

gay austin

free!

november 78

vol. 3, no. 2



Finding the right man

Gay strategy at the polls

By TROY STOKES

SINCE GAY COMMUNITY SERVICES is part of the University Y, a tax-exempt charitable institution, it cannot endorse candidates for political office. But we can and do assert that it is in our interest to inform ourselves and make the best choice -- even though we might not be enthusiastic about any of the choices.

I maintain that a gay Democrat should not "go fishing" or "sit this one out" -- but should cast his or her vote for the party's gubernatorial candidate, John Hill. It is true and unfortunate that Hill has not made the kind of pro gay rights statements which we would like. It is also true that Texas Democrats at the 1978 convention in Fort Worth failed to pass -- after debate -- a resolution calling for the repeal of State Penal Code Section 21.06, which makes homosexual intercourse between consenting adults in private a misdemeanor offense.

I was unhappy about this. After all, I started fighting 21.06 while it was still in the drafting stages, before it became law.

But consider the alternative to Hill and the Democrats. The Republicans considered no gay rights resolution, and, in fact, passed a resolution calling for the firing of gays teaching in the public schools.

So far, this argument is beginning to resemble an appeal to go with the candidate who throws you a crumb, rather than the one who kicks you in the teeth. My lover often says of such situations, "dry shit is better than wet shit." Once you get past all this creative writing, there remains the dull but no less obvious fact that we take what we can get -- even if we don't like it.

There is another fact as well. Precinct delegation size at the county and state conventions is based on the turnout for the Democratic nominee for governor. For every 25 votes, 1 delegate goes to the county convention; for every 300 votes, one delegate goes to the state convention. For this reason it is probably in your interest to vote for Hill.

Take my precinct as an example. Precinct 334 is in a liberal west campus neighborhood. It has passed gay rights resolutions several times. It will continue to do so. If my friends and I can turn out the vote for Hill, we can increase the size of our delegation which clearly strengthens the gay rights cause.

You may live in a conservative neighborhood. Or you might be a Republican. If so, your strategy would be different from mine. The important thing is to investigate the situation and devise some strategy for promoting your own civil rights -- or, as Mr. Clements is fond of saying, you have to have a 'playun'.

The governor's race is not the only issue on November 7. There is the Senate race as well as Proposition Six out in California. The Senate race doesn't offer much of a choice on the gay rights issue, but it is interesting that both candidates, Republican Tower and Democrat Krueger, are stopping just short of calling each other faggots. Krueger dwells at length on Tower's size, his taste in European suits and his womanizing. Tower, in turn, mentions the fact that Krueger doesn't talk like he's from Texas and says that Krueger knows nothing about the institution of marriage since Krueger is a bachelor.

CONTINUED PAGE 7



New sign for GCS

GAY COMMUNITY SERVICES experienced a long-awaited day Sept. 30 when the organization mounted its new green and white sign alongside the University Y sign at the GCS headquarters above Sommers Drugs at 2330 Guadalupe.

Designed and constructed by Tommy Connell, the 10 foot long sign gives GCS unprecedented visibility and presence.

It was worth the wait.

Gay celebrities raise money for

By KELLY KAY

FORMER PRO FOOTBALL PLAYER Dave Kopay, former USAF Sgt. Leonard Matlovich, feminist author Del Martin and Metropolitan Community Church founder the Rev. Troy Perry made a whirlwind fundraising tour for the Texas Gay Task Force (TGTF) and the No On Six Committee Oct. 11-13.

Dinners and receptions in San Antonio, Austin, Lubbock and Dallas made approximately \$12,000, half of which will go to No On Six, the California effort fighting the Briggs Initiative, proposed legislation which would force the firing of all public school teachers in California who are gay or who advocate the gay lifestyle.

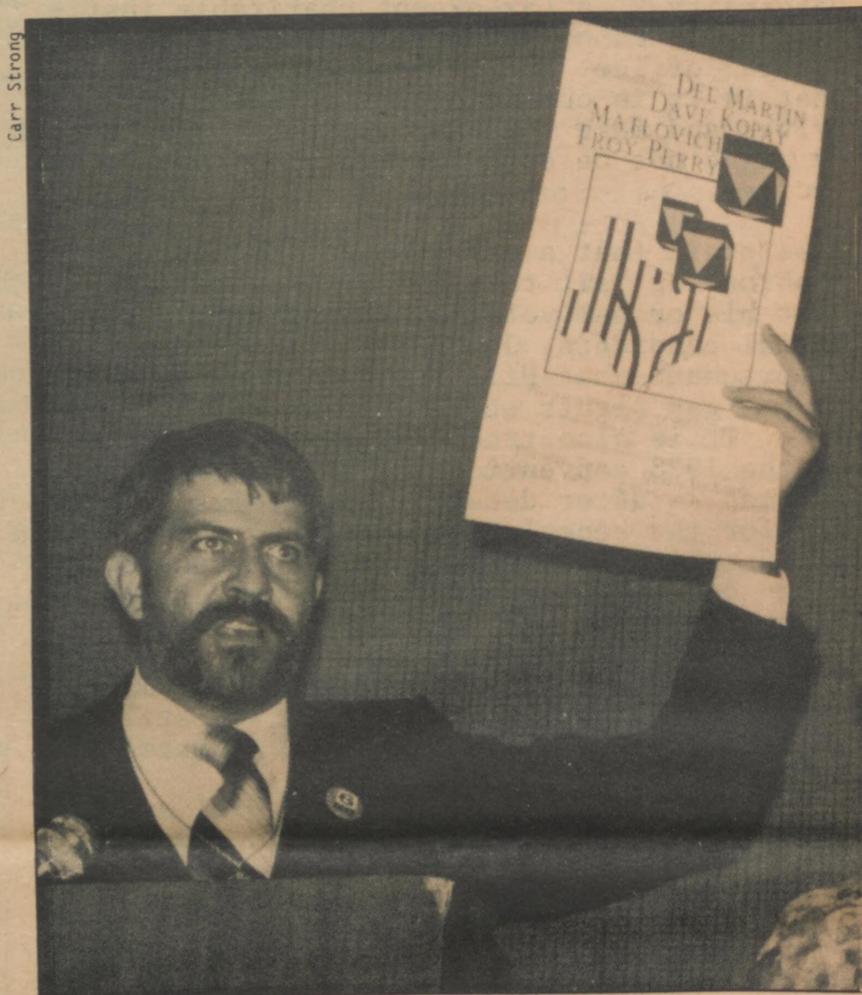
The other half of the proceeds will be used to fund TGTF's lobbying effort during the upcoming session of the Texas Legislature.

According to Kathy Deitsch, TGTF moderator, \$8,000 in pledges of \$500 and \$1,000 was also raised, with many of the donors stipulating that their total gift benefit the task force's legislative lobby.

DESCRIBING SAN ANTONIO as the "emotional high" of the tour, Deitsch said that it was in Austin, however, that the most money was raised -- just under \$5,000. About \$4,000 was raised in Dallas, and about \$3,000 in San Antonio.

In Austin, nearly 150 people attended the Thursday, Oct. 12 \$25-a-plate dinner at the Quality Inn on South IH-35. During the dinner, several posters designed by artist Steve Akin -- and all autographed by Matlovich, Martin, Kopay and Perry -- were sold by auction for amounts varying from \$15 to \$50. Perry served as auctioneer. Before the dinner Bunch Brittain of the Austin Country hosted an open-bar cocktail reception for the four guests of honor.

ALTHOUGH NO DATES HAVE been set, Deitsch says that TGTF will invite to Texas another personality, possibly non-gay, to continue the fundraising effort. Deitsch says the only real fault with the October



The Rev. Troy Perry at the Austin fundraiser for No On Six and the Texas Gay Task Force.

tour was that no straight gay rights advocate was included among the celebrities. She feels that a non-gay would draw support for the task force's effort from the straight community.

TGTF has set a goal of \$25,000 to fund its legisla-

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SUNDAY NOVEMBER 5

ON SUNDAY NOVEMBER 5 AT FOUR P.M., RICK, AN INSTRUCTOR FROM ONE OF THE LOCAL NAUTILUS ATHLETIC CENTERS, WILL DISCUSS WEIGHT-TRAINING AS A MEANS TO IMPROVE PHYSICAL FITNESS.

THIS TALK WILL BE HELD AT 2005A IROQUOIS LANE, (TAKE THE OLTORF EXIT FROM I-35 AND GO EAST TO BURLESON, TURN RIGHT AND GO TO IROQUOIS.)

CALL 441-4231 FOR MORE INFORMATION

FREE BEER !!!!

TGTF, No on 6

tive lobby during the next session of the state legislature. The lobby will concentrate on repealing Section 21.06 of the penal code (the sodomy law), and on preventing discriminatory legislation, such as California's Proposition Six (the Briggs Initiative).

MATLOVICH, MARTIN, PERRY and Kopay also made an appearance in Houston during their Texas tour, but proceeds from benefits held there are to be split between No On Six and the Houston Gay Political Caucus (rather than the TGTF legislative lobby). HGPC treasurer Bob Lockett said profits from the Houston events amounted to \$7,000.

HGPC's half, \$3,500, which will be used for the caucuses general operating expenses, should be exhausted by the end of November, Lockett said.

According to Deitsch, several people present at the Houston benefits also made donations to TGTF.



Dave Kopay shared personal experiences with the audience at the Austin benefit dinner.

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- Fund raising
- Precinct work — get out the vote
- Office, phone work
- Distribute literature.

Here's my contribution of \$ _____

Send to: No on Proposition 6,
5106 Wilshire Blvd.,
Los Angeles, California
213/930-2520

54 Mint St.
San Francisco, Calif.
94103
415/777-0100

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

(For contributions of \$50.00 or over, state law requires that you include your occupation and employer's address.)

Douglas DeYoung,
Treasurer

NO ON 6

...austin

AUSTIN LESBIANS FORM LOCAL NLFO CHAPTER

An Austin chapter of the National Lesbian Feminist Organization (NLFO) has been formed. The group has discussed activities such as political action centered around Lesbian issues, social events and special programs for Lesbians, an outreach program and a speakers' bureau.

The national organization grew out of a spring conference for Lesbians held in Los Angeles.

The Austin chapter will announce meetings in the Our Time Has Come newsletter and through posters at WomenSpace and the Common Woman Bookstore.

GCS ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

Gay Community Services elected officers at its September meeting. Re-elected as General Coordinator, chief officer of GCS, is Art Morris. Re-elected as Publications Coordinator and editor of Gay Austin is Kelly Kay.

Troy Stokes, former Finance Coordinator, was elected as Media Coordinator. The new Finance Coordinator is Phil Conrad. The new Speakers Bureau Coordinator is Peter Graham and the new Office and Peer Counseling Coordinator is Bob Prewitt.

Serving as secretary of the group is Scott Lind.

GAY WRITERS/POETS COLLECTIVE TO FORM

A gay writers/poets collective is being formed in Austin as an alternative to existing "straight" writers groups.

Organizer Georg Stojcevic says, "As gay writers we have the unique challenge of all oppressed minority groups, that is to reach out in our struggle and make our voices heard. We need all our gay brothers and sisters who write to join together and instead of one small voice there will be a larger, stronger voice."

Stojcevic may be contacted at 451-2282 or by leaving a message at the GCS switchboard, 477-6699.

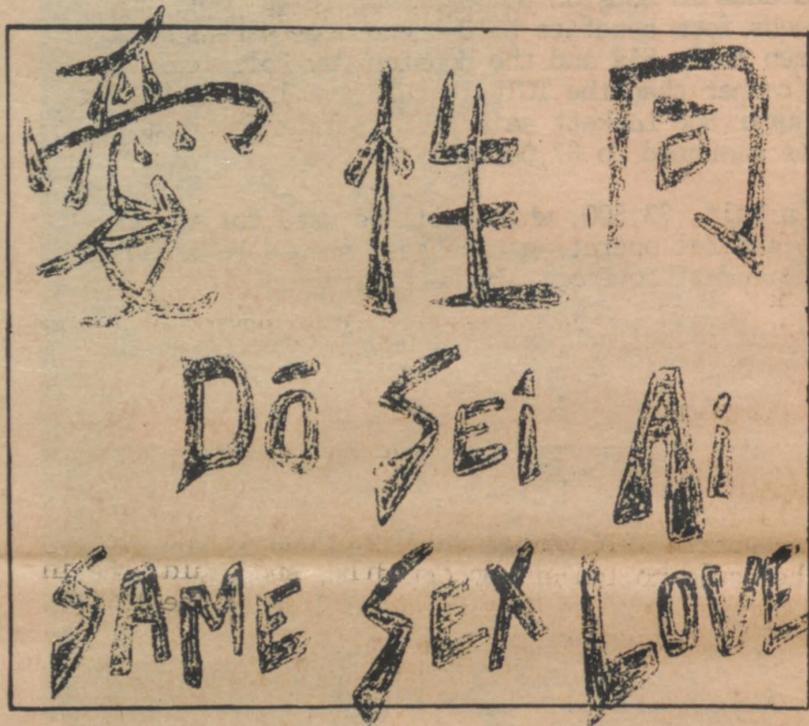
WOMEN/SPACE is a counseling and information center for the women of Austin. It provides a variety of services for women such as walk-in counseling, legal and medical and birth-control information, and information about community resources. **WOMEN/SPACE** also coordinates rap groups and consciousness-raising groups. Phone 472-3053.

READERS PRESENT HOMOSEXUAL LIT FROM JAPAN

DO SEI AI (Same Sex Love) in Japanese literature will be the topic of a public reading Sunday, Nov. 5 in the University Y auditorium, 2330 Guadalupe above Sommers Drugs.

Professor Roy Teale of the Oriental Languages Department of UT, and Randy Conner of the UT English Department, will read from the works of Yukio Mishima, Japanese novelist and playwright.

Lynn Burson, who recently completed a two-year Mombusho Fellowship for literature study in Japan, will read from her new translation of SEI SHOJO by Yumiko Kurahashi.



Yukio Mishima received instant fame when he turned to writing after beginning his career as a corporate lawyer. He has written many works in several genres, including the novel THE SAILOR WHO FELL FROM GRACE WITH THE SEA. Mishima died of dismemberment at the hands of friends in a group suicide pact in 1970.

Yumiko Kurahashi is a contemporary writer who studied briefly in the U.S. and who draws heavily from American films and culture. She is currently working with the literary magazine WAVES. SEI SHOJO is a novel of love and incest.

Sunday's program will begin with an open reading for local authors at 7:30 p.m. The event is sponsored by Texas Circuit and the City of Austin, and is the first of a new season of Downtown Literature Series performances. A \$1 donation is requested at the door.

GAY RALLY TO BE HELD AT UNIVERSITY NOV. 10

A rally celebrating Freedom of Self-expression on Campus (for Gays) will take place Nov. 10 at noon on the UT Union Patio. The speeches and music will be sponsored by the Lesbian/Gay Alliance at the University. The rally will focus on threats to that freedom like the Briggs' initiative which will be voted on in California Nov. 7.

GCS DISCO DANCE PLANNED FOR NOV 10

Gay Community Services will sponsor a disco dance in the University Y auditorium on Nov. 10. The dance will run from 10pm until 2am.

...texas

GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATE HILL MEETS WITH TGTF

Members of the Texas Gay Task Force met with Democratic gubernatorial candidate John Hill Oct. 21 at his hotel suite in Austin.

According to TGTF moderator Kathy Deitsch, the meeting offered no surprises. TGTF already knew that Hill, if elected governor, will neither lead nor put together an effort to repeal the Texas sodomy law (Section 21.06 of the penal code), which makes private consensual homosexual acts between adults illegal.

But, Deitsch said, Hill is willing to work with and learn from the Texas gay community. Hill realizes that he is not knowledgeable about the problems of gay Texans and has expressed an intention of becoming better informed, Deitsch said.

While Deitsch was overall pleased with the results of the meeting with Hill, other members of the TGTF delegation were less enthusiastic.

An Austin TGTF member said that due to the meeting he could no longer support Hill, and would vote in November for the Raza Unida candidate. The TGTF member was upset due to a last minute change in the location of the meeting initiated by Hill's staff, and due to the apparent fact that Hill's staff did not inform the candidate of the meeting until less than an hour before it was to take place.

Deitsch commented that TGTF could offer neither money nor personpower to Hill's campaign, and should therefore expect little, if anything, in return. She said that as a whole the Texas gay community is politically very naive and has a lot to learn. She

GAY STRATEGY AT THE POLLS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

None of this gives any clear indication of which is the better candidate. It says only that each will use the tactic of impugning his opponent's masculinity. In short, it is an appeal to bigotry in the electorate.

As for Proposition Six, this is a referendum question on the California ballot. It is populism in the vein of Proposition 13. This one calls for the firing of any public school teacher who publicly expresses any positive sentiments about gay life or gay people. Gay rights advocates in California predict a narrow victory for our side.

My own view is that this is wishful thinking. I feel that Proposition Six will pass by a margin of 60% to 40%. If this should be the case, my feeling is that our time would be best spent in finding our brothers and sisters who are hurt by this display of prejudice, and surrounding them with love.

stressed a need for patience ("it takes more that I ever imagined"), persistence and participation.

GAY DEMOCRATS READY, VISIBLE AT CONVENTION

Lesbian/Gay Democrats of Texas wove their way through a political process never before tackled by Texas gay delegates during the State Democratic Convention in Ft. Worth, Sept. 14-16. The gay caucus had begun its work last February and by May 6, the gay vote was identified to a greater extent than ever before. Democratic and Republican precinct conventions saw resolutions introduced related to gay people and individuals supportive of those resolutions elected as delegates to senatorial district conventions. In August, some 50 openly gay and lesbian delegates and alternates met to plan for the State Democratic Convention. Eventually, 110 elected gay/lesbian delegates and alternates made themselves known to the caucus, all in varying stages of openness about their lifestyle.

Elected to party committees to serve temporarily at the convention were Janna Zumbrun, Austin, Resolutions; Bettie Naylor, San Antonio, Rules; and a lone rural delegate (cannot name) on Nominations. Many supporters were elected to the State Democratic Executive Committee. The caucus was fortunate to have one of its own elected by his district to serve on the party's governing board (SDEC).

The Lesbian/Gay Democrats' primary goal at the convention was to pass a resolution supporting repeal of Section 21.06 of the Texas Penal Code. If such a resolution would have passed, it would have recommended that the Texas Legislature at its next meeting move to decriminalize all consensual sex acts between adults. Thus far, nineteen states have removed such restrictions.

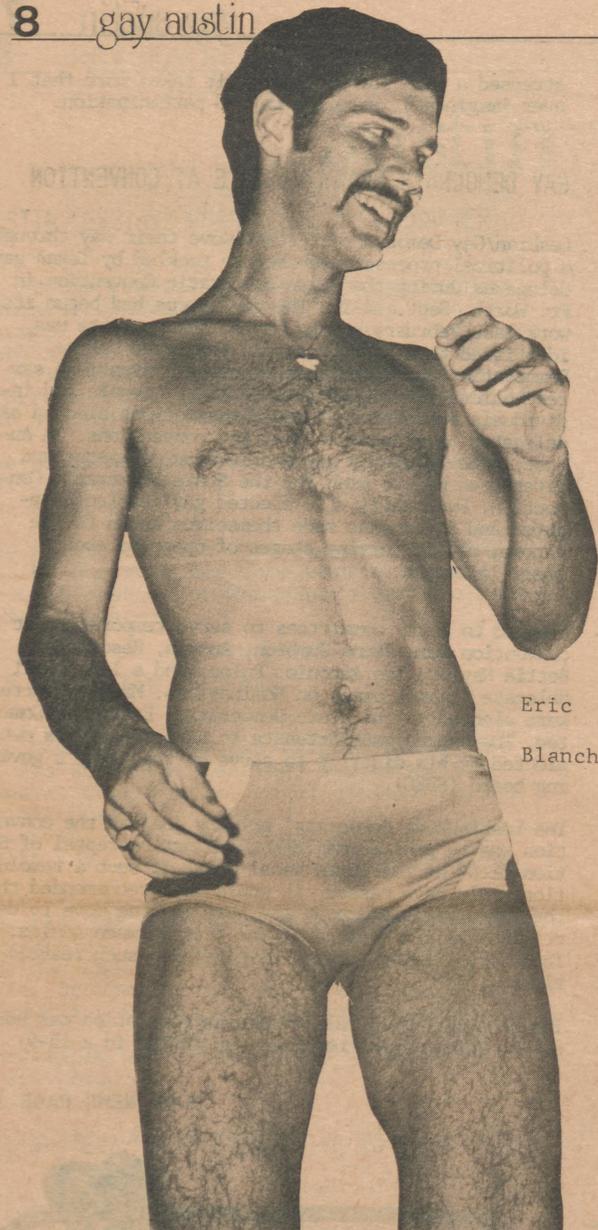
The sexual/affectional preference resolution was heard by the Resolutions Committee and failed in a 15-9

MORE NEWS PAGE 10

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Eric
Blanchette

Finding the Right Man

The Mr. Gay Austin Contest

THE WINNERS:
First Runnerup Ed Renner (l),
Mr. Gay Austin Eric Blanchette (c)
and Second Runnerup, Sammy Loehr.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY HARVEY NEVILLE



Ed Renner descends from the stage in his moistened jockstrap--courtesy of Ms. Riki.

Watersports

Show and tell was the name of the game when Ms. Riki aimed her water sprayer during the underwear competition of the Mr. Gay Austin Contest. Some entrants, like the con-

testant below at left, seemed surprised at their discoveries. Others just smiled away, leaving the target perfectly still for Riki's roving aim.



ERIC BLANCHETTE BECAME the third Mr. Gay Austin Oct. 1 at the Austin Country. First Runnerup was Ed Renner. Sammy Loehr was Second Runnerup.

Blanchette went to Dallas to represent Austin in the state contest a week later. But the Mr. Gay Texas title was won by Rick Price of Houston, who was sponsored by Numbers.

The high point of the Austin contest occurred during the underwear modeling, when emcee Ms. Riki revealed the contestant's equipment by spraying water on their undies.

Besides underwear, other categories of competition included a personal interview with the judges, swimsuit modeling, and self-expression.

At the end of the contest each of the eight entrants was given a question to answer. Asked "What is the secret to success for gay marriages?" Blanchette said that they must be kept open and free to be successful. Hearing his answer, the audience hissed.

NEWS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

vote. Caucus members immediately moved with a minority report which was the report finally heard on the floor of the convention. Lesbian/Gay Caucus leaders spoke with Lt. Gov. Hobby, Chairman of the Convention, to arrange that the report would be read on the convention floor. The caucus was granted two spokespersons, Ed Coggburn of Houston and Ann Lee Roy of Dallas.

The final action on the minority report was that it was tabled. However, caucus members had accomplished more than ever before -- high visibility, participation in all levels of convention activities, and education of delegates and alternates which was accomplished through the process of getting the caucus' resolution on the floor of the convention for a hearing.

...national

NATIONAL GAY SWITCHBOARD OPENS

A toll-free national gay hotline went into operation Oct. 1.

Officially known as the Gay National Educational Switchboard, the hotline is available from 2 p.m. until midnight every day, 365 days a year. The number to call for the hotline is 1-800-227-0888.

According to the Human Rights Foundation, sponsor of the line, at least one male and one female will always be available to answer the line.

The new switchboard is intended for anyone seeking accurate information about gay sexuality and gay lifestyles, and for anyone confused or upset by her/his gay feelings.

The switchboard is headquartered in San Francisco.



The Old Pecan St. Cafe

French Cuisine, Courtyard, & Bar.
Open 8 a.m. until 2 at night.

314 East 6th St.

ERA RATIFICATION DEADLINE EXTENDED

In a 60 to 36 vote the U.S. Senate gave its nod of approval to extension of the deadline for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. Already passed by the House of Representatives, the bill went from the Senate to the President's desk for signing.

The new deadline is June 30, 1982. To become constitutionalized, the ERA must be ratified by three more state legislatures by this date.

The old deadline was March 22, 1979.

HOUSE AXES KENNEDY'S CRIMINAL CODE REFORM

The U.S. House of Representatives voted to kill Senator Edward Kennedy's controversial legislation to reform the U.S. criminal code.

Opponents of the measure, including many gay rights groups as well as the American Civil Liberties Union, had warned that the bill would have given police and other enforcement officials broad powers and would reduce freedom of speech and assembly, and the right to privacy.

VOELLER RESIGNS TASK FORCE POST

Bruce Voeller, one of the founders of the National Gay Task Force in 1973, has announced his resignation from the co-executive directorship effective January 1, 1979.

Voeller reportedly resigned in order to devote more time to personal projects, including the writing of several books, both fiction and non-fiction.

Voeller will also be the only pro-gay spokesperson on a nation-wide debate team which includes California Sen. John Briggs, Mike Thompson of Anita Bryant's Protect America's Children, Barry Farber, Conservative Party candidate for New York City mayor, and a psychiatrist who opposes the gay lifestyle, Dr. Voth of the Menninger Clinic.

GAY ACADEMIC UNION CONFERS IN LA

The fifth national conference of the Gay Academic Union is scheduled for November 26-28 at the University of Southern California at Los Angeles. The conference theme--"Who We Are"--aims to focus attention on the goals of the GAU: to foster gay-related research and educational outreach; to provide support groups for academics and professionals; to end job discrimination against gays and women.

Keynote speakers at the convention will be Kate Millet (Sexual Politics, Sita) and Don Clark (Loving Someone Gay).

A wide variety of panels and workshops in all academic disciplines will be presented along with a film festival, an art exhibit,

theatrical productions, and organizational caucuses.

Also included among the activities is an awards banquet, at which the first scholarship awards will be presented to those students chosen as "having potential to make a significant contribution to the gay community in research, training, community service, scientific, or artistic endeavor."

Registration for the conference is \$15 for members and students, \$25 for non-members. Further information is available from P.O. Box 927, Hollywood, California, 90028.

KUNST FORCES REVOTE IN DADE COUNTY

Miami gay rights activist Bob Kunst has succeeded in collecting more than 18,000 signatures of registered voters to force a second referendum on a proposed gay rights ordinance.

According to the Dade County Charter, commissioners must either pass themselves or put before the voters any petition with 10,000 or more voters' signatures.

The proposed ordinance, covering mental and physical health services, as well as social services, is considerably broader than a similar measure defeated by a 2-1 margin in June 1977.

BERKELEY PASSES TOUGH GAY RIGHTS ORDINANCE

The Berkeley, Ca City Council has unanimously approved the toughest and most comprehensive gay rights bill in the country. The Council voted for the second time to enact the ordinance which forbids discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in housing, employment, use of city facilities and services, credit, education, and services from retail outlets.

Violators of the new law could be forced to pay up to \$400 in damages, as well as attorneys' fees and other court costs.

There are now 32 cities in the country with gay rights ordinances. Four counties have also passed anti-discrimination measures.

ANN ARBOR REJECTS MICHIGAN AG'S RULING ON ANTI-DISCRIMINATION MEASURE

Ann Arbor's broad based anti-discrimination ordinance remains in effect despite the state attorney general's ruling that the measure is not legal. City Attorney R. Bruce Laidlaw disagreed with Attorney General Frank J. Kelley's finding that state law preempts local governments from enforcing civil rights laws.

Earlier this year, the 1970 ordinance was replaced with an even more comprehensive measure. Ann Arbor's rights ordinance prohibits discrimination in housing, employment and public accommodations based on sexual orientation,



race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, physical limitations, education, association, pregnancy, source of income and family responsibilities.

Ann Arbor City Attorney Laidlaw maintained that the attorney general's ruling ignores the home rule provisions of the constitution. Laidlaw said that those provisions "have been construed as giving local governments ample power to regulate all matters which the local legislative body deems to be of local municipal concern."

GAY CENTER RECEIVES FEDERAL FUNDING

The Regional Employment and Training Consortium of San Diego County has awarded \$18,370 to the Gay Center for Social Services for two full-time positions under the federally funded CETA program.

One of the positions will be used to organize internal projects at the center. The second position involves researching and writing educational materials to be used by other social service agencies for in-service staff training.

NATIONAL GAY HOTLINE: 1 - 800 - 227 - 0888

ED IN MORNING

My man
reaches down fingers touching,
dawn sings as colours
shift, change, digress,
long hungry reaching fingers
soft smooth hunters
from a fading velvet dark;

Morning breaks as I rise
to fingers gentle,
smile reaches across the lines
of youth on the face of
my man.....

LOVE AND DENIM BLUE

Eyes that dance, smile, frown,
follow me along the hillside path,
tracing my every step,
my every curve;
I glance his way
he smiles, hands planted firmly
on smooth young hips clad in soft denim blue;

Closer I move taking in his hair,
dark sand,
his chin,
naked and clean,
his shoulders loose and
narrow,
he steps forward with sureness,
I tremble, he is like a dream,
a dream in denim blue;

His hand encircles mine,
arms lock, lips brush, we press
tighter and our tongues search in
sweet hunger,
we move into the brush and
fall on uncut grass;
denim falls like autumn leaves,
flesh meets flesh and my
lips move from lips to chest to
his cock standing strong,
we merge, we mate,
and we lay spent, arms entwined, his hair
loose on denim blue.....

ONE PLUS ONE EQUALS US

Yesterday you found me lost,
wandering in tears and violent idiocy;
you did not laugh at me,
you did not walk away,
you said that I was great,
that I mattered,
that I was mister right;
and you wanted me for at least
a thousand years...

Today I find I am more in love with you
than I ever thought I could,
maybe fairy tales do come true,
we are not perfect but we are learning,
and growing and loving...

Lovers are what lovers are,
you give, I give,
we live music, books, paintings, films, rainy
afternoons
sprawled on the floor with the Times,
bright sunny mornings and bagels and slices of good
ripe
cheese and sweet white wine and tears, and laughter,
and most of all we live
with each other...

Yesterday, today,
and mostly tomorrow,
our fingers touching, hands
held, eyes bright with dreams, with hopes,
mostly its tomorrow with us...



Poetry by
Georg
Stojcevic

Drawings by David Dole

A VERY FINE MAN INDEED

Call out your love by light of day,
do not wander in a closte of shadows;
 (he looks so fine indeed)
kiss with neither fear nor shame,
his rounded lip so sweet
embraces mine, our tongues
like strong hard animals
press, stroke, hold as even
our bodies meet in open passion --

Call out your love
as flesh meets flesh on linen
fields of dreams desire,
 (he is so fine, so fine)
do not wander hidden;
be proud of your love and let
closet shadows keep their
own company --
me, I'll keep to love and this
very fine man indeed.....

THOUGHTS

I love men as I love
the sweet stength of spring,
the quiet song of the lute,
the brash roar of the storm,
it is a love that sweeps,
runs free,
and it is both very right
and very natural...

I reach out to caress his hard, lean body --
stroke the soft shadow of his thighs --
let my tongue explore the sweetness
of his cock,
my fingers at play along every line --
and I am filled with joy,
 with love;
pulsing through my very core
with the power of our sex --
I am proud of my manhood,
 our manhood;
I walk with head up and laugh and pity
those who are afraid to love,
 to cry,
 to liv-
and be whatever they will be,

I love men and
I am a man.....

PASSING

Winds tear back the grey pages of the dawn,
reveal faces of crystal imprint,
the silent traces of rolling dew
 on the emerald spears of grass;
look out the broken windows hazy eye,
observe the changes of each
distant lonely hour,
 empty without promise --
 a requiem upon the morning.....

Candles once,
now puddles of semi-firm coloured wax
on a table with two dirty glasses,
all that now stands,
 since your faded cloak
 pushed its way through
the night's forgetful door.....



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A FRIEND OF THE



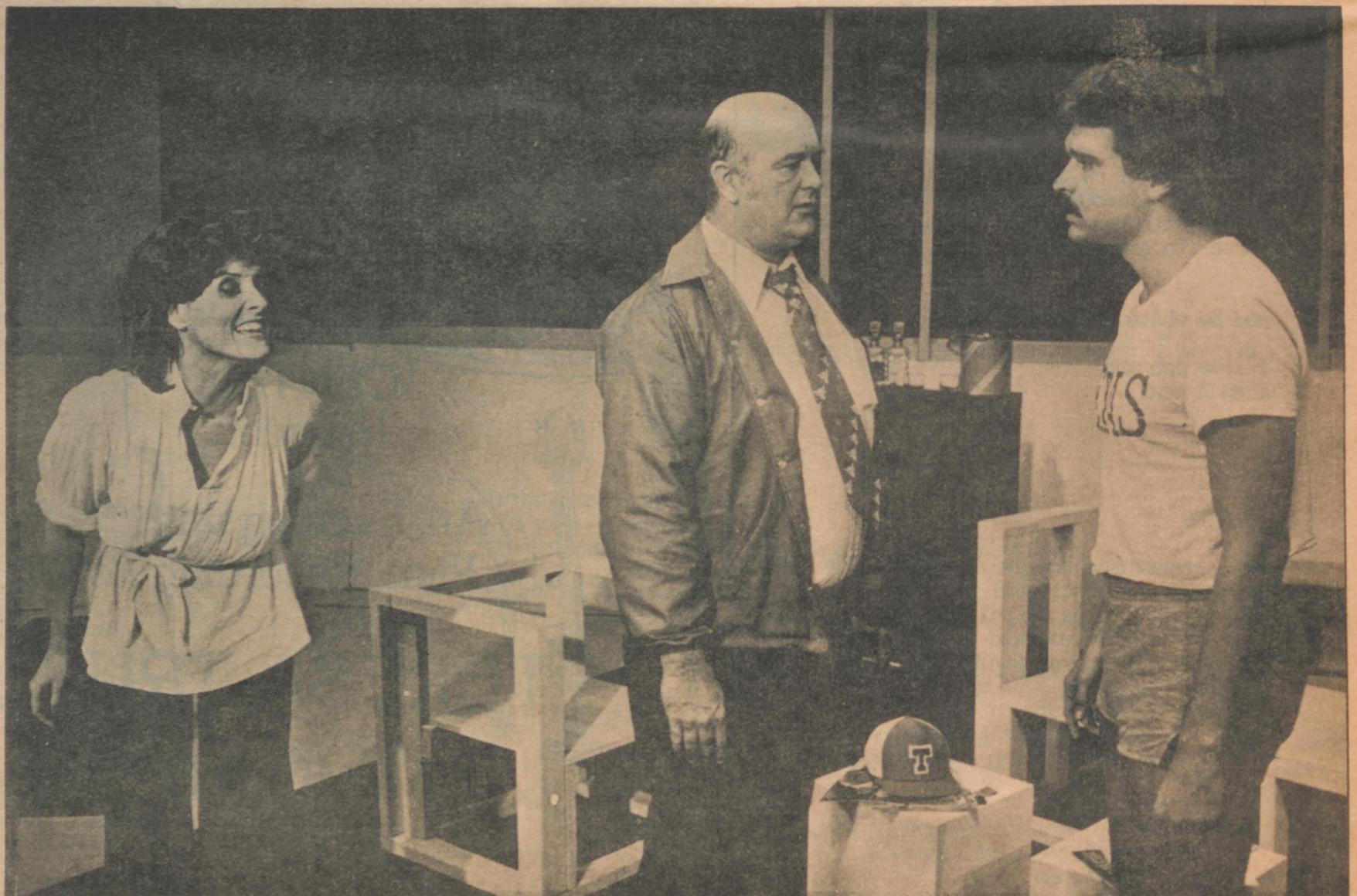
Della (Gwen Rodgers), the maid, tries to comfort Joanne (Jane Herrick), who fears her marriage has fallen irreparably apart.

Last month Center Stage presented Nick Wilkinson's play "A Friend of the Family." The play concerns a middle-aged couple in Austin -- an alcoholic woman and her distant husband -- who suspect that the young male tenant of their garage apartment, a Longhorn cheerleader and their best friends' son, is gay.

Not only do they discover that the young man is straight, but also that their own daughter isn't.

The play is understandably very emotional, and it includes many difficult moments shared by many gay people -- and their parents -- when confronted with being gay.

But Wilkinson's depiction is an optimistic one. The challenge of the daughter's lesbianism becomes the missing element for pulling back together a family on its way to total disintegration.



FAMILY

The parents are forced to communicate with each other in ways they thought they never could again. And each member of the family finds a new appreciation for the others, as well as for the new friend of the family -- the daughter's lesbian lover.



At left, Joanne tauntingly accuses Stuey (Hal Shelton) of being gay while her husband Martin (Bunch Brittain) waits for Stuey's reaction. Above, Joanne promises her daughter Andy (Jessie K. Jones) that she will try to understand and to accept her gayness.



Disgusted with his wife's drinking, Martin strikes her upon discovering that she is already drunk before noon on Thanksgiving Day.

The cast's performance was more than adequate. Especially outstanding were Jane Herrick as the mother, Hal Shelton as the young cheerleader, and Jessie K. Jones and Robin Laven as the lesbian lovers.

Bunch Brittain of the Austin Country made his theatrical debut with a solid performance as the stern but loving father.

-- Kelly Kay

photos by Kathleen Cabble

- MONDAY-SATURDAY Happy Hour at the New Apartment, 4-8pm
- MONDAY Lambda AA, 209 W. 27th St., 8pm
Pool Tourney with prizes, free beer 1-11:30pm, the New Apartment
- TUESDAY Lesbian rap group (open), Womenspace, 7:30pm second and fourth Tuesdays of the month
Free beer 10-11pm, Austin Country
- THURSDAY Showtime, 10:30pm, Austin Country
- FRIDAY Womenspace programs and discussion; coffee at 7:30pm, program at 8pm; see weekly topics in calendar
Rap group (open), Gay Community Services, 8pm.
- SUNDAY Happy hour, noon-8pm, the New Apartment
Volleyball sponsored by GCS and the Capital City Athletic Association, 5-7pm, Ramsey Park, W. 44th at Rosedale.
Metropolitan Community Church services, noon and 7:30pm; choir rehearsal, 2pm; 614 E. Sixth St.
Holy Trinity Church service, 1pm, 408 W. 23rd St.

november

- 3 Womenspace: Career and Resume Preparation Workshop, Janet Lenz of the UT Career Choice Information Center, 8pm, 2330 Guadalupe
- 5 Weight-training Workshop with Nautilus instructor Rick, 4pm, 2005A Iroquois; free beer
- 7 Election Day
- 8 University Y staff party, 4pm, 2330 Guadalupe
GCS Coordinators Council meeting, 7pm, 2330 Guadalupe
- 10 Freedom of Self-Expression Rally, noon, UT Union patio; gay entertainment sponsored by the UT Lesbian/Gay Alliance
Womenspace: Music with Sandra Dancer, 8pm, 2330 Guadalupe
Disco Dance with Casey Jones, location to be announced. Call 477-6699 for info
- 15 GCS general monthly meeting, 8pm, 2330 Guadalupe
Deadline, letters, contributions, classifieds for the December issue of Gay Austin
- 17 Womenspace: the Morning-After Pill, Austin Women's Collective, 8pm, 2330 Guadalupe
- 19 Lesbian Feminist singer/composer Teresa Trull, 7:30pm, Hogg Auditorium, UT
- 24 Womenspace closed for Thanksgiving holidays

INTRODUCING....

NATURE'S BODY MAGIC

At last! There is a sexual lubricant that is harmonious with your pleasure needs and your body health.

Touch, taste and enjoy our Oil for the Ancient Art of Love. It is edible, warms your skin and contains only nature's best.

Have an exotic experience in eight different flavors.

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GIVE YOURSELF A GIFT AT FULL PRICE, CHOOSE ONE FOR A FRIEND AT 50% DISCOUNT.



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Customer parking at 22nd & San Antonio



classified

GAY AUSTIN reaches a very special audience which other Austin newspapers just can't match. To help you communicate with the gay community, we include a Classified section. As an additional service, you can remain anonymous and we will assign a num-

ber to your ad, notifying you of all responses.

All ads must be submitted and paid for by the publication deadline which is the 15th of each month prior to publication.

HOUSEMATE WANTED to share nice 2 Bdrm house. Prefer male--neat & nonsmoking--no pets. \$125/mo plus ½ utilities. Reply to #K10

LOOKING FOR HOUSE & HOUSEMATE in Clarksville area. (2 person house--hopefully with garden). Reply #K11

WANT PRIVATE BEDROOM in apartment. Will rent up to \$125 (half rent) plus ½ utilities. Must be convenient to downtown. I smoke. Reply #K12

MAN LOOKING FOR ROOM or apartment to share--not across IH 35. Don't want to live around kid. Wanted a.s.a.p. Reply #K13

LOVERS NEED predominantly gay duplex. Want to be honest and open. Reply #K14

ROOMMATE NEEDED to share 2 Bdrm 1½ bath studio apt. Furnished, w/bar, dishwasher, disposal. \$100/mo plus ½ electricity. Reply #K15

MALE MODEL desires work. If interested please reply to #K16.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

Check one:

I WOULD LIKE TO PLACE A _____ WORD CLASSIFIED IN THE _____ ISSUE OF GAY AUSTIN. \$3.00 FOR 20 WORDS, 10¢ EACH ADDITIONAL WORD.

I WOULD LIKE TO PLACE AN ANONYMOUS WORD CLASSIFIED IN THE _____ ISSUE OF GAY AUSTIN. GCS WILL KEEP MY NAME CONFIDENTIAL AND NOTIFY ME OF ALL RESPONSES. \$4.00 FOR 20 WORDS, 15¢ EACH ADDITIONAL WORD.

CLASSIFIED:

_____/_____/_____/_____/_____/

_____/_____/_____/_____/_____/

_____/_____/_____/_____/_____/

_____/_____/_____/_____/_____/

Additional words:

MAIL THIS FORM TO: GAY COMMUNITY SERVICES (Classifieds), 2330 Guadalupe, Austin, Tx. 78705; or drop it off at the GCS office between 6:00 and 10:00 p.m. daily.