Gary Fitzsimmons, publicity chair; Sage White, political action chair; Steve Thomas, legislation chair; Janna Zumbrun, recorder; and Becky Badgett, at-large steering committee member.

The next ALGPC meeting will be June 24 at 7:30 p.m. at Austin Lambda Cultural Center, 603 W. 12. For more information about ALGPC, call Scotty Scott at 454-3893 or Carr Strong at 441-4231.

LESBIAN/GAY CAUCUS SCORES VICTORIES AT DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION

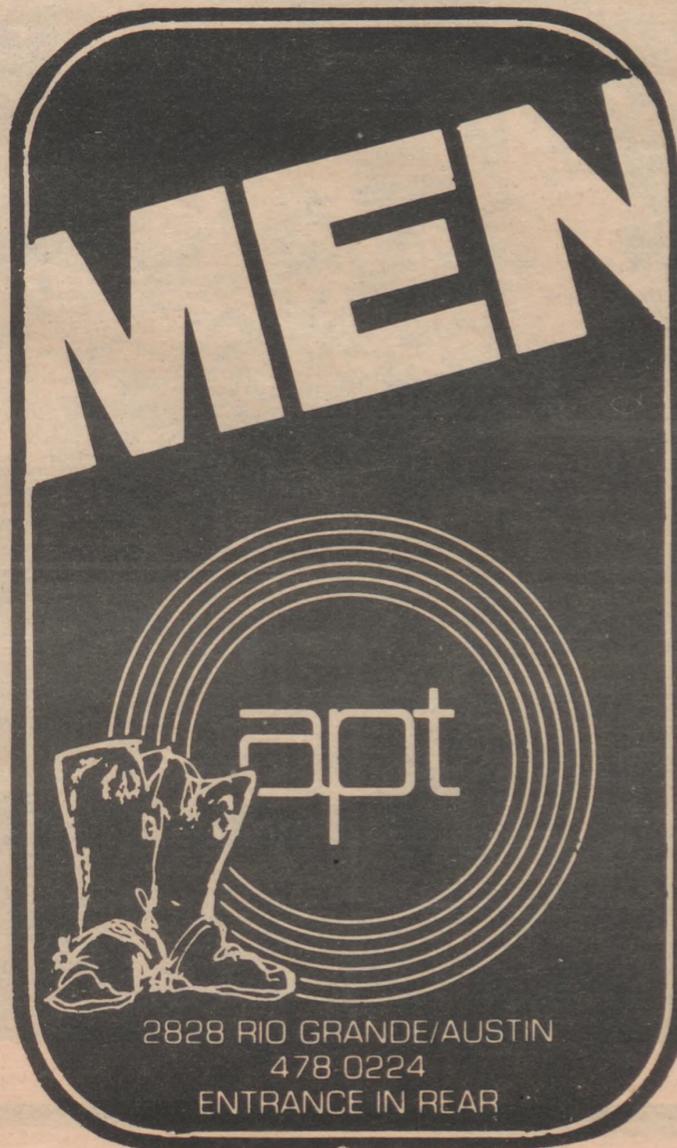
The Lesbian/Gay Caucus of the Travis County Democratic Convention scored a number of significant victories on Saturday, May 10. At least seven delegates and six alternates to the State Democratic Convention were elected from the more than 75 lesbian and gay delegates and alternates to the County Convention. In 1978, five delegates and three alternates were selected.

Members of the Lesbian/Gay Caucus also served on convention committees: Two LG Caucus members on the Credentials Committee, two on Nominations (including Sage White) and one (Scotty Scott) on the Resolutions Committee.

A comprehensive gay rights - repeal of Section 21.06 resolution was reported out of committee unanimously. It passed the convention with only modest opposition. Many non-gay supporters expressed a willingness to speak for the resolution, and three of them - Janice Robinson, Stuart Hersch, and Paul Finkleman - did so. Janna Zumbrun also spoke in favor of the resolution. One opponent spoke at length about the recent CBS special report, "Gay Power, Gay Politics."

The delegates and alternates elected on May 10 will go to the State Conventions in San Antonio June 21-22 and in Houston in September. Reports from around the state indicate that there will be over 100 lesbian and gay delegates to the State Conventions. (See story on funds needed for Lesbian/Gay Democrats of Texas hospitality suite, page

The participation and successes of lesbians and gay men in the Democratic conventions, both in Travis County and statewide, will have an effect on non-partisan politics, too. Combined with the electoral success of candidates endorsed by gay organizations, they serve to demonstrate the increasing political clout wielded by the lesbian and gay communities.





MISS THING FANTASY BALL AND COTILLION REVUE

THE UST N COUNTRY

MAY 21, 1980



PHOTOS BY CARR STRONG

THE AUSTIN COUNTRY: a good gay place to be

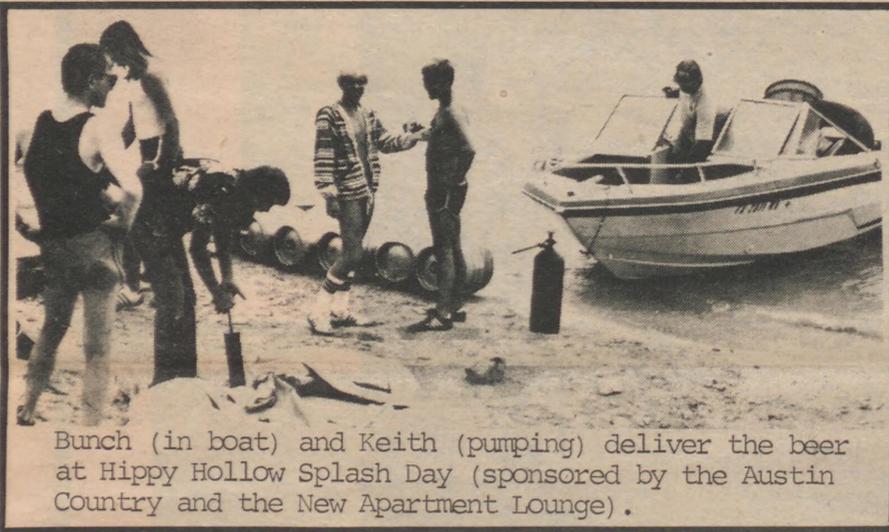
by Wayde Frey

"There are both positive and negative elements of gay bars. We want to be a positive one." This statement sums up the philosophy of Austin Country manager James Spiller.

Spiller feels that the 15 to 20 people associated with the Country are more like a family than a business. Several have been there for seven years. They feel the Country isn't just another bar, but a gay community. Spiller says "It's the only bar environment I'd feel comfortable working in."

The bar is owned by Keith Edwards and Bunch Brittain. It has several sections, including a dance floor with an elaborate light and sound system, a patio, pool tables, an aquarium, a plush quiet bar, and a big screen TV viewing room. Improvements are being made constantly. The latest is a brand-new deck for the patio.

Owner Bunch Brittain is active in gay politics, both in Austin and statewide. He serves on the steer-



Bunch (in boat) and Keith (pumping) deliver the beer at Hippy Hollow Splash Day (sponsored by the Austin Country and the New Apartment Lounge).

ing committee which directs the lobbying efforts of the Human Rights Advocates of the Texas Gay Task Force. Bunch has taken an active role in establishing communications between the gay community and law enforcement officials in Austin. He also serves on the Holy Trinity Church of Austin board of trustees.

The Austin Country has been the scene of fundraisers for numerous lesbian/gay organizations. It has hosted benefits for the Metropolitan Community Church of Austin (MCCA) building fund, the California "No on 6" Campaign, the March on Washington, and Gay Community Services of Austin.

Two traditional annual events the Country sponsors are Splash Day at Hippy Hollow (the first Sunday in May) and the party at Keith and Bunch's suite in the Menger Hotel in San Antonio on Saturday night during Fiesta in April.

The Country staff doesn't believe that the Country should be the only bar in town, with everyone packed in like sardines. Manager James Spiller recalls other popular and successful bars. In the 1950's, there was The Manhattan on Congress Avenue. It was a delicatessen by day and a gay bar at night. Its sign was later part of the Pearl Street Warehouse decor.

The New Apartment Lounge is the longest-lived gay bar in Austin. Bob Clifton's Griffon Club and the Tap, both on Guadalupe, have passed, as have the once popular gay discos Friends and Lovers and the Pearl Street Warehouse. English's on Guadalupe was a gay bar called the Carousel in the early 1960's.

The Austin Country's building has an interesting history. According to James Spiller, it is actually three large barns connected together. They were originally used as a stable. General Pershing kept his horses there at one time. The maze of small rooms up-



Doorkeepers Jerry Shayne, left, and Bill Durrell greet customers.

Jim Olinger

stairs, which still exist today, originally housed prostitutes. In the early 1970's, a lesbian bar called Pearl's Place opened on the ground floor. A huge portrait of Janis Joplin hung behind the bar. Then, it was a straight bar called the Waterloo Country for three weeks. Keith and Bunch opened the Austin Country as a gay bar in 1973.

The Country staff works on the sound and light systems constantly. The DJ plays rock and new wave music as well as disco, and it's all good dance music. The Country tries to create a "party" atmosphere and plans to feature "theme party" nights, such as "Rock" and "Country and Western" nights soon. The "Miss Thing Fantasy Ball and Cotillion Revue" was held May 21. The Austin Country has hosted entertainers like Mr. Tiffany Jones, The Montrose Men, R.C. Cola, and the Blandscrew Sisters. Weekly features include cookouts on the patio at 7:00 p.m. Sunday, the Monday night male dance contest, and the Thursday night female impersonators' show.

Performers scheduled during June 1980 include Tiny Mac and Tragedy Ann, Pauletta Lay, R.C. Cola, Lindsay Love and Lindsay McCall, Linda Weatherby (of the Blandscrew Sisters), and Teresa Cole and Chatty Kathy. The Country will be hosting the Texas competition for Miss Gay U.S.A. on July 6.

The Austin Country management is dedicated to continuing to improve its facilities and services to provide an enjoyable environment for the Austin community. The City of Austin has plans to perhaps expand the police station onto the land the Country now occupies. If this ever happens, Spiller says, the Austin Country will simply move to some other location in the area.



Terry Stout, left, and "bar back"

Jim Olinger

PROTEST FOLLOWS "GAY POWER-GAY POLITICS"

IGNA--Howls of protest, followed by the filing of official complaints with the National News Council, greeted the recent CBS television documentary "Gay Power, Gay Politics." The program purported to examine the effect of homosexuals on the recent Mayoral election in San Francisco. It proved to be a call for heterosexuals across the nation to be on guard against gay liberation goals in their communities.

The National Gay Task Force, Mayor Dianne Feinstein and Supervisor Harry Britt of San Francisco and many others, have prepared statements that condemn the program.

It is felt that CBS News failed to meet reasonable standards of accuracy and fairness for broadcast journalism. Further, the producers are being accused of misrepresentation, distortion, and sensationalism.

Chief among the complaints are the use of two children as witness to "public sex" in the heavily wooded Buena Vista Park in San Francisco and the showing of S&M paraphernalia in a deceptive and shocking way, capitalizing on ignorance and fear of the subject and equating S&M with the results of gay political power.

It is also claimed certain scenes were edited to make events seem to have occurred simultaneously when they did not. The juxtaposition of eccentricly dressed people (during Halloween celebrations) with discussions of serious gay grievances resulted in a manipulation of the facts which could only lead viewers to false conclusions about gay life.

The National Gay Task Force condemned the program as causing "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."

The program has brought up important questions about the way information is conveyed to the public. If the press is untrustworthy, where can a fact-finding citizen turn for information?

In a live panel discussion that followed the showing of the documentary (broadcast only in the San Francisco area, not nationally) some of the major participants in the program met face-to-face with producers George Crile and Grace Diekhaus. A furious debate ensued.

Cleve Jones, who was the man chosen as the focus of the program, said that he felt betrayed by the producers.

Armistead Maupin, author of *Tales of the City*, said he was surprised that producer Crile had spent so much of the show pointing out and deploring gay back-room sex when Crile himself had told Maupin that he envied the sexual freedom of gays, because he felt hemmed in by his marriage.

Gwenn Craig, a black lesbian, asked why almost nothing about lesbians appeared in the program. The producers said they had decided to leave lesbians out because they couldn't find anything controversial about them.

AUSTIN RESPONDS TO "GAY POWER, GAY POLITICS"

"Gay Power, Gay Politics" was as much of a shock in Austin as it was nationally. Austin activists were quick to respond to this attack on the lesbian/gay community.

The CONNECTIONS staff was finishing pasting up the May 1980 edition when the program came on. After watching it, a hasty, indignant review was written and inserted at the last minute.

The Austin Lesbian/Gay Political Caucus and Austin Lambda Cultural Center immediately initiated letter-writing campaigns against the CBS News production. Austin Lambda Cultural also showed a video tape of the program on Saturday, May 31.

The Lesbian/Gay Caucus of the Travis County Democratic convention reported that repercussions of this homophobic "documentary" have already been felt. At the Travis County Democratic convention, the majority of objections to the introduction of a lesbian/gay rights plank in the party platform were based on fears generated partly by "Gay Power, Gay Politics."

THANKS

The Austin Country, along with the New Apartment Lounge, began advertising in GAY AUSTIN in that paper's first year, 1976. The Country, the Apartment and MCCA are the only organizations which have placed display advertisements in all seven issues of CONNECTIONS. Their faithful financial support have made Austin's own lesbian/gay news magazine possible. Without them, CONNECTIONS simply would not exist. The management and staff of the Austin Country care about the readers of our paper, and they care about our lesbian/gay community as a whole.



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

THURSDAY
10 PM SHOW
STARRING
TRAGEDY ANN
SABRINA
MISS RIKI
AND GUEST

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

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ANITA BRYANT FILES FOR DIVORCE

Selma, Alabama (AP) - The breakup of her marriage may be the most painful experience in her life, but controversial singer Anita Bryant said trouble had been brewing in the 20-year union from the very start.

In an interview arranged by Hurst, Texas, evangelist James Robison, Bryant talked about her fight to save the marriage and the circumstances leading to the break-up with husband Bob Green, a former disc jockey.

"We sought counseling, different kinds of counseling from different approaches," she said. "I wanted to save my marriage, but because of a (recent) set of circumstances, I decided that was not quite the route to go."

Since filing for divorce in Miami, Bryant has been in seclusion in Selma, Alabama with her four children.

In her divorce petition, Bryant charged that Green, her manager, had cooperated "with certain hired staff members who conspired to control me and to use my name and reputation to build their personal careers instead of my ministry."

She said she believes divorce is a sin and "I have to accept 50 percent of the blame. I am seeking the will of God, living one day at a time. There are hurts and scars that need time to heal.

"I came from a broken home and have been so concerned about my own family that divorce has not even been in my vocabulary. It's against everything that I believe in."

Bryant has resigned from Anita Bryant Ministries and asked that its name be changed. After gaining national attention for her anti-homosexuality stand, she established the organization to help homosexuals change their lifestyles.

All her Christian concerts were canceled when news of the divorce was made public and she has two secular concerts scheduled.

"The only income we've had has been with the ministries and now that's gone," she said.

Robison, a fundamental evangelist who also gained attention when his Dallas television program was canceled following an anti-homosexuality sermon, has counseled Bryant since the breakup, she said.

"When I asked if he would stand with me, he said he would and all I could do was cry. I never suspected anyone in the fundamentalist community could embrace me in that way, and I have praised the Lord ever since," she said.

"My immediate goals are licking my wounds, concentrating on my children and clinging to the Lord.

"God loves me where I am."

CITRUS COMMISSION PRUNES BRYANT

KPFT--Singer Anita Bryant may have made her final commercial on behalf of the Florida Citrus Commission.

The agency which handles the commission's advertising says that no more commercials with the controversial singer are planned. According to the agency's Douglas Hoffer, Bryant is through as a Florida orange juice spokesperson, "if the commission goes along with it."

It is believed that gay-sponsored boycotts of Florida citrus products have cut into orange juice sales nationwide. Recently, two major Florida orange juice companies applied for permission to remove the word "Florida" from their labels, indicating that the designation on the label was having an adverse effect on sales.

-Reprinted from the METRO STAR



ANITA'S FINANCES

by Larry Bush

In filings recently released by the Internal Revenue Service, Anita Bryant has indicated that her anti-gay organizations had provided virtually no funding for her promised program while collecting over two million dollars from the public. The IRS, while refusing comment on Bryant's continued tax-exempt and tax-deductible status, indicated that a tax audit may be in the offing.

Both Anita Bryant Ministries, Inc., allegedly a religious counseling program, and Protect America's Children, a "morality" lobby that engages in political activity, entered tax statements showing the lion's share of expenses had gone to fundraising and that neither group had "launched" its ostensible program.

Protect America's Children had as its aim an explicitly political function, and it incorporated in 1977 for a tax-exempt, though not tax-deductible status. Under IRS guidelines it could be used as a vehicle for campaign activity.

Anita Bryant Ministries, Inc., was also launched in 1977 in an effort to counter criticism that Bryant was engaged only in negative activity. Bryant announced with the formation of Anita Bryant Ministries that she would establish counseling centers for homosexuals as well as for others who had drifted away from her brand of fundamentalist Christianity.

In the filings, however, Bryant is only able to report success at raising funds.

Anita Bryant Ministries reports netting almost one million dollars in contributions. Under "Program Activity" it reports that only \$150 of that amount went to "counseling." That was less than the funds spent on press and photos, consulting fees or Christmas gifts. The bulk of the expenses was for "direct mail fundraising letters for raising contributions, gifts, grants, etc. totaling nearly \$400,000.00 The remaining half million dollars was bankrolled at the end of the year. Protect America's Children by its political lobby raised almost 1.3 million dollars that same year.

Reprinted from UPFRONT

EVERYDAY

EVERYDAY WE PASS EACH OTHER
AND IGNORE EACH OTHER'S SIGHT

WE CARE NOT TO SEE EACH OTHER
AND FORGET ABOUT THAT NIGHT

WHEN YOU WERE MINE
AND I WAS YOURS
AND WE WERE ONE...

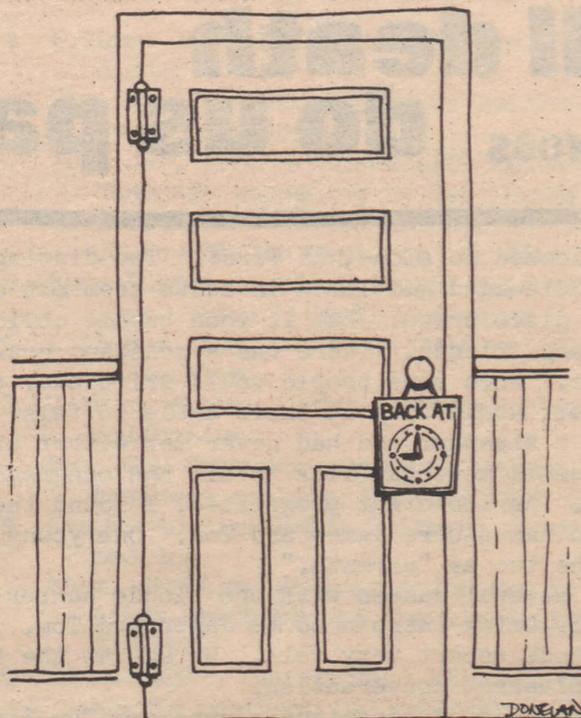
BUT FELL APART

WE ARE NO LONGER
OURSELVES
FOR WE FORGOT TO GIVE THE
LOVE

AND NOW WE PASS EACH
OTHER

AND FORGET ABOUT THAT NIGHT

HEKTOR



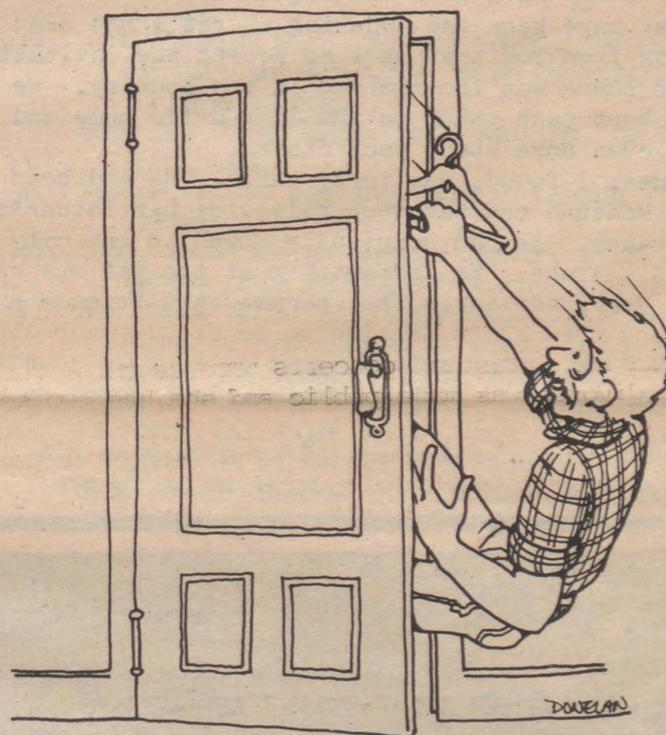
A PASSING

When it comes time to part,
It is really always an art.
For you find that your hearts
Will not totally part.

For time will come,
And time will go,
But your need for each other
Will always show.

For you need him in your way,
And he needs you in his.
Together this makes
The best friendship there is.

Lynn Aday



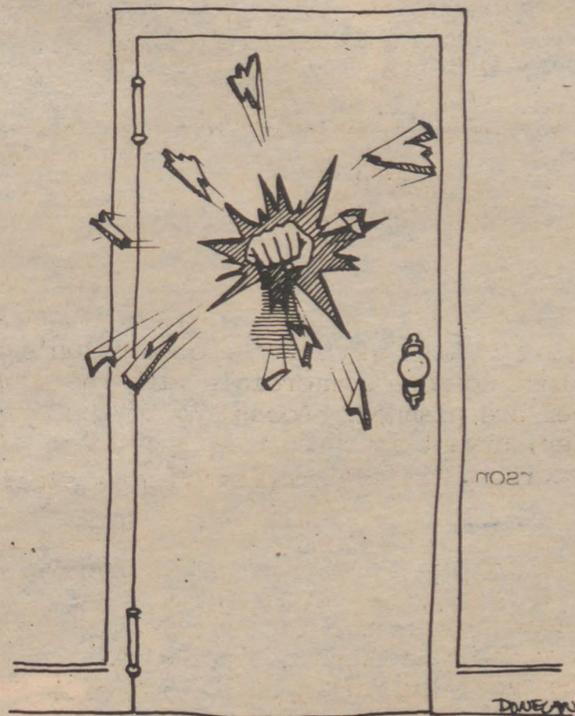
TEATRO ALEGRE TO APPEAR AT GASLIGHT THEATRE

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 nearly every Thursday and Saturday afternoon in July. Part of the proceeds will be donated to GCS. Showtime will be 3:15 p.m. Don't miss it.



'till death do us part

by
RON MOSS

They looked so alone, at first. Two distinguished, middle-aged gentlemen in suits seem out of place in a disco crowd. But it soon became obvious they had many friends. There was a constant crowd at their table. When some people would drift away to dance, others would stop at their table to talk.

I was a stranger and had never met either of them, but they seemed most familiar to all the congregation in the bar. As the night progressed, I found the two gentlemen's names were James and Tom. One young man spoke of the two as "parents."

After several dances with one blonde number, I found myself being introduced to James and Tom. They knew my blonde escort very well. We sat at the table and had a pleasant conversation.

As it neared closing time, James and Tom invited me to stay at their house, rather than go to the local baths. It may have been the liquor that I had consumed or it may have been the undaring stares I had been receiving from Tom that made me accept the invitation.

The house was located out in the country. We talked about each other on the long drive home and learned even more about each other.

James, I found, was forty-three. He had been born in Montana and had been raised on his father's cattle ranch. He had originally moved to the city to go to college. He had met Tom at the bar one night several years earlier. They became fast friends and soon found themselves wanting to be around each other more and more. They settled down on a small country plot that James had bought when he first moved to the city.

Tom was a brown-headed thirty-nine year old Scorpio. He had been born and raised in Central



Texas. He had joined the army when he was eighteen. After a four year bout with the military, Tom decided to travel. He had gone to California; New York; Canada and many other interesting places. He had originally just planned on passing through the city, but he liked it and had decided to stay a few days longer when he met James.

During our conversation about my lovers, Tom said he wanted me to know that he and James were not lovers, but only "good pals." I thought the situation a bit strange as they certainly acted as if they were lovers. Tom saw the look of disbelief on my face and explained that he and James had been lovers, but found that being tied down kept their life together somewhat strained, so they became pals.

Soon we arrived at our destination. James' description had just not done justice to all the hard work they had put into the house and lot. A simple frame house sat surrounded by plants of all kinds, sizes, and shapes. Although the house was simple on the outside, it was elegant on the inside. Everything, including the early ceiling fans, looked as if they belonged in the house all along. The natural wooden floors and the natural brick walls added a flair that was to be unknown by any other house I was to ever enter again.

It was late, so we decided to bed down for the night. I was given a most comfortable room in the back of the house. A waterbed adorned the center of the room. Chocolate brown drapes fluttered on the windows and a rice brown velvet bedspread lashed across the bed.

I got ready for bed after taking a sensuous shower. I slipped into my jockstrap and crawled underneath the warmth of the bedspread.

I soon flew into a fast and deep sleep. I was very tired after my long trip and the fast-paced evening I spent at the bar.

It began to snow during the evening. During the night I grew restless and woke up. I got up to go to the kitchen and get something to drink. Although I tried to make very little noise, I woke Tom, and he came into the kitchen to help me locate the things.

I made myself a sandwich out of some leftovers in the refrigerator and got myself a glass of milk. Tom suggested that we retire to the living room to sit and talk in front of the fire.

The fire was very warm and the glowing coals that were scattered in the logs gave the room a small orange glow. Tom and I sat down near the fireplace.

As we talked, I began to feel a closeness with Tom. Soon the conversation fell to the general closeness which surrounded the room. As Tom and I cuddled together in front of the fire, we slowly drifted into a world of our own. We finished our snacks and decided we would retire for the rest of the night.

Upon reaching the bedroom, we found that our sexual appetites for one another had grown. We lay in each other's arms, caressing and kissing and fondling the object of our desires.

Our following actions and motions held us in a state of suspended animation. We were joined not only in body, but in being and essence. The hours that we spent entwined were both fulfilling and joyous. We finally drifted off to sleep and woke in the morning feeling renewed and refreshed.

I've lived here in the small frame house for five years now. James and Tom are still good pals, as are James and I. We are all very close to each other and make up a wonderful little family. Tom and I are now lovers. We have much joy and tranquility in our relationship. We have shared our love with James and with each other. Our lives are abundant and filled. We truly meant the pledge we made when we held each other's hands in the small, but quaint country church and were joined in Holy Union. We shall be together till death do us part.

CONNECTIONS CALENDAR JUNE, 1980

- Sun June 1 9am, Austin Lambda Cultural carpool to final Houston showing of Judy Chicago's "Dinner Party"
10pm, Showtime at Austin Country with Tiny Mac and Tragedy Ann
- Mon June 2 6:30-8pm, Austin Lambda Cultural planning collective meeting
- Tue June 3 and Wed June 4 12 noon, Austin Lambda Cultural bake sale fund raiser by Co-op
- Wed June 4 8pm, Gay Community Services coordinators meeting, University Y office
- Thu June 5 6-8pm, Austin Lambda Cultural coordinators meeting
10pm, Showtime at Austin Country with Pauletta Lay
- Fri June 6 7pm, Dignity Region VII Convention at the Castilian, 2323 San Antonio, through June 8. Hosted by Dignity Austin.
7:30pm, lesbian films at Austin Lambda Cultural.
- Sat June 7 VOTE in your party primary run-off elections today. ALGPC endorses Jimmy Snell for County Commissioner, Precinct 1.
- Sun June 8 7pm, Austin Lambda Cultural lesbian pot-luck supper
10pm, Showtime at Austin Country with R.C. Cola (punk rock and new wave)
- Tue June 10 7pm, Austin Lambda Cultural meeting to discuss consensus decision-making
7:30pm, Metropolitan Community Church of Austin Board of Directors meeting
- Thu June 12 5-7pm, Kay Gardner workshop, Public Library. Everyone welcome.
10pm, Showtime at Austin Country with Lindsay Love and Lindsay McCall
- Fri June 13 8pm, Kay Gardner at Hogg Auditorium, UT, \$4.00 Flautist sponsored by Hummingbird Productions.

- Sat June 14 6:30pm, Austin Lambda AA covered dish dinner
7pm, Austin Lambda Cultural auction. Everyone welcome.
10pm-3am, free STD (sexually transmitted disease) screening by Gay Nurses' Alliance of Austin and Austin-Travis County Health Dept. at the Club Baths
- Sun June 15 8pm, Austin Lambda Cultural dessert pot-luck. Terri McCaslin, speaker
- Mon June 16 6:30-8pm, Austin Lambda Cultural planning collective
- Wed June 18 7-10pm, Austin Lambda Cultural planning collective
8pm, Gay Community Services general business meeting, University Y office
- Thu June 19 6-8pm, Austin Lambda Cultural coordinators meeting
10pm, Showtime at Austin Country with Linda Weatherby of the Blandscrew Sisters
- Fri June 20 12 midnight, Gay Nurses' Alliance of Austin meeting. Call 453-0816 for location.
- Sat June 21 7:30pm, MCCA pot luck supper and awards dinner
- Sun June 22 GAY PRIDE WEEK: Austin Lambda Cultural exhibit and sale, art work and crafts, to be announced
5pm, GAY PRIDE WEEK: Town Meeting, to be announced
- Tue June 24 7:30pm, ALGPC meeting, Austin Lambda Cultural
- Thu June 26 10pm, Showtime at Austin Country with Teresa Cole and Chatty Kathy
- Fri June 27 GAY PRIDE WEEK: Austin Lambda Cultural night of individual or small group music and poetry. To be arranged
- Sat June 28 10am, GAY PRIDE Parade, 1st and Colorado
12 noon, GAY PRIDE Rally, beer bust and barbecue at Wooldridge Park
8pm, Austin Lambda AA birthday night for all AA groups. Sobriety birthday celebrants are the guest speakers.
8pm, GAY PRIDE WEEK: Austin Lambda Cultural dance, to be arranged
- Mon June 30 6-8pm, Austin Lambda Cultural collating of July newsletter

weekly events in june '80

- Sunday 12 noon and 7:30pm, worship services at Metropolitan Community Church of Austin
1pm, liturgical service, Holy Trinity Church of Austin
3pm, Austin Lambda AA Step 12 group
4pm, Volleyball, Waterloo Park (Red River between 11th and 15th streets)
8pm, Dignity liturgy. Call 477-6699 for location.
- 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
- Wednesday 6:30pm, Austin Lambda AA women together meeting
7:30-9:30pm, Counseling, MCCA
8 and 9:30pm, Austin Lambda AA presents films on alcoholism
- Thursday 7:30pm, rap group, MCCA
8-10pm, Austin Lambda Cultural lesbian awareness group. \$1 donation asked from non-sponsors

- Friday 8pm, Austin Lambda AA steps study group
8pm, Gay Community Services rap group, University Y rap group room
8pm, CCAA bowling, Brunswick Capitol Bowling Center, 5700 Grover
8pm, Austin Lambda AA Friday group

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VOTE FOR JIMMY SNELL June 7 for County Commissioner, Precinct 1. Ad paid for by a friend.

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We need your help to be a forum for Austin's lesbian/gay community. We must have input from YOU. EACH of you!

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There are thousands of stories in the Capitol City. We need your help to cover them. If you have news concerning Austin's lesbians and gay men, write or call us. Send us your organization's newsletter. We welcome your news, feature articles, editorials, fiction, poetry, black and white photographs, and drawings.

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