

# CONNECTIONS

SEPTEMBER, '80 AUSTIN TEXAS

VOL. 2 NO. 9



Cindy Charles

## GAYRUN '80 DRAWS 500 RUNNERS FROM TEN STATES-ENGLAND-CANADA

by John Knoebel

San Francisco - Gayrun '80, the first gay-organized, AAU-sanctioned footrace was held in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park on July 27, 1980. Five hundred runners from 10 states, England and Canada competed for honors in five- and ten-kilometer events. The event was blessed with perfect San Francisco weather and was, by all runners' accounts, a huge success.

Gayrun '80 was sponsored by THE ADVOCATE, the Bay Area-based national gay newsmagazine, and Frontrunners, San Francisco's gay running club. The race was the first gay-organized running event sanctioned by the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU). It was open to everyone and attracted runners from age 15 to 63. About one-quarter of the runners were women.

First place honors in the Men's Open Division (age 20-39) were taken by Russell Knudsen in the 10-kilometer race and John Morrissey in the 5-kilometer race. Firsts in the Women's Open were won by Janice Wambaugh in the 10-kilometer and Marylyn Galastis in the 5-kilometer. Malcolm Robinson, president of the New York City chapter of Frontrunners, took top honors in the Men's 40 and Over Division in the 10-kilometer race.

Proceeds from Gayrun '80 were donated to the Golden Gate Park Maintenance Fund, a non-profit group. Staffing for the race was provided by a group of 70 volunteers from THE ADVOCATE and Frontrunners. First aid stations were provided by the Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights, San Francisco's two-year old organization of gay doctors. Calistoga Mineral Water Company donated bottled water.

Gayrun '80 was conceived by ADVOCATE publisher Peter Frisch and associate editor Scott Anderson, both active runners and members of Frontrunners. Scott Anderson was the Race Director. Said Frisch, "Seeing 500 mostly gay men and women set off on a footrace was a new kind of high for me. It shattered yet another myth

about who gay people are. I'm proud to have been a part of Gayrun '80 and look forward to many races in other cities where gay people will have the opportunity to compete and have fun."

Scott Anderson had the following comment: "Our attempt in Gayrun '80 was to provide another way for gay people to express and feel good about themselves. The real excitement for me was not only the number of gay people who told me that this was their first race

## PICKLE VOTES FOR "CHRISTIAN VOICE"

J.J. (Jake) Pickle, United States Representative from Austin, District 10, voted to include an amendment inspired by the right-wing fundamentalist lobby "Christian Voice" in an important appropriation bill.

THE DALLAS TIMES HERALD of Sunday, July 27, 1980, reported that Jake Pickle was one of the U.S. Representatives from Texas who voted for an amendment to HR 7584 "to prevent the Legal Services Corporation from promoting, defending or protecting homosexuality."

The Legal Services Corporation is a quasi-governmental agency, like the United States Postal Service. Its purpose is to "provide legal defense and counsel to those to whom it would not be otherwise available."

Christian Voice and other anti-human rights lobbies in Washington have been planning anti-gay amendments for a long time, according to Steve Endean of the Gay Rights National Lobby (GRNL). In a GRNL Legislative Alert mailed late in May, Endean warned, "These bills will be dealt with on the floor of Congress in a week or two. It is likely they will pass, due to the current conservative political climate."

Endean speculated that the Legal Services Corporation Act would be a likely vehicle. A similar bill had been amended by Congressman Larry McDonald in 1977. That amendment passed by a vote of 230-133, but failed to come up in the Senate and was subsequently dropped in conference committee. Endean cautioned, "That was before the creation of Christian Voice, Moral Majority, Americans Against HR 2074 (the gay civil rights bill), and the American Family Institute. We can't expect such luck this year."

The GRNL Legislative Alert requested that readers send a mailgram to their Congressional Representative urging opposition to any such amendment. One mailgram and Representative Pickle's response is on page 4.

and they loved it, but also the wide representation of women and minorities, young and old, gay men and lesbians as well as straight runners. I was really pleased with how well the race was managed and by all the support we got from the non-gay running community. I am sure that next year's Gayrun '81 will be even better."

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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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Speakers Bureau . . . . . Troy Stokes  
Publications . . . . . Jim Olinger


  
**Questions?**

**GAY COMMUNITY SERVICES**  
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**477-6699**

UNITY

In late July, every United States Representative from Texas except Houston's Mickey Leland voted to deny Federal legal aid to homosexual Americans (see pages 1 and 4). This vote was a result of pressure from right-wing fundamentalist groups.

It's ironic that these "Christians" are a minority group themselves. This is a chilling demonstration of the power of unity of purpose and organization. Now that the right-wing lobby groups "Christian Voice" and "Moral Majority" have demonstrated their power, they will not rest in their hysterical attempts to create their fantasy world by law.

In Houston last spring, City Councilman Frank Mann launched a vicious attack on the gay community as part of his campaign. Mann angered the "odd-wads" so much they united against him. He was defeated decisively.

The moral is obvious. There is strength in unity and organization. In the struggle for lesbian/gay rights, most of the unity and organization belongs to the religious extremists. This isn't surprising. We don't have a single, well-defined rallying point, such as skin color or religious faith. All we have in common is society's intolerance for our sexuality.

The multitude of gay and lesbian organizations in Austin is a case in point. We have religious, cultural, political, and service groups, each meeting some of the needs of its members and the community.

Austin's Gay Pride Rally in Wooldridge Park on June 26 was the first time a majority of Austin groups (Austin Lambda Cultural, ALGPC, GCS and MCCA) pooled our talents and resources for a single project. It was a resounding success.

United, there is nothing we cannot do. As Ben Franklin said, "We must all hang together, or we shall surely hang separately."

*Jim Olinger*

BAR DISCRIMINATION - letter to the editor

I am writing this letter in regard to discrimination in the gay bars. We hear of discrimination whenever the police are involved in anything dealing with the gay world, but I've hardly ever heard of it in the bars except from women, blacks or Spanish-Americans. Bar owners and managers, when confronted, say "there's no discrimination in this bar." I know better. I have observed first-hand the discrimination of our gay brothers and sisters. How in the world can we yell "we want our rights," when we don't even give our own brothers and sisters their own rights?

We tell the straight world to look at the first ten amendments to the Constitution, but do we really look at them ourselves? Apparently not.

When I started observing in the bars, I was told to keep the "niggers and broads" out. I was to ask for two photo ID's from anybody I thought should not come in, especially blacks, Mexicans and women. I don't like to do this but I'm told to do this or lose my job. I am very ashamed about this, but everyone must do something they don't like once in a while. I hope the brothers and sisters who I have discriminated against will forgive me.

(Name withheld by request)


  
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## AUSTIN GAYS AT DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION

Janna Zumbrun and Steve Thomas, former Austin Lesbian Gay Political Caucus co-chairs, returned to Austin the week of August 25 from New York City, where they represented Austin lesbians and gays at the Democratic National Convention.

Steve, who was elected first alternate of the Texas Kennedy caucus, and Janna, who was elected to the National Platform Committee, were both seated as delegates at the convention.

The lesbian/gay caucus succeeded in acquiring enough signatures to nominate a candidate for vice-president: Melvin Boozer, a black from the Washington D.C. Gay Activists Alliance. The nomination served the purpose of gaining 15 minutes of convention time for speeches. This occurred about 5:30 p.m. on Thursday. Ginny Apuzzo and Bill Krause, lesbian/gay caucus co-chairs, gave Boozer's nominating speeches.

The platform plank condemning discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation was passed without debate. Perhaps more significantly, the Democratic Party adopted a rule within the Party charter prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation within the work of the Party.

The lesbian/gay caucus also met with Presidential special assistant Anne Wexler. Janna reported that the meeting was a very frank discussion of the grievances of gays with regard to the Carter administration, and that Wexler's attitude towards our concerns was basically positive.

Other open lesbian or gay Texans seated as delegates included Louise Young, Al Calkin of Dallas, and Larry Bagneris of Houston.



Photo by Kwong Hui

## 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.



## AUSTIN SKATING PARTY

Austin's lesbian/gay community is cordially invited to a roller skating party. It will be held at Hot Wheels Skateland, 1606 Stassney Lane, in South Austin on Monday, September 22 from 8:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Admission will be \$2.50 at the door. This is just enough to cover hall rental and expenses. The skating party is sponsored by Affirmation Gay Mormons, Austin Lambda Cultural, Austin Lesbian Gay Political Caucus, Dignity, Gay Community Services, and Metropolitan Community Church of Austin.

Y'all come!

## GCS PERSONAL AWARENESS GROUP STARTS

The Gay Community Services men's personal awareness group is now meeting at 8:00 p.m. every Friday in the rap room at the University 'Y', 2330 Guadalupe.

Several individuals had expressed the need for a small group of the same people meeting each week because of the difficulty of relating to a large, ever-changing group of strangers. These groups are intended to fill this need.

Two meetings were held in August with approximately 6 people attending each one.

GCS coordinator Lynn Aday is convening the men's group. A lesbian's group convener is still needed. For more information, contact GCS or come to the Friday night meeting.

**Read your  
news in  
CONNECTIONS**

# This Is Our Representative??

MAILGRAM SERVICE CENTER  
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REPRESENTATIVE JAKE PICKLE  
CAPITOL ONE  
WASHINGTON DC 20515

I AM ONE OF YOUR GAY CONSTITUENTS. I URGE YOUR OPPOSITION TO ANY BILLS OR AMENDMENTS TO BILLS (SUCH AS HR6386, LEGAL SERVICES CORP) THAT WOULD WRITE ANTI GAY DISCRIMINATION INTO LAW.

IF WE START WRITING LAWS WHICH PERSECUTE ONE MINORITY WHO WILL BE NEXT?

CONGRESS SHOULD NOT BOW TO PRESSURES TO ENACT SUCH UNAMERICAN LEGISLATION. I WOULD LIKE TO LEARN YOUR VIEW ON THIS ISSUE.

WAYDE FREY  
2401 MAYNARD RD #118  
AUSTIN TX 78722

## Congress of the United States House of Representatives

Mr. Wayde Frey  
2401 Maynard Road, #118  
Austin, Texas 78722

Dear Mr. Frey:

I have heard no formal word that an amendment will be offered to the Legal Services Corporation Bill, banning any litigation involving homosexuals. Also, I do not know when the bill is coming up on the House floor.

Therefore, I cannot say at this time how I would vote on such an amendment. But I will certainly keep your views in mind when the bill is considered.

Your writing is appreciated.

Sincerely,

J.J. PICKLE

### MORALITY LOOMS IN DALLAS

Dallas Reunion Arena was the site of a "National Affairs Briefing" for an estimated 20,000 pastors and individuals from across the country. The August 21-22 event was sponsored by the Religious Roundtable - James Robison's new political organization. Their purpose is to motivate "Christians" to elect candidates who are opposed to the Equal Rights Amendment, reproductive freedom, child care, lesbian/gay rights, the Department of Health and Welfare, separation of church and state (if the church is theirs), and many of the other freedoms we enjoy.

The strength of this right-wing group (usurping the name of Christianity for their own purposes) was evident in the recent Republican Convention. Members of the Moral Majority, Jerry Falwell's group, were present in practically every delegation and conferred privately with Governor Reagan.

Ronald Reagan, Phyllis Schlafly, Governor William Clements and John Connally were included in the list of prominent speakers.

Members of the Dallas Gay Political Caucus and the National Organization for Women, in coalition with other groups, were planning positive efforts to counter these extremists, politically and religiously. This group adopted the name of the Thinking Majority. It meets every Saturday at 10:00 a.m. at the NOW offices in Dallas.

-from the DGPC Newsletter

### FCC ASKED TO UPHOLD ROBISON RULING

Dallas - The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has been requested by the National Gay Task Force to oppose a complaint by the James Robison Evangelistic Association against WFAA-TV of Dallas.

The Association lodged the complaint against the television station following an FCC ruling that upheld the right of the station to exercise "editorial discretion" in its decision to cancel a religious series in which evangelist James Robison appeared.

Robison delivered a sermon on morality in which he made anti-gay remarks and condemnations. The program, aired February 25, 1979, stirred controversy and a Dallas Gay Political Caucus complaint of personal attack prompted WFAA-TV to cancel the series. The reason for the cancellation, according to the station's explanation, was that a program of a religious nature should not concern itself with controversial issues of public importance, that news and public affairs broadcasting provided sufficient coverage of those issues as well as opportunity for equal time response.

## HOMOS ON THE RANGE

### MCCA WELCOMES ASSISTANT PASTOR

by Gerry Tarr

There's a new face in town. He's a 33-year-old, 5'10" Aquarian with dark brown hair, brown eyes and a dark moustache. His name is A. Edward Paul and he has just moved here from Pensacola, Florida.

What brings him to Austin? Trust and faith in God. Reverend Ed Paul will be assistant pastor of the Metropolitan Community Church of Austin. His first Sunday with the staff is September 7. On Sunday, September 13, Rev. Paul will be installed as Assistant Pastor at the 12 noon worship service. The community is invited to attend this joyous event.

Rev. Paul is a licensed minister within the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. He has an A.A. Degree from Pensacola Junior College, a B.A. Degree in Bible and a Th. B. Degree in Theology (equivalent to a M.A. in Bible) from Alabama Christian School of Religion. He also has a year of work on a degree in chemical research at the University of West Florida and is a licensed cosmetologist.

Ed Paul has been a leader in gay activism in Pensacola. He helped found MCC-Pensacola and has been their worship coordinator for the past two years. He developed great rapport with the press - newspaper, television and radio. He had numerous speaking engagements at local universities and junior colleges and has also made television and radio appearances.

MCCA welcomes Rev. Ed Paul to Austin and we are proud to add him to the staff.

MCCA invites the community of Austin and the surrounding areas to meet Rev. Ed Paul and get to know him.

Canada (IGNA) - The popular notion that the Western frontier was settled by farming families under a strict regime of law and order has been challenged by recently assembled evidence that male homosexual activity may have been a widespread aspect of settlement.

Australian writer Terry Chapman has written a study called "Sexual Deviations in Western Canada: 1890-1920," revealing that criminal records of the period relating to buggery, sodomy, gross indecency, and indecent assault on males indicate the occurrence of much homosexual activity.

Ms. Chapman found that prosecutions were common. She accounts for the widespread activity by noting that males greatly outnumbered females during the settlement period and that logging and mining isolated large numbers of men together in remote locations.



Jim Olinger

Wayde Frey and Dianne Draper

### DIANNE DRAPER STARTS MCC LUBBOCK

by Gerry Tarr

During the past 5 years, Dianne Draper has been an integral part of the Metropolitan Community Church of Austin. She was a founding member when the group received "Study Group" status from the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. She was with MCCA when "Mission" status was received and she was one of the thirty charter members when MCCA became a full-fledged church.

Dianne felt the calling to preach the word of God. Her early Bible background prepared her well. She became an Exhorter (student minister) in MCCA and continued her religious education. She has served the congregation of MCCA with a loving heart.

UFMCC continues to be the fastest-growing organization which reaches out specifically to the gay community. Reverend Candace Naisbitt, pastor of MCCA and UFMCC District Coordinator, had received many requests from the people of Lubbock, Texas, to start a Metropolitan Community Church in their city. Rev. Naisbitt decided the Lord could use Dianne's talents there.

MCC Lubbock held their first worship service in July, 1980, with Exhorter Dianne Draper officiating. Dianne has been commuting between Lubbock and Austin for Sunday services since that time. She is now moving permanently to Lubbock to be MCCL worship coordinator.

MCC Lubbock is currently a study group with an average of 35 people attending each worship service. Since the church cannot own property until they are incorporated, one of the members has purchased a house for Dianne to live in. They are an eager group with a lot of drive and determination.

We are sorry to lose Dianne Draper but we are happy knowing she will be with people who love her and will care for her.

We send Dianne off with our love and our prayers for her work and service for MCC Lubbock.

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## M. C. C. A. NEEDS NEW HOME

by Gerry Tarr

On August 3, 1980, the congregation of the Metropolitan Community Church of Austin was informed that their present church building had been sold. The new landlords are increasing the rent six (6) times the present rate.

The Board of Directors of MCCA decided it was time for the church to relocate. Relocation has been in MCCA's plans for some time, but it is now essential.

A church building at 5500 Avenue G has been found. At present, the Highland Church of God occupies the building, but the congregation plans to build a new church. The building is an L-shaped brick structure which includes a sanctuary that will seat approximately 175 people, a large fellowship hall, office space, a nursery and a four-room house adjacent to the church building which is used for meeting rooms and offices. The asking price is \$149,000.00.

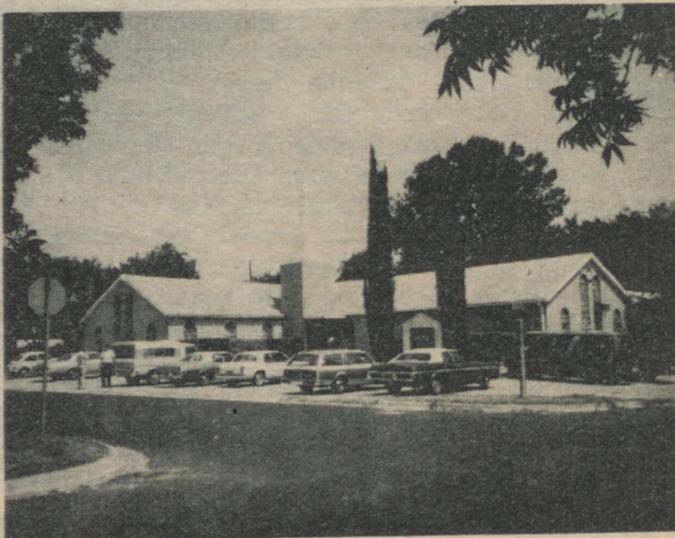
MCCA has made an offer for the building and is waiting for the Church of God's response. MCCA must be out of our present location by November 1. It is hoped that the building purchase will be complete by September 31.

MCCA has held several fund raisers including a spaghetti dinner with the Rev. Elder Troy Perry as guest speaker and a Haircut-a-Thon. More fund raisers are planned for the future.

MCCA hopes to raise \$120,000.00 to pay for the building. Any donations are tax deductible and certainly welcome. If you would like to donate, please notify Rev. Candace A. Naisbitt, pastor of MCCA at 477-7747 or write to her in care of MCCA, 614 East 6th Street, Austin, Texas 78701. MCCA needs your help to make this move a reality.



Current Metropolitan Community Church of Austin, 614 East Sixth



Proposed future home of MCCA, 5500 Avenue G

Jim Olinger

Jim Olinger

## MHMR STILL DIAGNOSES "HOMOSEXUALITY"

IMPACT, house organ of the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, notes in its current issue that the Department will adopt Diagnostic and Statistical Manual III on September 1, 1980. DMS III is the American Psychiatric Association's nationally standardized system of diagnosing and naming diseases.

The author of the article, Sarah Bird, claims that the "most controversial" change in DSM III is that homosexuality *per se* is no longer considered a psychosexual disorder. Ms. Bird finds other changes to be "less notorious."

In actuality, DSM III represents no change in the American Psychiatric Association's view of homosexuality. It amended DSM II eight years ago, deleting homosexuality as a mental disorder. Since that time, "ego-dystonic homosexuality" has been the only category for recording homosexuality as a disorder. This ailment is "a sustained pattern of homosexual arousal that the client explicitly states is an unwanted and persistent source of distress."

However, a source within the Texas Department of MHMR tells CONNECTIONS that there are still persons diagnosed primarily as having the disorder of "Homosexuality" and people have been admitted to state mental hospitals with no other psychiatric diagnosis since the change in DSM II was adopted.

## TGTF APPOINTS NEW OFFICERS

by Stephen Caldwell

Jack Wilkinson of Dallas is the new moderator of the Texas Gay Task Force (TGTF), as reported in the August CONNECTIONS. He was chosen by the TGTF Board at its meeting held in Austin July 26, 1980.

Wilkinson is a board member for the TGTF Northern Region and also serves on the boards of the Community Resource Center and Gay Academic Union/North Texas.

Ken Waller of Denton is the group's new Secretary, a post previously filled by Rosella Kliever.

The new address for TGTF is Box AK, Denton, Texas 76201. For further information, calls may be directed to the two Eastern Region boardmembers, Stephen Caldwell at 713/861-1473 or Jenny Willingter at 713/869-7231, or to TGTF Moderator Jack Wilkinson at 214/355-1156 (days) or 214/528-9038 (evenings).



## Metropolitan Community Church

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Pastor

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INCLUDING ALL-DAY SATURDAY PROGRAM

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1980

INSTALLATION OF REV. ED PAUL AS ASSISTANT

PASTOR MCCA

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1980

POT-LUCK SUPPER

7:30 P.M.

## G.C.S. BEGINS SIXTH YEAR--IN TROUBLE

by Wayde Frey

Austin's oldest lesbian/gay organization is five years old.

Since opening its doors August 1, 1975, Gay Community Services has served hundreds of lesbians and gay men in Austin and in Texas.

GCS is Texas' oldest and virtually only gay telephone hotline. San Antonio's gay hotline comes and goes. Houston's Gay Political Caucus phone line makes referrals to Houston professionals, but does not offer peer counseling. Dallas' gay line is a taped message announcing activities in Dallas gay circles.

Some of the names that are associated with GCS' founding and early years are Woody Egger, Wayde Frey, Tommy Ingram, Robert Crane, Roy Loessin, Scott Lind, Casey Jones, Randy Conner, Ellen Rayfield, Mark Schmitz, Dan (Puckett) Transmission, Anne Hogan, Caryn McLane, Art Morris, and Troy Stokes.

GCS grew out of Austin Gay Liberation, which occasionally met at the University Y from 1969 to 1972, and Gay People of Austin which met at the University Y in 1973-1974.

Some highlights of GCS' first five years were the opening of the office and gay hotline in 1975; the adoption of the GCS constitution in 1976; the founding of the newspaper GAY AUSTIN (CONNECTIONS' predecessor) in 1976; the GCS leadership of Austin's Gay Pride Parade in 1976; the hosting of Texas Gay Conference IV in Austin in 1977; and the 13-week airing of Austin's first-and-still-only weekly gay radio program, A Different Drummer, produced by GCS and the Austin Gay Radio Collective on KUT-FM in 1980.

As GCS enters its sixth year of operations, membership and involvement are at an all-time low. Perhaps people see no need for a strong lesbian/gay network in Austin, since we have it so comfortable here. Police har-

assment is rare and good vibes and pleasant scenery are abundant. Yet, a few of us continue the GCS tradition of service and friendship to the community. Not everyone has a supportive group of friends who love them and understand their gay lifestyle. For those who need to get to know some other gay person like themselves - any gay person - and for those who need the simple assistance of directions to the nearest gay bar, bath, church, or bookstore, GCS is there. People who call or come by GCS appreciate the friendliness and peer counseling or referral services they receive. No one else offers what GCS offers. The need is real. Even people in Houston and San Antonio call Austin's GCS for advice, information, or encouragement.

GCS meets some of the socializing and counseling needs of many lesbians and gays who are just coming out, including teenagers. Many pre-teen girls and boys also call us.

The Coordinating Council is currently defining GCS membership in more detail and is discussing ways of attracting new members. Lots of people continue to call GCS, although we have only been able to keep the office open on Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday during the summer of 1980 due to a shortage of volunteers.

GCS has had to get along without a general coordinator and secretary since the fall of 1979, almost a year now. We need volunteers to fill many positions: a social chairperson to organize parties for GCS folks; a media person to get PSA's for the organization on radio, on TV, and in the straight media; a Y liaison to keep the University Y and GCS in touch with each other; and a fundraising person for our numerous expenses.

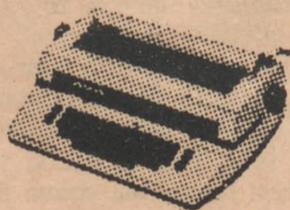
In addition, advertising representatives are needed to sell ads on a 35% commission basis for CONNECTIONS, the GCS newspaper.

Help us keep a much-needed and appreciated community service going.

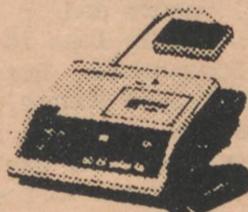
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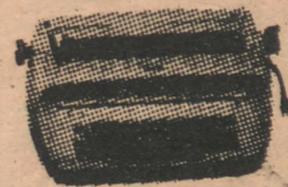
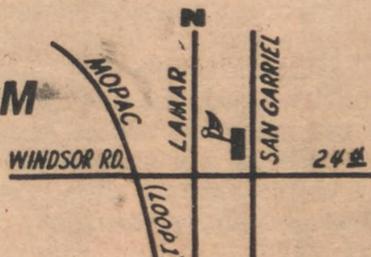


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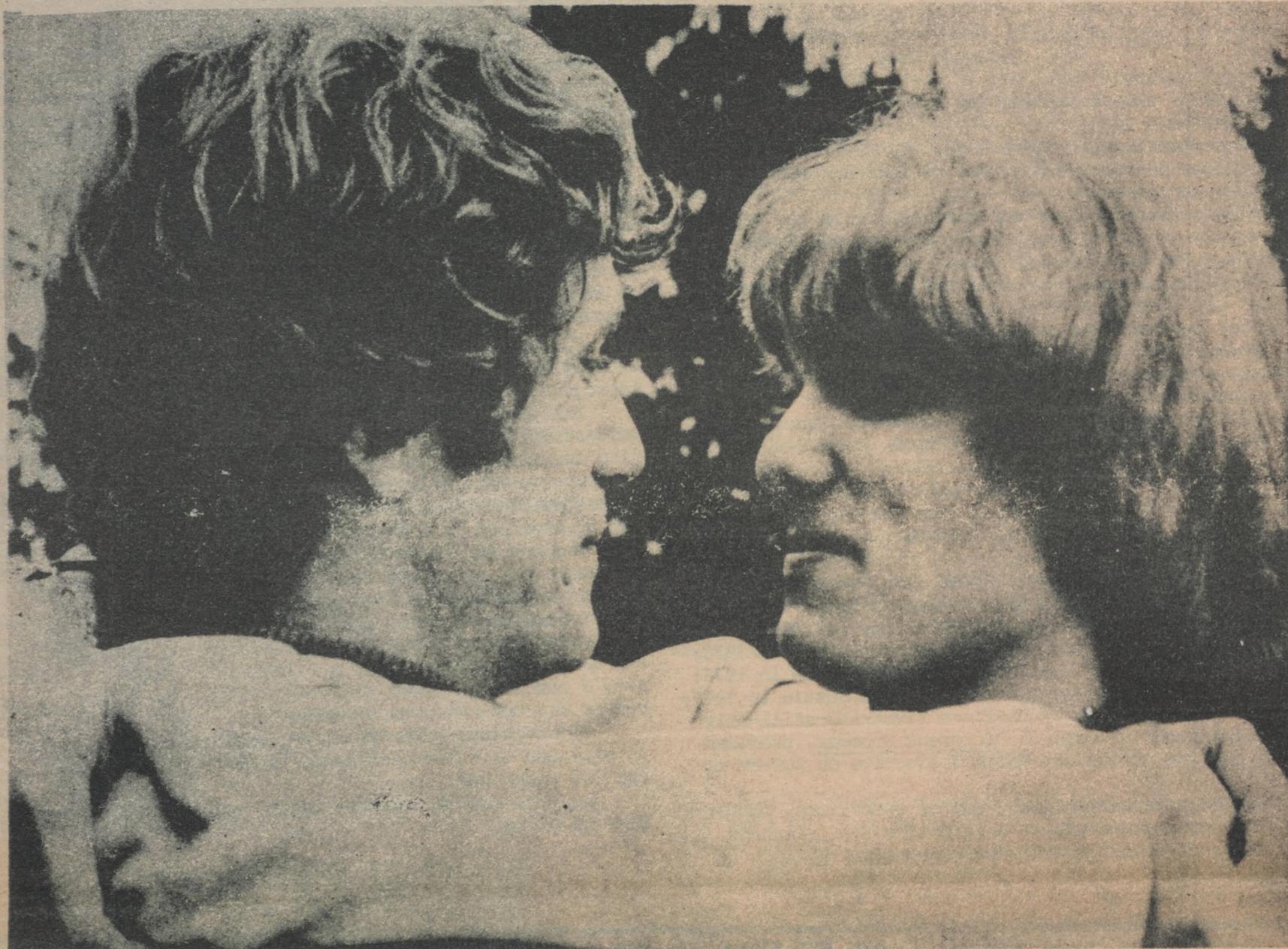
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# the CONSEQUENCE

## Truth and Consequences

The Consequence, directed by Wolfgang Petersen, is a classic formulation of what happens when boy meets boy and decides to tell the parents. In this case, telling the truth seems to lead inevitably to harassment and destruction - of love and of the lovers themselves. Thomas seems to understand these facts

When Martin is released, he insists on going with Thomas to see his parents. Of course, they are homophobic and harshly reject Thomas's plea for understanding. When he is taken to reform school, Thomas is preceded by the word that he's queer. His loving, vulnerable nature and his adolescent beauty and vitality make him the butt of both jailors and fellow prisoners. Thomas tries to run away and Martin tries various devices to free him. One is a visit to the reform school disguised as a psychological investigator. There's some comedy and release of angry tensions, but Thomas actually ends up worse off.

Escaping again, Thomas undergoes so many scarifying experiences he returns to the school of his own accord, determined to somehow last out the time until he's of age. He does, enduring and watching sadistic cruelties with outward calm but inner anguish. When Martin comes to meet him after he's released, Thomas

almost refuses to recognize him. He is so numb with self-loathing he simply can't react naturally or rationally to the love and understanding Martin is ready to give. In fact, the next morning he overdoses, rows out onto the placid lake in a small boat, and slips silently into the water. (This is the opening shot of the film. Its meaning is unclear at the time, but it hangs over the rest of the film like a cloud.)

When Thomas disappears from the hospital where he's taken after his attempted suicide, we see only TV announcements asking for help in finding him. There are no results, no assurance that he will return and/or recover. There is no doubt that this tragic loss is due to his parents', and society's, homophobia. Pretending to help, they have in fact destroyed Thomas. It is impossible not to leave the theatre in a rage at the loss. Ernest Hannawald plays Thomas so well that it is hard to think of him as an actor. Everyone in the gay community knows of more than one such tragic loss. Leaving the theatre, one puts the cases together into a raging fire of protest. Why? Why? Sick society has done no good for anyone, despite all its nobly moral pretenses. Life has lost more than anyone can say.

This is the most effective film I have seen for

showing the irrational brutality of the homophobic world - supposedly civilized! It comes near to tragic greatness in showing gay love. Petersen treats his

"THE WORLD'S RULES ARE ALL LOADED AGAINST SAME-SEX LOVERS. TRYING TO BE HONORABLE IS JUST WALKING INTO A TRAP."

subject cleanly and forthrightly, without sentiment or moralizing. He does not conceal or comment on the fact that Martin had affairs before meeting Thomas, and would have them again. This never clouds the sincerity of his attachment and his protective (if not very wise) love. Thomas's presumed death is a harsh condemnation of society for its homophobic oppression of gays.

instinctively and finds it incredible that his newly-found, slightly older lover, Martin, wants to go talk with his parents, as if, in the "straight" language of the past, "to ask for his hand in marriage." Thomas's parents are horrified and angry and throw them out.

The lovers go to Martin's house and have their only brief time of happiness. Then the police officers come to take Thomas to court and reform school. Thomas was right. There's no use trying to play by the world's rules. They're all loaded against same-sex lovers and trying to be honorable is just walking into a trap.

In case you missed the film, here's an idea of the plot and characters - plus some advice. Go see it the next time it comes to town. It's an honest and powerful film, even though depressing. Martin, a young actor, is in prison for "molesting" a fifteen-year-old boy. Martin (played very convincingly by Jurgen Prochonow) carries out his prison assignments with outward calm although chance remarks make it clear he is fuming inwardly at the unfairness of the sentence.

Martin participates in a play performed in the prison. One of the other actors is Thomas, the adolescent son of one of the guards. When they talk briefly after a rehearsal, Thomas tells Martin somebody's called him a queer. Martin responds honestly but not enthusiastically. He is surprised when he goes to his cell after the final performance and finds Thomas there. Their lovemaking, verbal and physical, is shown in a way that is neither sentimental nor titillating, but is gentle, sincere and deeply moving.

"IT COMES NEAR TO TRAGIC GREATNESS IN SHOWING GAY LOVE."



REVIEWED BY ROY TEELE

# WOODY EGGER LEAVES AUSTIN



Jim Olinger

Woody Egger is a long-time Austin and Texas gay activist. He grew up in Mullin, Texas, which is near Brownwood. He was one of the organizers of Gay Community Services of Austin and was its General Coordinator at one time.

The UT Law School graduate was one of the original incorporators of the Texas Gay Task Force. He served on the TGTF Board of Directors for three years, which helped tie Austin into the gay organizations and activities in the rest of the state. He eventually resigned from TGTF due to "strategy differences."

Egger is now moving to New York City. CONNECTIONS staffers Wayde Frey and Jim Olinger interviewed him the evening before his departure in late August, 1980. He expressed a need to leave Austin because he felt he was in a rut. "I also want to get away from people's expectations of me," he stated. "They can be impossible to live up to."

CONNECTIONS: Now that you're leaving Texas behind, where do you see the Austin gay community heading?

EGGER: I see Austin as slowly growing, but apathetic. I find that frustrating. It's a catch-22. The more an activist screams and hollers, the more apathetic the gay community becomes. This results in a backlash of resentment among many closeted lesbians and gays.

I think the prevalent attitude is "What do these gay activists want at the bar this time? Why doesn't everybody just dance, smoke a J and be happy?"

Professional people who have made it on their own say "I don't need that gay civil rights organization. All I have to do is just keep my mouth shut. All anyone has to do is be discreet and they won't have any problems from being gay."

CONNECTIONS: That attitude is known as "gay self-oppression."

EGGER: I've lived my life openly and actively. I think I have accomplished what I wanted to do for myself as an openly gay person. The question I ask myself is "Why should I work hard for people who don't care?"

Most gay activist organizations in Austin are not known that well in the gay community at large. You try so hard to do something as a group, such as GCS, ALGPC, or TGTF, and 90% of the gay community doesn't know who you are, what you're doing, and doesn't really even care.

CONNECTIONS: Lesbian and gay leaders are getting a loud and clear message from their constituents: "do nothing."

EGGER: Unfortunately, yes.

For people who are determined to "do something" anyway, gay activism has reached a fork in the road.

There are two different philosophies about how to proceed: the professional route or the grassroots route. Some people say we should conduct our gay activism on a professional basis or not at all. Others, and I'm one of them, maintain that grassroots activism is better than not doing anything.

So which way do you go? Take every route possible. Success in the gay rights struggle will come neither through the legislature nor the courts, but through society. That's where my street activism comes in.

I don't think most people have an accurate perception of me. My two sides have confused people. I can be radical or conciliatory.

Bettie Naylor, Kathy Deitsch, and Rosella Kliever of the Texas Gay Task Force and the Human Rights Advocates, didn't understand me. They couldn't go along with my "radical" approach to lobbying the Texas Legislature.

I believed in pushing for a floor vote on the repeal of 21.06 (the "sodomy law.") Make the legislators bear the burden of being the bad guys, instead of putting the blame on gay groups. Make legislators take the heat for not voting for repeal.

I caught a lot of flack from Bettie, Kathy, and Rosella for going into the visitors' gallery of the Legislature with a group of gay activists wearing black armbands. That only alienates those people who don't like you in the first place. When you don't have a chance anyway, go ahead and raise hell.

I resigned from the TGTF Board because of differences with B, K, and R on strategy. Professional, closeted gays were advising not to push for repeal of 21.06.

I believe each side needs the other. Some people have to raise hell. Others have to be more moderate, conciliatory, and work through the system. I can be radical or wear a suit and tie. I don't like confrontations, but they cause better results in the long run.

CONNECTIONS: How do you feel about party politics right now?

EGGER: I consider myself a moderate-liberal Democrat. I felt torn between Kennedy and Carter, but voted for Carter in the May 1980 primary. I'll probably vote for Carter in November, too, unless the Anderson campaign appears to be really viable. If people feel both Carter and Reagan are so bad, they should vote for Anderson out of principle.



Jim Olinger

CONNECTIONS: Do you have any advice for Austin gay activists?

EGGER: Wow! Well, keep up the good work and keep fighting the good fight and keep all routes open. Sometimes an impromptu, emotional, impassioned speech works best. Other times, citing statistics and Kinsey studies influences people more. I believe in doing the unexpected - catch people off guard.

## THANK YOU, AUSTIN

Austin Lesbian Gay Political Caucus and those involved with the Austin Convention Fund Project thank the many people and businesses who helped with or contributed to the Fund.

Some \$2,100 has been raised, so far. We expect that the Labor Day weekend fundraiser at the Hollywood will put us very close to meeting all expenses. About half the amount raised so far was through substantial personal contributions. We are extremely grateful to these people.

We are also deeply indebted to the ownership and management of the Austin Country, the New Apartment, One-Ten, the Private Cellar, Tex's Colorado Street Bar, the Hollywood, and the Red River Crossing. These businesses helped make the fundraisers a success.

Thank you, Austin, for your support.

Carr Strong, ALGPC Co-chair

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## ALGPC STARTS MEMBERSHIP/VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE

by Carr Strong

The Austin Lesbian Gay Political Caucus is starting a combined membership and voter-registration drive on Labor Day weekend. It will run for five weekends, through October 4, the November election's deadline for voter-registration. ALGPC members will have tables set up at each of the bars in Austin from 10 p.m. - 1 a.m. every Friday and Saturday night during the drive. Tables will also be set up during special events at the bars, particularly on Thursday nights.

Anyone living in Austin who is not registered to vote here, can register. It is a fast, painless way to change your registration address or to register for the first time.

ALGPC has set a goal of adding 100 new members during the drive. Membership is \$12.00 a year, with special rates for low-income or sponsoring memberships. Persons interested in ALGPC may come to one of the tables to learn more about the organization, to get on the ALGPC Newsletter mailing list, or to join. ALGPC will also be selling T-shirts and buttons.



Austin delegates Janna Zumbrun (left) and Steve Thomas

### NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GAY AND LESBIAN ISSUES

"Cruising and Rejection," "Problems in the Work Place," "Legal Issues for Gays and Lesbians," and "Examining and Building Support Systems," are a few of the topics to be discussed at the National Conference on Gay and Lesbian Issues to be held October 10-12, 1980, in Chicago.

Ed White, co-author of *The Joy of Gay Sex* and author of *States of Desire: Travels in Gay America* will speak on "Regional Differences in Gay Life Around the Country" and "The Current State of Gay Culture."

Barbara Gittings, lesbian activist and currently coordinator of the Task Force on Gay Liberation of the American Library Association, will speak on "Setting Parents Straight About Growing Up Gay" and "The Hungry Gay Bookworm."

Paul Shanley, the only diocesan priest with a ministry to sexual minorities approved by a bishop, will speak on "The Soft Underbelly of the Gay Movement" and "The Cruel God of the Christians."

The conference is co-sponsored by Oasis Center and Dignity/Chicago. For further information contact Oasis Center, 7463 N. Sheridan, Chicago, IL 60626 or call 312/274-6777.

Jim Olinger

## DIETSCH AND NAYLOR RESIGN FROM TGTF

Kathy Deitsch, Texas Gay Task Force moderator, and Bettie Naylor, 66th session Texas Legislature lobbyist for gay rights in Texas, have announced their resignations.

Deitsch said in a press release dated July 25, 1980, "With, for example, \$1100 owed Naylor in accrued salary for fund-raising and a \$900 telephone bill that I am ultimately responsible for, we were left with little choice but to resign."

A TGTF source has informed CONNECTIONS that TGTF also owes money to Edra Bogle, who operated the jewelry and TGTF t-shirt sales at Texas Gay Conference 6 held in Austin in August 1979, to Woody Egger, who loaned TGTF money for TGC6, and to several others. Arrangements for paying Bogle and Egger back have been made. The source states, "The organization is firmly committed to repaying the people to whom it is financially indebted."

The TGTF source also said that the resignations of Deitsch and Naylor were received after they were voted out of office at the July 26 TGTF meeting, which Deitsch and Naylor did not attend.

- Editor

Naylor stated, "Persons think it is easy to raise money. Unfortunately, it takes a specific project that has wide appeal, front money, and a lot of direct personal contact. As economic times have grown more difficult, statewide travel to set up fundraisers has become less of an option." Naylor cites travel and direct contact as being responsible for a large portion of the organization's success these last 18 months in raising nearly \$40,000 for gay-related projects statewide, including the 66th session lobby effort.

Deitsch stated, "Although we personally regret the need for our resignations, our record supports our past commitment to the organization's programs and their funding. There is seldom a good time to terminate one's relationship with an organization such as TGTF. It comes after much thought and consideration."

As for the future, Naylor announced the establishment of Naylor & Associates, a consulting firm. "Our work will center on specific public relations and advertising projects, fundraising, organizational and legislative consulting. We will continue to be involved in efforts around the state which are timely and professional in nature," Naylor said.

Deitsch and Naylor concluded, "We both wish to take this opportunity to thank gays/lesbians and their supporters statewide for their past support and cooperation with us and our work. We all must continue to work in our own ways for the changes we all desire."

### THE HERPES BOOK by Richard Hamilton, M.D.

Reviewed by Lars Eighner

This one will not head many Christmas lists or adorn many coffee tables, for obvious reasons. But, it is as good a book on this topic for the general reader as one can expect. There really is not much new here - no cure. But if you have gathered from the headlines that herpes is a dreadful disease, you need to read this book.

The Herpes Book does not add much to the areas covered by any good pamphlet. It does explore these areas in much greater depth. It is very helpful in explaining what the facts mean as a practical matter. This is where the pamphlets often fail.

If you happen to have herpes, or if you live in mortal terror of getting herpes, this book is easily worth the \$10.00, although it seems a shame to have wasted such a nice binding on a book that will certainly be hidden away.

The Herpes Book. J.P. Tarcher, Inc.  
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# BOOKS

MORE THAN FRIENDS by Ruth Turk

REVIEWED BY LARS EIGHNER

George Orwell was extremely fond of the term "good bad books." Bad books are books which are not Literature. Bad books are the books which even the very literate resort to for amusement, rather than edification. Unfortunately, Literature contains such tomes as Silas Marner, The Scarlet Letter and numerous others which would never be seen by the modern reader, save for their being Required Reading.

P.G. Wodehouse was one of Orwell's favorite good bad authors. A. Conan Doyle is certainly one of the best bad authors. Unfortunately, the present age in American letters seems to have fallen on a dearth of good bad writing. Even the British seem to be at a loss. Possibly, Agatha Christie was the last of the good bad writers.

Of course, bad books abound. The trouble is that none of them are very good. Harold Robbins keeps the market well-supplied with mediocre bad books. Today's example: More Than Friends by Ruth Turk, has got to be among the worst bad books.

Many very good bad books use stock characters. But Ms. Turk's formula for chicken will scarcely do: one slightly-built boy who is a bit too pretty and has an overprotective mother and a distant father figure. Her recipe for chicken hawk: one otherwise heterosexual man in his late-thirties with two daughters, a bitchy older sister, a domineering mother, a distant father, and a career in physical education.

These might do very well for secondary characters who bow in and out of good bad books, along with the mercenary Jew, the Italian Mafioso, the shuffling Black, the healthy but dull Swede, and all the other stereotypes. But Muzz Ruth hopes to create a novel based on this wooden pair. She overlooks one of the trump cards of good bad writers, the development of memorable central characters.

Good bad writers draw very good characters, which often live to outshine their creators. After all,

Sherlock Holmes survived to fight Hitler - although in cinema form - long after Conan Doyle was in his grave and unable to aid the realm of which he was a knight. Ms. Turk's chicken and hawk hardly last to the last page.

That leaves story-line for the bad writer to fall back on. Here we have a very old one. In chapter one, man meets boy. From there, it is only a question of time. The time required is 124 pages. Then, of course, there is the guilt. That takes another 123 pages.

The love-making rivals Tess of the D'Urbervilles for complete obfuscation. Ms. Turk, having twice missed, strikes out by avoiding the last possible source of reader interest available to the bad writer. There is no pornography here.

I believe I have actually read this bad book three or four times. The others were much better. Check the paperback rack for covers with a chicken, a tanned, athletic man, and a shrewish woman and you will find several versions of it, too.

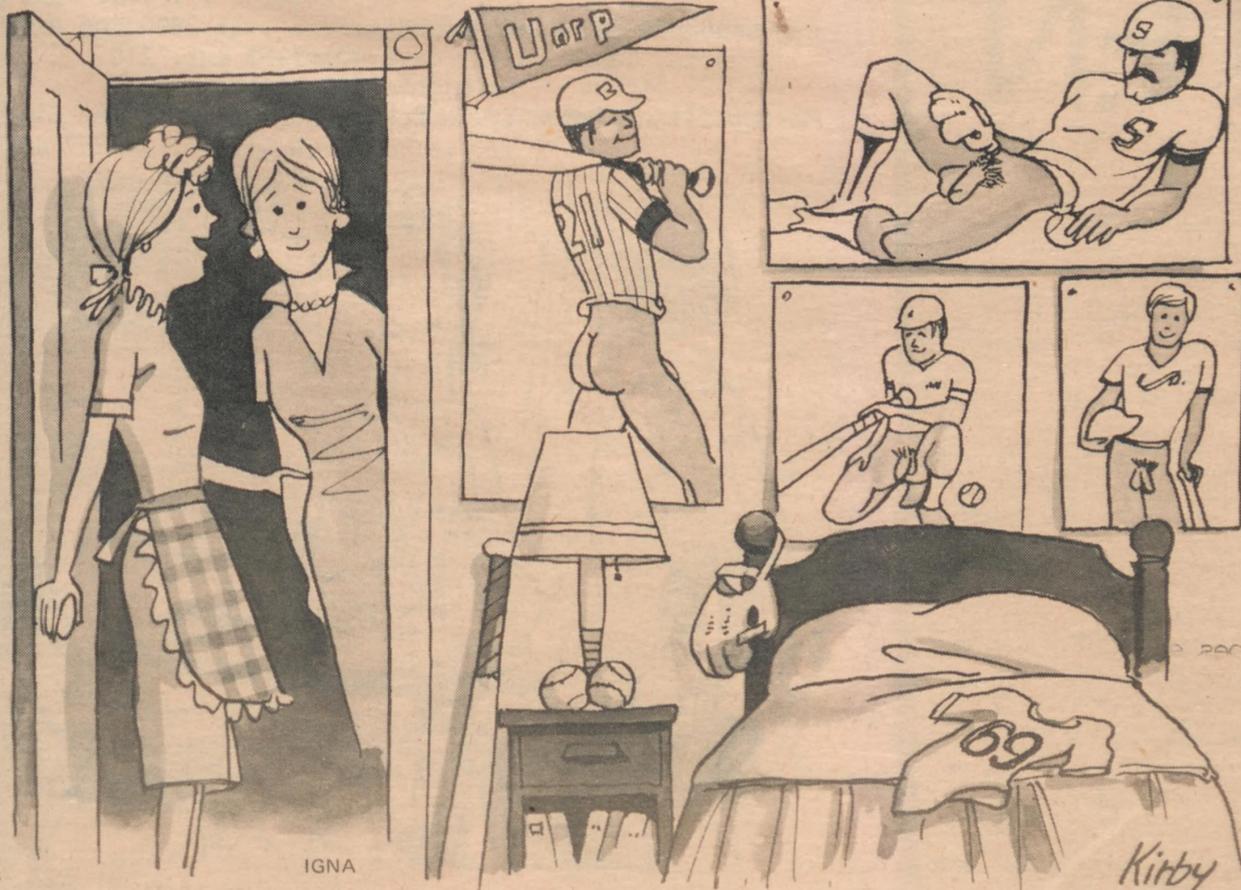
Ms. Turk writes an advice column for a Florida newspaper. I hope she uses greater insight and has a better understanding of male sexuality - straight, gay and in-between - in the column than she displays here. One supposes her lovelorn readers do not mind her prose style very much.

Bantam Books. \$2.50

RECKONING

On my back porch you can  
breathe the air  
slowly - that's the best way -  
and inhale the scent of the  
wet woods as it pours in  
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and the green stops  
where the grey begins.

- Wade Vernon



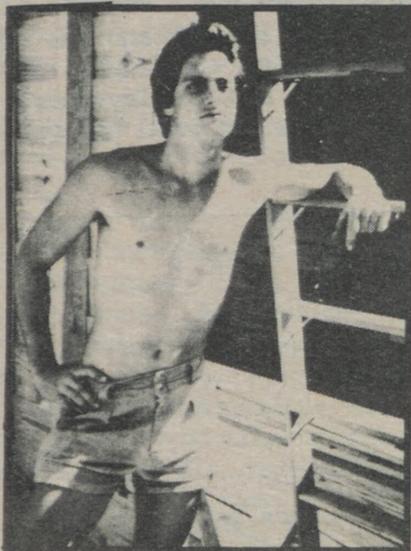
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Poet Wade Vernon  
 (see page 13). The  
 Austin resident is  
 23, a Scorpio, and  
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- Austin Lambda Cultural Center . . . . . 603 West Twelfth  
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- Austin Lesbian Gay Political Caucus . . . . . P.O. Box 822  
Austin, Texas 78767
- Gay Community Services . . . . . 2330 Guadalupe  
6 - 10pm nightly . . . . . 477-6699
- Gay Nurses Alliance of Austin . . .1010-B Romeria Drive  
Austin, Texas 78757 . . . . . 453-0816
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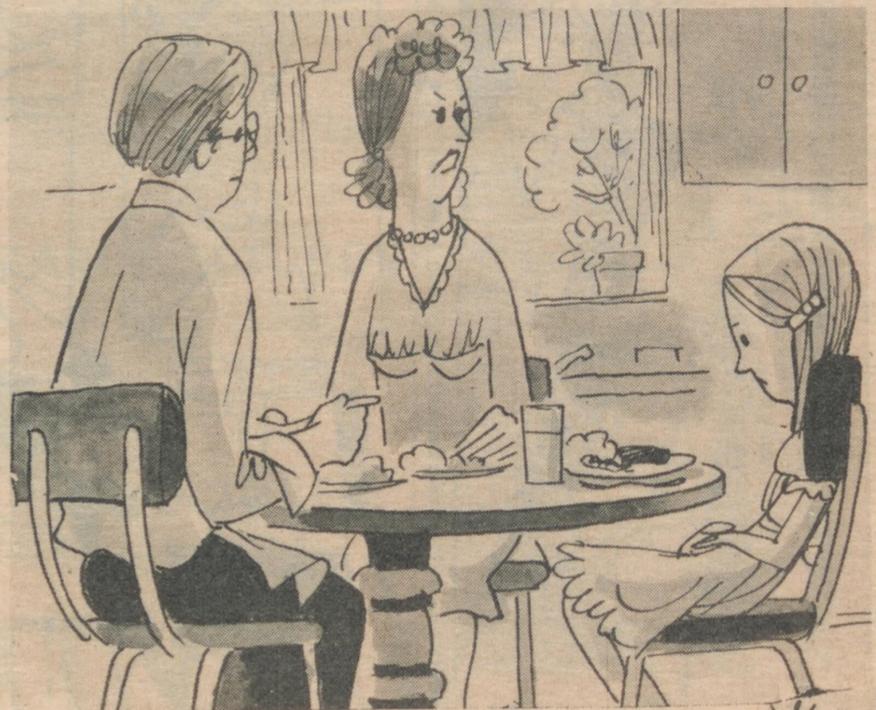
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# CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

## AUGUST 1980

- Sat Aug 30 10-11pm, dollar drinks, Tex's Colorado Street Bar
- Sun Aug 31 7pm, Beat Arkansas T-Dance and Barbecue, Tex's Colorado Street Bar  
9pm, Miss Gay USA Pageant, Austin Country. Tickets: \$8 in advance for 2 nights, \$5 at the door

## SEPTEMBER 1980

- Mon Sept 1 \$1.00 discount for students all month, Executive Health Club  
9pm, Miss Gay USA Pageant, Austin Country  
Free drinks after the UT-Arkansas football game till midnight, Tex's Colorado Street Bar
- Tue Sept 2 7:30pm, Lone Star Rainbow Society for the Deaf meeting, GCS office
- Wed Sept 3 8pm, Gay Community Services coordinators meeting, University Y office
- Thu Sept 4 6:30pm, Austin Lambda Cultural planning committee  
10pm, Showtime at Austin Country with Linsay Love, Burgandy Woods, Tragedy Ann, Sabrina Ross, and Amateur Winner - Kenny
- Fri Sept 5 8pm, Meet Tiny Mac Party. New Austin Country manager. Full buffet and drink specials
- Sat Sept 6 8:30pm, Austin Lambda Cultural women's dance  
10pm-2am, free STD screening by Gay Nurses Alliance at Stallion bookstore
- Sun Sept 7 7:30pm, Austin Lambda Cultural alcoholism workshop. Free.  
10pm, Amateur night, Austin Country. Nicole, MC
- Tue Sept 9 7pm, Austin Lambda Cultural lesbian pot-luck supper
- Thu Sept 11 6pm, Austin Lambda Cultural coordinators meeting  
10pm, Special roadshow, Austin Country. The Grease Sisters return: Lily White, Albina, and Kitty Litter
- Fri Sept 12-Sun Sept 14 MCCA Spiritual Renewal with Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson. All-day program Saturday, Sept. 13.
- Fri Sept 12 10pm, grand champion male dancers contest, Austin Country
- Sat Sept 13 6pm, Austin Lambda AA covered dish supper  
8pm, Austin Lambda Cultural birthday party/open house. Bring your own beverage.  
8pm, Fantasy Island Party, Austin Country. Costumes encouraged. Come as your favorite fantasy and we'll try our best to make your favorite fantasy come true.
- Sun Sept 14 12 noon, MCCA Installation of Rev. Ed Paul as assistant pastor  
7pm, Austin Lambda Cultural wine and cheese party  
10pm, The Grease Sisters at the Austin Country. Different show from Thursday's.
- Wed Sept 17 8pm, Gay Community Services general business meeting, University Y office
- Thu Sept 18 10pm, Showtime at Austin Country with Ernestine, Tasha Cole, Sabrina Ross, and Tragedy Ann
- Fri Sept 19 10:30pm, Grace Jones performance at One Ten  
12 midnight, Gay Nurses' Alliance of Austin meeting. Call 453-0816 for location.

- Sat Sept 20 7:30pm, MCCA pot-luck supper  
8:30pm, Austin Lambda Cultural lesbian coffeehouse  
10pm-3am, free STD screening by Gay Nurses Alliance at the Club Baths  
12 midnight, The Mating Game at the Austin Country, hosted by Tiny Mac
- Sun Sept 21 9pm, Mr. Austin Country Contest
- Mon Sept 22 8-10pm, Austin Skating Party, Hot Wheels Skateland, 1606 Stassney. \$2.50. Sponsored by Affirmation Gay Mormons, Austin Lambda Cultural, Austin Lesbian Gay Political Caucus, Dignity, Gay Community Services, and Metropolitan Community Church of Austin
- Tue Sept 23 7:30pm, Austin Lesbian Gay Political Caucus meeting, Austin Lambda Cultural
- Thu Sept 25 6pm, Austin Lambda Cultural coordinators meeting  
10pm, Showtime at Austin Country with Leigh Shannon, Ethel, Sabrina Ross, and Tragedy Ann
- Sat Sept 27 Austin Lambda Cultural overnight campout to Enchanted Rock for lesbians and gay men  
8pm, Las Vegas theme night at the Austin Country. All night.

## COMING EVENTS

- Sun Oct 5 Mr. Gay Austin contest, Austin Country
- Thu Oct 30 Miss Gay Austin contest, Austin Country
- Sun Nov 2 Miss Gay Austin contest, Austin Country

## WEEKLY EVENTS IN SEPTEMBER 1980

- Sunday 12 noon and 7:30pm, worship services at Metropolitan Community Church of Austin  
12 noon-3pm, Champagne Brunch with Bunch, Austin Country  
1pm, liturgical services, Holy Trinity Church of Austin  
3pm, Austin Lambda AA Twelve Traditions Study  
3-7pm, T-dance, Austin Country  
6-8:30pm, social volleyball, Duncan Park, 10th and Lamar  
8pm, Dignity liturgy. Call 477-6699 for location.  
8pm, Austin Lambda AA Sex and Sobriety Study
- Monday 8pm, Austin Lambda AA Monday group  
8-10pm, Austin Lambda Cultural gay men's awareness group  
11pm, male dancers, Austin Country
- Tuesday 8pm, Austin Lambda AA Big Book study  
11pm till, draft beer, Tex's Colorado Street Bar
- Wednesday 6-8:30pm, league volleyball, Duncan Park, 10th and Lamar  
7:30pm, Austin Lambda AA Women Together Group  
7:30pm, MCCA worship service  
8:30pm, Austin Lambda AA Big Book Stories Study  
9pm, 35¢ well drinks all night, Tex's Colorado Street Bar
- Thursday 8pm, Austin Lambda AA steps study group  
11pm till, free draft beer, Tex's Colorado Street Bar
- Friday 8pm, Austin Lambda AA open discussion  
8pm, GCS personal awareness group, University Y rap room  
8:30pm, CCAA bowling, Brunswick Capitol Bowling Center, 5700 Grover  
10pm-1am, ALGPC membership and voter registration drive at Austin bars
- Saturday 8pm, Austin Lambda AA meeting open to all gays  
10pm-1am, ALGPC membership and voter registration drive at Austin bars

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