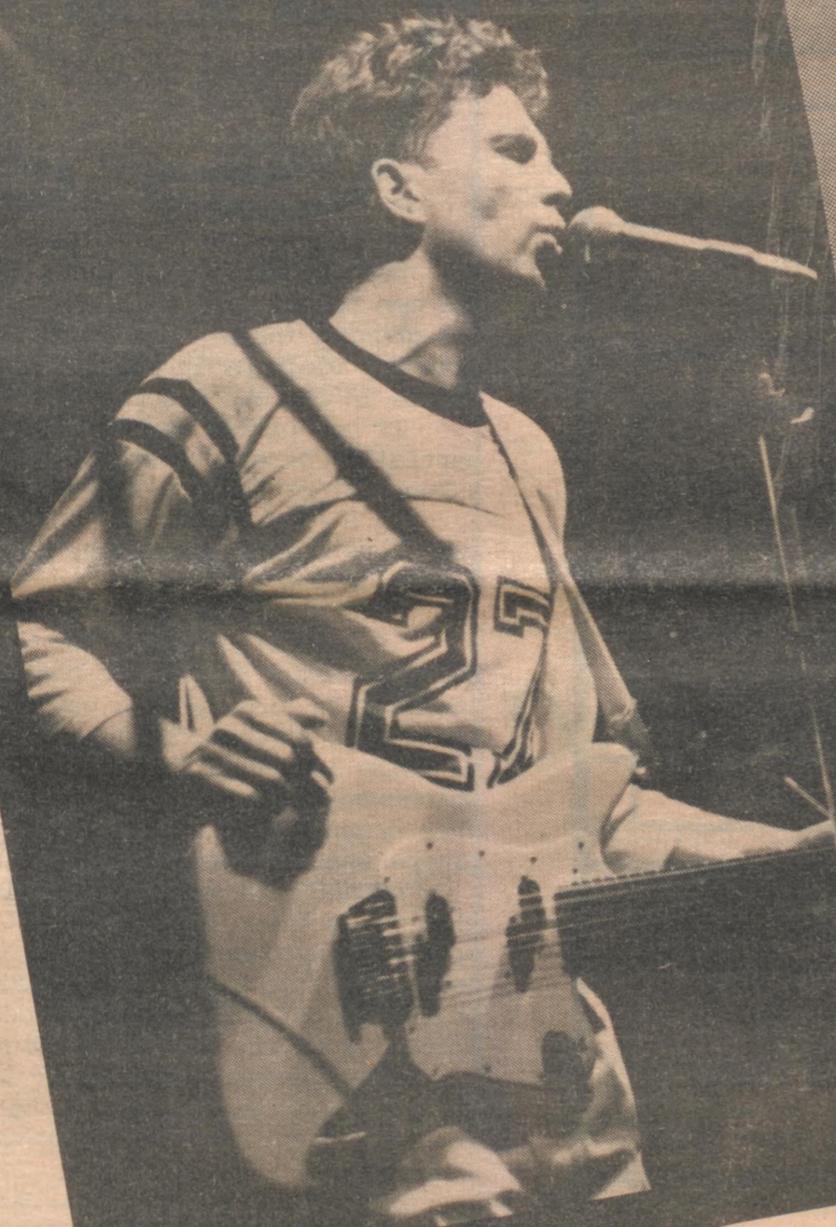


CONNECTIONS

MARCH 1981

AUSTIN TEXAS

VOL. 3, NO. 3



TOM ROBINSON

CONNECTIONS

AUSTIN TEXAS

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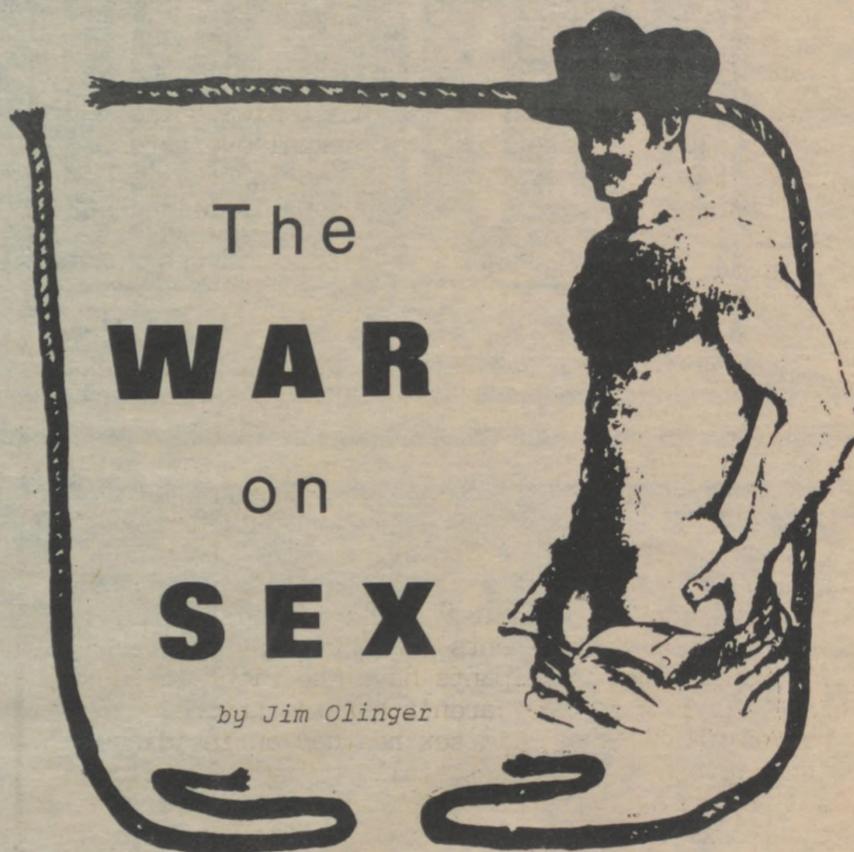
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The WAR on SEX

by Jim Olinger

What is the most serious threat facing gay women and men today? The Moral Majority? The New Right and its growing influence in Congress? The increase of anti-gay violence in our cities? The divisiveness that exists in our own groups?

If you picked any or all of these evils, you are partially correct. Each of these is a single aspect of a much larger threat, a war against sexuality.

It's easy to see the anti-sexual basis of the campaigns against abortion, pornography, contraception, sex education and gay rights. I would rather focus on two cases which are much closer to home.

In October of 1980, the National Organization of Women passed a resolution clarifying the official NOW position on "lesbian and gay rights." Pornography, pederasty, sadomasochism, and public sex were condemned as being issues of "violence" and/or "exploitation" which would "violate the feminist principles upon which this organization is founded." NOW will work only with groups which "advocate lesbian rights as defined above."

CONNECTIONS recently received the "compliment" that it is "less sexist than it used to be." The only specific instance of "sexism" cited was an advertisement using the picture reproduced above. That ad appeared in GAY AUSTIN (our predecessor), not in CONNECTIONS. However, we have no objections to publishing it.

The reasoning in both of these cases seems to be that any open expression or depiction of sexuality is some combination of exploitation, violence and sexism. I disagree.

While much heterosexual pornography does appear to exploit women, and could conceivably encourage violence against them, I don't see how this objection applies to gay male pornography. When two consenting men are depicted having sex, who is being exploited? "It turns people into sex objects," is a frequent argument. Personally, I ENJOY being a sex object. That's why I wear those tight pants and work to keep the belly from creeping over the belt. In some sixteen years of sexual consciousness, I have never felt exploited. You cannot convince me that sexual desire, or pornography which is intended to arouse it, must inevitably induce violence.

The most frightening word that can be uttered in gay activist circles is "chicken." Considering the fearful laws against sex with minors, much of this panic is understandable. But, does the existence of criminal sanctions prove that pederasty is "exploitation or violence?" We have known since Freud that sexuality doesn't neatly begin at age eighteen (twenty-one in some states).

Continued on page 3

THE WAR ON SEX - continued from page 2

Because of our heinous laws, it is almost always the young person who must make the first sexual overtures in a romance between generations. The notion that a youth who desires sex with an older person is being exploited, is a dangerous, ageist myth. Consensual sex is not violence. Non-consensual sex is rape, and an entirely different case.

It's bad enough that the straight community swallowed the Cruising mythology without us doing it ourselves. The tales of countless S and M practitioners turning up in emergency rooms and morgues are pure fiction. Sado-masochism is actually based on fantasy, not violence, and it's been the "whipping boy" of gay activism for too long. It is poor tactics to put part of our population down in an attempt to make points with hostile straights.

Perhaps public sex is "a violation of privacy rights of non-participants," as the NOW resolution contends. Is it only the non-participants that have any "privacy rights?" Don't the participants have the right to be left alone, as long as they aren't hurting anyone?

The definition of public sex has had an insidious way of reaching into such essentially private locations as closed booths in bookstores or bushes that were dark until the police flashlight arrived. Society restricted many of us to these outlets in the first place, and now persecutes us for using them. Why endorse oppression, just because it's not overt?

I am not singling out NOW or an unnamed individual for criticism. Some lesbian feminists have charged that gay men co-opted NOW into issuing the "clarification." They may well be right. Anti-sexual attitudes are as common in men as in women. Many gay women and men hope to increase their personal social status (i.e., power and money) by being perceived as being exactly like the mythical mid-American, except for their sexual preference. These people are on their own side, not ours.

When Jerry Falwell tells me I am evil for being a sexual creature, I expect it. It disturbs me much more to get the same message from individuals and organizations that claim to be my friends.

This is a war on sex, and it's time to decide which side you're really on.

GAY PEOPLE HEALTH CARE

by Keith Mastalio

The second meeting of Gay People Health Care (formerly the Gay Nurses Alliance of Austin) was held Thursday, Feb. 19. Nine members were present to enjoy a covered dish supper.

The next GPHC meeting will be held on Thursday, March 19 at 7:00 p.m. There will be a covered dish supper and slides from the 1979 March on Washington will be shown. Call 453-0816 for further information.

The first Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) clinic ever held at the Red River Crossing, on Saturday, Feb. 21, was a huge success. Forty people were screened. That is the largest number to date for a single screening. Thanks, guys!

The total number of STD tests run for 1981 are: syphilis - 94, hepatitis B - 94, throat cultures - 89, urethral cultures - 54, and rectal cultures - 55. Total - 386.

Gay People Health Care continues to hold Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) clinics every two weeks at various gay bars, baths, and organizations. GPHC offers screening for syphilis, gonorrhea, and Hepatitis B. Testing is free and confidential. Women as well as men are encouraged to be tested.

The STD clinic schedule is as follows:

Saturday Feb. 21	Red River Crossing	10pm-2am
Saturday Mar. 7	Stallion Bookstore	10pm-2am
Saturday Mar. 21	Club Baths	10pm-2am
Friday Apr. 3	Austin Lambda	7-10pm
Saturday Apr. 18	New Apt. Lounge	10pm-2am



DIVINE COMES MARCH 5

Austin is bracing itself for the arrival of the notorious Divine, outrageous star of stage and screen. The Austin Country and Hot Lips are making feverish preparations for the star's only Austin appearances, on Thursday, March 5, 1981.

Divine's first target will be Hot Lips, where he will autograph his popular line of greeting cards and other things from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Hundreds of cards, posters, and pink flamingos have been ordered for the occasion.

At 10:00 p.m., Divine will be at the Austin Country to answer questions and socialize with his public. He is not planning to be in drag, so this may be your one chance to see the star as he really is!

Divine came to fame in PINK FLAMINGOS, the extremely popular cult film (a Varsity regular) by "King of Sneeze" John Waters. He has also appeared in Waters' FEMALE TROUBLE. His stage performances include WOMEN BEHIND BARS and THE NEON WOMAN (which was written specially for him).

His latest film, POLYESTER, co-starring Tab Hunter and directed by John Waters, will be released soon. Divine has also commissioned a new stage vehicle, THE THORN, a small-scale rock musical in which Divine plays Vida Paine, known as The Thorn, a superstar of the highest magnitude and the lowest morals. It was scheduled to open in San Francisco in February, 1981.

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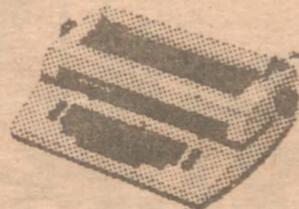


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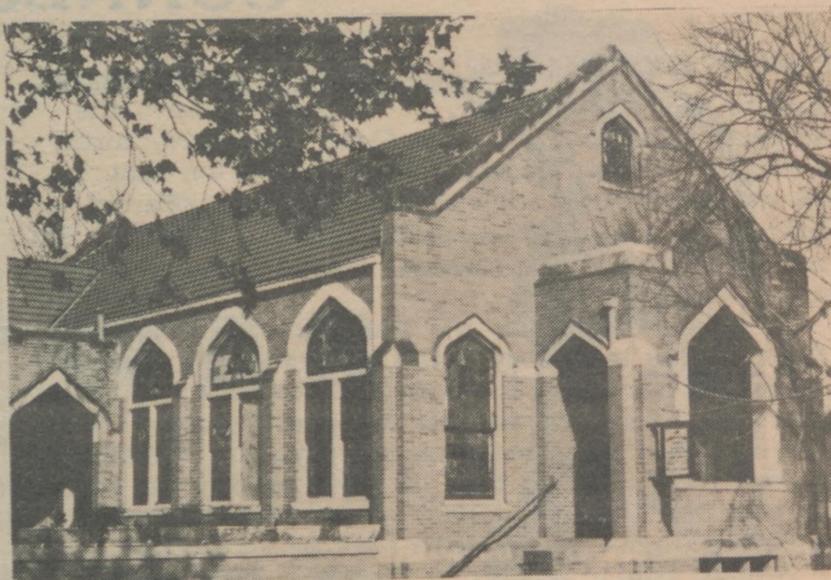
AMERICAN BOOKSELLERS ADOPT PRO-GAY RESOLUTION

The American Booksellers Association, one of the largest trade organizations in the United States, has joined the growing list of businesses and organizations officially opposed to discrimination against gay people. In a 7 to 4 vote at the group's quarterly board meeting held in San Diego, the following resolution was adopted:

The American Booksellers Association recognizes that there exist minorities not necessarily ethnic, which may be subject to discrimination. Be it therefore resolved that the Association urges upon its members and associate members, booksellers and publishers, to oppose discrimination in services to, and employment of, all individuals, regardless of ethnic or social class background and regardless of religion, gender, sexual orientation, age or physical handicap.

Support for the Equal Rights Amendment was also affirmed in a second resolution passed by an identical 7-4 vote. Both resolutions were introduced in Chicago in June, 1980, at the association's annual membership meeting. At that time, the resolutions were tabled on advice of the group's legal counsel. The sexual orientation resolution was promoted by the Gay Caucus of Authors, Publishers and Booksellers.

Charles Gillis, GCAPB member and owner of Houston's Wilde 'n' Stein Books, told CONNECTIONS that the resolution was not legally binding upon the ABA or member stores but would provide more awareness of gay issues within the publishing and bookselling industries.



Carr Strong

The Congregational Church, 408 W. 23rd St.
Current meeting place of M.C.C. Austin.

MCCA "SENIOR PROM" PLANNED

The Metropolitan Community Church of Austin (MCCA) is starting an extensive fund-raising campaign for its building fund.

The first activity announced will be a formal senior prom. Remember the date you took to the prom? Now you can take the date you really wanted. Tuxedos or formal gowns are encouraged. You must be in formal dress to run for prom King or Queen.

The proposed theme for the prom is "A Night in Hollywood." There will be a booth for pictures with your date, and corsages will be sold. MCCA is talking to a tuxedo rental shop that wants to give a group discount.

The prom will be held at The Hollywood, 304 West 4th, April 26, 1981.

TGC VIII REGISTRATION BEGINS

The Texas Gay Conference VIII Committee of the Texas Gay Task Force is requesting that those who plan to attend the Houston gathering September 4-7, 1981, send their registration fee in as soon as possible.

Noting the poor financial condition of the Texas Gay Task Force, the committee needs seed money to insure that the planning will not be hampered by lack of funding. TGC VIII currently needs money for the initial costs of arranging activities. If you wish to mail a pre-registration check of \$15 per person, write to TGC VIII, P.O. Box 3942, Houston, Texas 77006.

DIALOG (Dallas GPC)



**"Our God is not a woman
Our God is not a man
Our God is both & neither
Our God is I who Am"**

REV. CANDACE A. NAISBITT
Pastor

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FIFTH SAN FRANCISCO GAY FILM FESTIVAL

Frameline, a non-profit gay film collective, is accepting entries for the Fifth Annual San Francisco Gay Film Festival to be screened during Gay Freedom Week, June, 1981.

The festival has been established as a non-competitive showcase for films by or about gay women and men. Any 35mm, 16mm, Super 8 film, sound or silent, will be eligible. (Cassette tape recordings will be accepted with Super 8 films.)

Cash awards are given to all filmmakers whose works appear in the festival. The amount of the awards is dependent on the revenues received. The deadline for entries is June 1, 1981.

For more information, contact Frameline, 150 Eureka, San Francisco CA 94114.

ALGPC NEEDS ELECTION HELP

Austin Lesbian Gay Political Caucus (ALGPC) has begun its work on voter registration and election campaigns for the April 1981 Austin City Council election.

Volunteers are needed in upcoming weeks to help with the voter registration drive and with campaign work. To help, you can call Scottie Scott at 454-3893 (voter registration) or Donna Johnson at 452-2876 (other campaign work).

If you would like to make campaign contributions, you can do so through the ALGPC-PAC fund. Call Donna Johnson for more information.

ALGPC Newsletter

GAY LOBBYIST HIRED

MONEY NEEDED

Lesbian Gay Rights Advocates has engaged the services of a professional lobbyist to promote gay interests in this session of the Texas Legislature.

Lesbian Gay Rights Advocates is the lobby project of Lesbian Gay Democrats of Texas. It is supported through the efforts of Austin Lesbian Gay Political Caucus, Dallas Gay Political Caucus, the Houston chapter of Lesbian Gay Democrats, and other activists from West Texas and South Texas.

Lobbyist Bill Pewitt will represent LGRA. He is associated with the lobby efforts of other progressive organizations in the state, as well as several business clients.

A concerted statewide effort in support of gay rights is especially important during this legislative session. The national and state conservative swing poses a serious threat to gay interests. Representation in the session is extremely important to defend existing rights and to work against further threats to personal freedom voiced by many newly-elected right-wing legislators.

ALGPC has committed itself to raising \$800 of the \$4,000 necessary to fund LGRA. ALGPC members and others concerned about gay rights are urged to contribute to help ALGPC meet its commitment. Contributions may be sent to LGRA, A Project of LGDT, P.O. Box 822, Austin, Texas 78767.

ALGPC Newsletter

**Read your
news in
CONNECTIONS**

MILITARY TIGHTENS ANTI-GAY POLICY

On January 16, 1981, the Department of Defense issued a revision of its exclusionary policy towards gay women and men. The new policy makes discharge for homosexuals mandatory. This is apparently a reaction to the small number of precedential successes established in the cases of Matlovich, Berg, and Ben-Shalom.

National Gay Task Force Co-Director Lucia Valeska commented, "The new directive signals a reactionary move on the part of the Department of Defense to counteract recent progress made through the courts in challenging discrimination against gay men and lesbians in the military. Fortunately, the new policy has some positive aspects. All exclusions and discharges made solely on the basis of sexual orientation will now be classified as HONORABLE and 'homosexual identity' will no longer be determined by so-called homosexual mannerisms or through guilt by association."

"On the other hand," Valeska continued, "the directive draws a new battle line in its overall hardline stance. The military has bent over backwards (to the point of downright silliness in places) in order to tighten restrictions. NGTF intends to expose and fight the new directive on the basis of its irrational nature, unenforceable provisions and fundamental attack on the constitutional rights of all U.S. citizens."

Don Knutson, Legal Director of Gay Rights Advocates, said, "The new regulations are, on the one hand, ludicrous, and on the other, ominous. They were carefully drawn to make judicial protection for the civil liberties of gay service personnel as difficult as possible. They are, however, vulnerable to constitutional attack in several important respects. We intend to vigorously pursue whatever remedies are available to us to challenge in the courts this repressive and ridiculous policy."

**Send your
story to
CONNECTIONS**

**611 Red River
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AUSTIN**





Photos by Carr Strong

Tom Robinson isn't the first openly-gay musician. He is the first, and still only, successful one. The Tom Robinson Band's first single, "2 - 4 - 6 - 8 - Motorway," hit number four on the British charts. Early in 1978, the EP "Rising Free," which included "(Sing if You're) Glad to be Gay," was released. Its content denied it any airplay in England, but it reached 18 in the charts anyway. In mid-1978, "Power in the Darkness," TRB's first LP, was released. It was certified gold in England and enjoyed similar success in Europe and Japan.

Tom was also becoming known as a political activist. He helped establish the organization "Rock Against Racism" and TRB headlined with The Clash at RAR's "Carnival Against the Nazis." Tom also performed in the November, 1979 March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights.

Things didn't go so well in the United States. Some American programmers who were following British punk and new wave began playing TRB songs, but airplay had subsided by the time the records were available domestically. The "Power in the Darkness" American tour only covered four cities. Most of the seats went to the press. Tom described the tour as "a very alienating experience, so far removed from the audiences of peers and real communication."

When "TRB Two" was released, the Tom Robinson Band was in the process of breaking up over the strain of quickly-found success. The first real U.S. tour in April-June of 1979 (which included an appearance at Armadillo World Headquarters) featured a new keyboardist and drummer. The band was dissolved immediately after the tour.

Shortly after TRB broke up, Tom accidentally met old friend Jo Burt, who had been touring with the Troggs. They began writing songs together. Tom's songs with the TRB had been very political, covering issues like racism, feminism, unemployment, and the oppression of gay women and men. According to Jo Burt, "We wanted to get more personal and away from the explicit and overtly political songs that we had both been doing. But, in fact, we came full around, because we were writing political songs again - not so much in the words, but in the music." Tom and Jo were soon recording demos and looking for musicians to complete a band.

First came drummer Derek Quinton, "an amiable lunatic and reformed football hooligan ("Do you want to dance or what?") Derek's strong background in rhythm and blues and willingness to experiment with new patterns and synthesized percussion provided a firm foundation for the band's driving rhythms.

The band spent weeks auditioning lead guitarists. "Everybody we tried was firmly attached to hack cliches," Tom said. Finally, the "almost too pretty" Stevie B

appeared. He had picked up the guitar at age 13 because "I wanted to practice the pose. I used to skip school and stand in front of the mirror to get my stance right. At fourteen, I really began to learn how to play." His fractured way of attacking the music and strikingly rich echoed guitar gave them the sound they were looking for.

With the name Sector 27, a line from an Allen Ginsberg poem, the band began playing small London clubs, gradually building a following. The "Sector 27" album was recorded in the fall of 1980 with XTC producer Steve Lillywhite. It is enjoying more critical acclaim, airplay and popularity than any of Tom's previous work.

Sector 27 appeared in Austin as part of a six-week U.S.-Canadian tour. The band seemed much stronger and happier onstage than the already-disintegrating TRB which had played Austin.

Jim Olinger and Wayde Frey of CONNECTIONS interviewed Tom on the afternoon of his January 26 appearance at Club Foot.

How was the March on Washington?

I was really proud to be part of that. It was the most amazing thing I've seen. I was standing on the side of the street and the March was going by me for maybe an hour, an hour and a half, and there still was no end to it. It was just unbelievable. I've been in a lot of demonstrations, and I've never seen anything that size.

I played at the British Carnival Against the Nazis, which was a big anti-National Front demonstration, and there was maybe 80,000 people there, but this was double that.

When the Texan contingent came down, that was unbelievable, too, because there was all those marching bands and their leader and the flags and everything. There were people just crying and laughing and clapping on the sidewalk, because it was like they're used to Texans saying, "Hey, we're Texan," but people saying "We're Texan and gay," was really something. People were crying from it.

Have you been doing anything else in the human rights area?

Yeah, there's a movie we made for Amnesty International. It's called The Secret Policeman's Ball. It is partly comedy and partly music. It had people from the Monty Python team, Joan Cleese, Terry Jones, and Peter Cook. It was in London and had all British people. On the music side, there was a new release from the Bonza Raktu Band, John Williams, the classical guitar player, Pete Townsend from The Who, myself and Betty Conway. They made an album of the musical items and an album of the comedy items. They're

TOM ROBINSON

called The Secret Policeman's Ball, part 1 and 2. You can get those on import here on Island Records. There's an unreleased track of mine called 1967 on that, and an acoustic version of Glad to Be Gay.

It's a hysterically funny movie, if they ever release it over here. It's a full feature-length film of the stage show that we did for a week at a theatre. It's already made well in excess of 100,000 pounds for Amnesty International. (Current value of the British pound is \$2.35 American. Ed.) It's broken box-office records in Britain. The film is very funny, very good entertainment. Everybody donated their services, including the filmmakers.

One of the great things about it, it's a bit parochial, because it's England, is that there's a prominent politician, Jeremy Thorpe, the leader of the Liberal Party, who was implicated in a blackmail about his alleged homosexuality. He was alleged to have tried to suppress the guy who was alleged to have been trying to blackmail him. Peter Cook did this fantastic spoof of the summing-up by the judge, who was totally biased in favor of this politician, and against this gay guy who he tried to have killed. The performance happened the week that the real trial had taken place. It's still really funny, even now.

It was the most outrageous miscarriage of justice you've ever heard of. Peter ends his summing up by saying, "I trust you'll now all retire to consider your verdict of not guilty."

I thought it was important to do Glad to Be Gay for that particular show because Amnesty International doesn't recognize being imprisoned for being gay as a political offense. Strictly speaking, it isn't, but they don't regard it as part of their job to campaign for people who have been imprisoned for that. Since that has to do with the hierarchy at Amnesty, I felt it was important to get that in there. So, it's perhaps an angrier performance of Glad to Be Gay than the tone of the film generally merited.

Have you heard Sector 27 at all?

Yes. I got the record as soon as I saw it in the store.

How many times have you been able to listen? That's quite important, too.

Probably about five.

Oh, good.

I'm just starting to Oddly enough, I made a couple of notes about the songs . . .

Oddly enough! I take it it is oddly enough. A lot

of the straight journalists who come along from the local papers might have listened to it half a time, or something like that, so they don't know anything about the subject matter.

Probably about half of the songs have started to sink in. I'm beginning to decipher lyrics and things. Three of them seem to be about resistance to authority: Invitation, Total Recall, and Take or Leave It.

Total Recall is. It's a cliché now to talk about the data banks and how easy it is for them to survey you, but the myth that's being propagated is the 1984 myth, which is that Big Brother is actually watching you. The idea that Jo had, and that I was working on with this song, writing it with Jo, who's my best buddy, and the bass player in the band, was that they don't actively survey you; they merely record facts, which is a very different thing. So, the data bank is amassing facts about you, as you live your life, but nobody's necessarily looking at that record. It's just that when they do want to find out about you, and they call in on the walkie-talkie or whatever, they then have access. The punch line of the song is "Checking the records is as far as they go."

If you ain't on the record, they can't check shit! They haven't been watching. It's things like your credit card, driver's license, and medical records that are recorded. The last verse is dealing with possible ways of circumventing that - "Slip into the city like a vanishing man, Midnight arriving at the station. Casual labor paying cash in the hand, Short-let cheap accommodation. Apply for a license at a fresh address, Get another bike, take another test. What you never tell, they can never guess. Better not forget to send off the registration." It was meant to be quite light-hearted, rather than pounding away at it.

I like it a lot better than 1984 stuff. Take or Leave It is a nice hopeful song, too. Do you have your own record company, like the song says?

We did actually put our first two singles out with Sector on an independent label in Britain. The finance was the thing that meant we had to finally go with a larger label there. We're with a small label in the States, I.R.S. (International Record Syndicate), which is nice. That leaves us a lot of flexibility. I have to say, there are less than ten employees in that company and they've already done far more for us than Capitol Records did for TRB in two years.

I'm not sure if the record company is directly

Continued on page 10



Sector 27 (from left): Stevie B, Tom Robinson, Jo Burt, and Derek Quinton



**The Austin
Country
Presented**



Photos by Carr Strong

CLAUDE SACHA

**February,
1981**



DEBBIE JACOBS

at
Tex's
Colorado
Street
Bar

February,
1981



Photos by Carr Strong

TOM ROBINSON CONTINUED

related, but the coverage that you're getting this time can't be compared with when TRB played Austin. This time, you're getting radio spots about every half hour from Club Foot and Spotlite Productions.

That's wild. Really great. So we might have more than eighty people tonight. Here's hoping, anyway. I mean, by the time this comes out (in CONNECTIONS), we'll find out. (There were 300 at Club Foot to hear Tom Robinson and his group that night. Ed.)

I sure hope so. You made CONNECTIONS, too. We estimated there were 200 at the Armadillo when you were here in 1979.

Yeah, I think 200 would be about right. It's really depressing when you're in a place that holds 2,000 and there are only 200 in the audience.

There was no publicity to the gay community in Austin before your appearance at the Armadillo.

The gay part of Sector is altogether more satisfactory than TRB was. TRB was this kind of more or less conventional mid-70's rock band, with songs like Glad to Be Gay grafted on top of that, from my sensibility as a writer. You know, it's 1981 now, and with Sector songs like Can't Keep Away, "down in the tearoom, watching the walls," it all fits in much more integrally.

The band has more friendship - dare I say it - love on stage between the members, and has more style in terms of how the men look and feel and approach the music. It feels much more coherent, and I'm very happy with it. It doesn't make money, it isn't successful like the TRB was, but, I feel so much more whole.

I'm hoping the Sector 27 album will do pretty good. It seems a lot stronger than TRB 2.

I'm much more proud of it, but then, it represents a much larger chunk of my life. It's sort of a culmination of the last year and a half of work to finally release the thing. Even then, it's only like a calling card for Sector 27. It's not, "this is the future of rock and roll as we know it," or "this is all we're capable of," or anything like that. It's like our credentials, musically. "If you like this, stick around, because we got plenty more." At the same time, that Invitation song is our statement of intent, our manifesto: "None of them bastards notice when we're gone." People can Take or Leave It. They like us or they don't.

Are you going to sing Sing if You're Glad to Be Gay tonight?

No. I'm not going to sing any of the old songs,

barring possibly Bully for You. (Co-written with Peter Gabriel) We had the choice when we formed the band. There was a reputation still extant, various tours that had been done, and hit records that had been achieved. We could have made a "Tom Robinson Band Mark Three" or just called it "TRB" and gone out, although we were a completely different group, except for me. We would have got plenty of bookings because of the name and kept the EMI recording contract, instead of being dropped. When we played concerts, we would get an instant reaction, because people would hear songs they've heard and they'll sing along, and you know you'll get an encore, and win them over and everything. We could have made quite a lot of money, in short, by doing that.

But . . . Stevie B is twentyish, ten years younger than me. Stevie is a young kid, but he's a really talented guitar player. He's just like a prodigy, but, he can't play like Danny Kustow could, in the old band. Danny has a very distinct guitar style, and if Stevie tries to imitate that, he comes off very badly. So, if he had to learn the old songs, and play those licks and everything, he would always be a second-rate Danny. This band would always be regarded as a substitute, and all of us, well, all the others, would feel themselves to be substitutes. And the audience would feel it, too. They would all way, "Why did the original lineup break up?"

We said no to the easy option and started trying to win a reputation in our own right. Sector had to begin from scratch. We figured we'd go ahead, write our own songs between the four of us and win our own reputation, bit by bit.

Now, we're playing to audiences that never heard of Tom Robinson. And couldn't give a shit. They see Sector 27 and go, "Wow! That's a hot band! What a great guitar player! What's his name? Stevie B, huh? Right."

And he's the first Stevie B, now, not the second Danny Kustow. I think if we'd been playing the old songs, then it would have been necessarily inviting comparison and cashing in on what went before. We didn't feel that was very honest, especially with what we had to offer. I think if we manage to succeed, if we do start to break even financially instead of losing money and running into debt, then it won't be any skin off our backs to play the old songs.





Jo Burt

This is such a family. We've been together a year and a few months, and still there's in-jokes building up and a lot of little laughs. A year into the TRB, we were already fighting and there were problems developing.

I noticed how much TRB changed between the first and second albums.

Yeah. There's a session drummer on the second album, already.

That was one thing. It sounded like a piano album to me.

Right. The guitar was mixed right out. A real shame.

Where do you live?

I live in Hammersmith, West London.

Is that the gay neighborhood?

Unhappily, no.

Is there a gay neighborhood?

There's a small ghetto called Earl's Court, but it's nothing like an American gay ghetto, where you get

Not like Greenwich Village or San Francisco?

Not like Westheimer. Please! Actually out of all of those, the one I like most was Westheimer. I don't really like Castro that much. And Polk. It's not so very nice.

I've always felt that gays per se don't really like rock and roll that much. If you were to make a mass generalization. . . .

This one does.

Oh sure, so does this one.

Obviously.

If you made a generalization, gays tend to like ballet, opera, Judy Garland, Bette Midler, and disco. In the same terms, they tend not to like rock and roll. The people who would get most out of Sector 27 would be rock and roll fans who happen to be gay, as opposed to large swathes of gays who suddenly saw the light and got into rock and roll. I don't think they would and I don't

blame them, you know. I wouldn't go to see an opera simply because the leading tenor was gay. That wouldn't make me enjoy it one jot more. I don't expect any kind of quote-unquote "loyalty" from the gay community, simply because I'm an out musician. The only reason people should come to see Sector is because they like the music. That's healthy.

So you consider yourself a performer who is gay rather than a gay performer?

That's what I mean. I don't think there's any reason, simply because you share someone's sexuality, that you have to automatically enjoy their work. Their work should be the thing that they're judged on, not their sexuality. If through that, you're able to reach young gay people, young lesbians, who might find themselves out in the middle of Nebraska or something, then that is great.

Of course, we're delighted that you're out.

If you can help other people have the strength to come out, that's the main thing. Everybody should be out. If everybody came out overnight, we'd have a Congress and Senate that is on our side. A lot of people would not go for things like fag-beating, which is on the increase and doesn't need to be. If it wasn't an unknown quantity, if people had some idea who gay people are, like their best buddy is one, and maybe their father is bisexual, then maybe they'd ease off a bit.

In Jim's GAY AUSTIN review of your appearance at the Armadillo in 1979, he contrasted Rod Stewart, who is straight, but a campy, drag-queen-type performer, with you, who are real, and a good actor and a good performer. He said it was so refreshing to see the difference. There's a lot of gay overtones in rock, but a lot of it is a gimmick, too.

Yeah, but that can be liberating. That can even be a little bit of help. A lot of people who like Rod Stewart don't like Sector 27. If, in the corner of the Rod Stewart show, there's some kid who finds a sympathetic chord, even if Rod's only putting it on, it's going to be liberating. Then it's good that that happens. It's symptomatic for any kind of radical movement to have infighting and pick holes in people who are broadly on your side of the fence, rather than people on the other side. I would much rather have Rod Stewart being camp than one of these really macho heavy-metal rock and roll bands talking about fags and queers.

Rod Stewart always does have The Killing of Georgie to his credit.

Certainly. I think there's too much infighting.

Continued on page 15



Stevie B

DARLINGTON STATION AT A QUARTER TO FOUR
DOWN IN THE TEAROOM, WATCHING THE WALL
WAITING FOREVER, A BOY NEXT DOOR
DAYLIGHT FADING AND I'M HATING IT ALL
CAN'T KEEP AWAY, CAN'T KEEP AWAY
FROM THE OTHER DOOR

Can't Keep Away

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Sacha

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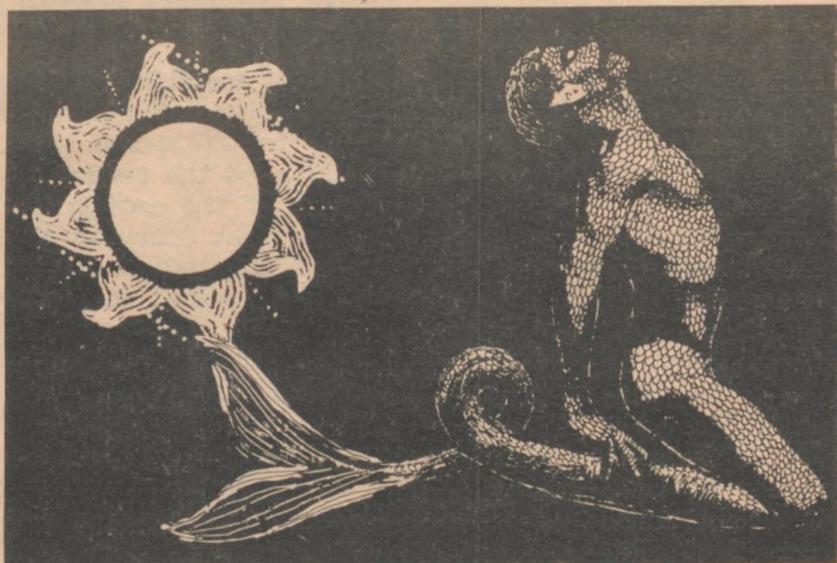
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DIVINE

Love Scope

March, 1981



Brannon Duane

Know your Piscean Man.

A Pisces is always seeking the difference between reality and dreams. Even though he can be selfless in his devotion to others and receives encouragement from them, a Pisces can feel insecure and insignificant.

Dancing is a favored pastime, so he can often be found in bars. Because of this, his sex life is often related to his social pleasures. He also indulges in the baths. However, because Pisceans take love and sex very seriously, purely recreational sex ultimately leaves him empty.

Pisceans need a strong lover and they are true romantics. He is a man of many moods and contradictions. Loving a Pisces Man is not always easy, but the reward is the love of a truly loving man.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) - Your birthday period starts on the 21st. The first three weeks should be used to take care of business matters, saving your energy for fun and games during the last week. If you have a lover, sit down and talk out problems right away. Don't allow them to fester. You enjoy nudism, so on the 25th and 26th you might plan a trip to Hippie Hollow or a nude evening with some special friend. Nude wrestling may just lead to a very fun evening full of lots of (use your imagination.)

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) - The first three weeks of this month are concerned with social relationships, while the last ten days are concerned with the secret part of your life. A Virgo who is in the medical field may really stir your inner self. On the 4th, take time to be by yourself. The 5th-8th would be a good time to go off with that man in your life for a hot four days. Have fun!

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) - You may find your social life coming mainly from career and business interests. A man you'll meet at work may really light your fire. You don't believe in gossip, so be fair to those who assume you do, and tell them to blow off! You'll provide witty conversation and uplift spirits for many this month. Accept their love in whatever way they give it to repay you.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) - Your intuition runs high this

month, so pay attention to it. The 13th-16th may find you a new love. Play your feelings and go with them. This can be a "love at first sight" time for you. The great thing is that it can be "love at first sight" for the other man, too. Maybe we'll be hearing wedding bells before long.

LEO (July 23-August 22) - This month can hold many interesting days for you. At times you may feel like you're being manipulated, but proceed as usual. An old friend or lover may visit on the 6th. Reminisce either with words or sex, but remember this is just a nostalgia trip, not a road to the future. Be daring and original. What worked once may not be suitable now. Circumstances have changed!

VIRGO (August 23-September 22) - The lowest period this month is the 6th, but the first twenty days may be a little dull for you. After the 20th, however, "Katy bar the door!" It's fun and games for you. The 17th-21st will probably be the hottest five days of the year for you. Don't read too much or too little into what these five days mean. Play your cards right and you might have the man of your dreams.

LIBRA (September 23-October 22) - This month you may find yourself with a decision regarding love. Do not postpone an action or you might miss the boat. That man of your dreams is waiting for you to make the first move. The 20th-23rd are four high days for you. Watch for a man in uniform. He could be the one to make those four days last a lot longer. Besides, men in uniform are a lot of fun to undress!

SCORPIO (October 23-November 21) - You'll feel a renewed sense of vigor this month (not that you need it!) A little group sex on the 5th may be just the thing to really get you going. Anything with artistic overtones has drawing power for you. The 20th will prove to be a most interesting night. Another water sign (Pisces or Cancer) will be good friends or maybe even a lover. He will become the person standing by you during troublesome times. The 22nd-26th will be a hot time for you. Maybe I'll run into you. Have fun, anyway.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22-December 21) - If you have a lover, this will be a month for fun evenings with your man at home. Plan to keep social affairs at home, too. If you're single, the 6th will be a good day for a party. An all-night guest may make the best part of the party under the sheets of your bed. You may look at life through different eyes, but life can flourish for both of you in each other's company. All this because you gave a party!

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 19) - This month may be difficult for you at times. You know what you want and don't let distractions mar your progress. There is someone important in your life. Arguments or one-night stands may cause distractions, but you know he is the answer for you. If you don't have a special man in your life, look for him from the 27th-31st. He may be a trick from the first three days of the month. Only you will know for sure. If he's what you want, go after him, but use care not to scare him away.

AQUARIUS (January 20-February 18) - The 6th is a good day for a new beginning. This could be in life, work, or love. You'll know when it comes. A Virgo man may make you "hot to trot" this month. He will meticulously formulate a friendship with you and you may concentrate on making him your lover. The 30th and 31st should be a fun and games time for you. Give him an extra kiss or two. Remember, your lovescope foretold this sex. A full two days!

PISCES (February 19-March 20) - This is your birthday month and it should be a good one. Put your fantasies to practice. On the 6th you may meet just the man to help you live all those fantasies. The 4th-7th are especially good days for fun. If your birthday is during this time or you want to celebrate early, tie a bow around yourself and let some hot dude unwrap you! The 22nd and 23rd could be two good days to relive the 4th-7th. Have a good one! (Birthday, that is!)



Reviewed by William French

There is historical evidence that the phenomenon of sexual-affectual relations between men and boys is not unique to any culture or geography. Indeed, one is hard-pressed to identify any major civilization in history's montage that did not experience it to some degree of commonplace occurrence.

Socrates and his contemporaries lived in a society notorious for flagrant pederasty. So did Caesar, Muhammed, T.E. Lawrence (of Arabia), and King Arthur. A number of Popes were infamous for their indulgences with young boys.

Such relationships between age and youth have been of interest to a great many writers and provided ample frames for strong and enduring characters in both classical and modern literature.

It's risky for an author to deal with this most volatile and forbidden of sexual-affectual relation-

ships (except, of course, incest). If not superior in tact and taste, an author may find himself on a blacklist, not a book jacket.

Wallace Hamilton is superior. His current novel, KEVIN, proves it.

This is the story of Kevin, the boy, and Bruce, the man. They meet in a sex-for-money encounter and twice more cross paths before realizing and accepting the mutual emotional fulfillment they enjoy. Starry-eyed adolescents and idolized father-figures have no place in this straightforward account of two people whose generation gap is bridged by the far-reaching needs of each for the other.

At all times believable and honest, Hamilton's prose is unobscured. The reader's eye absorbs the narrative with the ease of a listener's ear harkening to the spoken word. This remarkably competent style facilitates the reader's understanding not only of storyline but of the emotional and psychological makeup of the persons that story is about. Hamilton, however, mercifully spares us the tedium of libido analysis, social implications, and sexual moralizing; he sticks to telling his story and tells it eloquently.

My enthusiasm for the book is shared by Tom Reeves, founder of the North American Man/Boy Love Association (NAMBLA): "Kevin is the first novel I know of to treat man-boy love honestly and positively from both vantage points." Praise of that magnitude from a practicing pederast bespeaks the book's literary merit and its objective integrity.

By way of a personal reflective observation, the most significant statement is not the book's venture into the specific issue of man-boy love. The most important statement Hamilton makes (and, it's an indirect one) is that alternative love relationships can succeed despite odds, omens, and objections to the contrary.

We in the wilderness of sexual defiance badly needed the heartening cry this book sounds.

KEVIN, St. Martin's Press

Jim Vaughn
(Vikari)
David Drake
Ron McDintyre
Boyer
Eggger
Sean Parrott
John Spear
Lance Longley

Lick Carr
(Rhonda)

Buck Holt

Carey Lova

Terry Weet

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CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

MARCH 1981

WEEKLY EVENTS

- Wed Mar 4 7:30pm, MCCA Ash Wednesday service
- Thu Mar 5 6:30-8pm, appearance by "Pink Flamingos" film star Divine at Hot Lips. Autograph session. 2815-A Fruth.
10pm, showtime at Austin Country with Divine, Lady Shawn, Vonda Delaine, Nicole, Big David, Tragedy Ann And Sabrina Ross. 8th Anniversary Celebration at Austin Country
- Fri Mar 6 Post Mardi Gras Costume Ball, Austin Country. Host and MC - Tiffany Jones. Wear your Mardi Gras costume. \$1,000 first prize.
- Sat Mar 7 11am-4pm, MCCA membership day. Call 477-7747 for details.
Las Vegas Night at Austin Country. Auction, 1am. Host and auctioneer - Claude Sacha.
9pm, Austin Lambda women's dance. 50¢ donation
10pm-2am, free STD screening by Gay People Health Care at Stallion Bookstore
- Sun Mar 8 International Women's Day
4pm, Sunday social and beer bust, Austin Country
10pm, Trash and Comedy Show with Odessa Brown, Big David, Kitty Litter, and Alvina Grease, Austin Country
- Tue Mar 10 7:30pm, MCCA board of directors meeting
7:30pm, Austin Lambda alcohol collective
7:30pm, Austin Lambda showing of film "In the Best Interests of the Children"
- Wed Mar 11 7pm, University Gay Students Organization meeting, Board of Directors Room, Texas Union 4.118
7:30pm, Austin Lambda showing of film "In the Best Interests of the Children"
- Fri Mar 13 9pm-1:30am, The Mustang Band performs at The Red River Crossing
- Mon Mar 16 8pm, Austin Lambda workshop on Women Meeting Women, led by Marti Kranzberg and Lee Nicoloff
- Tue Mar 17 7pm, Austin Lambda St. Patricks Day supper and celebration. \$2.50 donation.
- Thu Mar 19 7pm, Gay People Health Care meeting. Call 453-0816 for location. Covered dish supper and slide show on the 1979 March on Washington
7pm, Austin Lambda lesbian pot luck supper
- Sat Mar 21 10:30am, Speakers Bureau training, Austin Lambda
8:30pm, Austin Lambda women's coffeehouse. Music performed by Gail Lewis. 50¢ donation.
10pm-2am, free STD screening by Gay People Health Care at Club Baths
- Tue Mar 24 7:30pm, Austin Lesbian Gay Political Caucus meeting, Austin Lambda. Candidates Night.
- Wed Mar 25 7:30pm, Austin Lambda showing of film "Boys in the Band." \$1. (50¢ for sponsors)
- Fri Mar 27 9pm-1:30am, The Mustang Band performs at The Red River Crossing
- Sat Mar 28 7:30pm, Austin Lambda dessert pot-luck. Presentation by John Duncan, director of the Texas Civil Liberties Union.

- Sunday 2pm, MCCA worship service, 408 West 23rd
6:30pm, free C&W dance lessons, Red River Crossing
7pm, T-dance, Tex's Colorado Street Bar. Free draft beer.
8pm, Dignity liturgy. Call 477-6699 for location.
10pm, Trash and Comedy with the Grease Sisters Austin Country
- Monday 6:30pm, Austin Lambda meeting
8-10pm, Austin Lambda gay men's awareness session. Everyone welcome.
12 midnight, New Wave Night, Tex's Colorado Street Bar
- Tuesday 85¢ bar drinks, Tex's Colorado Street Bar
25¢ draft beer, Red River Crossing
- Wednesday 7:30pm, MCCA worship service, 408 West 23rd
8:30pm, MCCA Christian Life Series
9pm, 35¢ well drinks all night, Tex's Colorado Street Bar
- Thursday 8-10pm, Austin Lambda lesbian awareness session
85¢ bar drinks, Tex's Colorado Street Bar
10pm, Showtime at Austin Country
- Friday 7:30pm, Austin Lambda game night

ORGANIZATIONS

- Austin Lambda AA Center 1403 East Sixth
6:30 - 10:30pm nightly 472-0336
- Austin Lambda 603 West Twelfth
7 - 10pm Monday - Friday 478-8653
- Austin Lesbian Gay Political Caucus . 603 West Twelfth
P.O. Box 822, Austin 78767 478-8653
- Dignity Box 4357 Austin, Texas 78765
- Gay Community Services 2330 Guadalupe
6 - 10pm nightly 477-6699
- Gay People/Health Care 1010-B Romeria
Austin, Texas 78757 453-0816
- Law Students for Human Rights 2500 Red River
Austin, Texas 78712 days: 471-5151 ext. 210
nights: 477-7257 or 477-7867
- Metropolitan Community Church of Austin
P.O. Box 18581 Austin 78745 477-7747
- University Gay Students Organization 477-6699

TOM ROBINSON - continued from page 11

Jim liked it because you weren't campy. That you were just direct and honest, that's what Jim was referring to. He said it was refreshing.

It's important for people who don't find themselves effeminate, not to oppress those who are. It's the effeminate kids who are always out, who never have a choice to be in or out. They always bore the brunt of gay oppression, all down the years, and those are the people who deserve your love and loyalty, all the way down, every time.

Thank you, Tom.

Well, thank you very much. I hope you enjoy the show.

COMING EVENTS

- Sun Apr 26 Senior Prom at The Hollywood, 304 West 4th. Tuxedos or formal gowns encouraged. Fund-raising benefit for MCCA.

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