

AN INDEPENDENT PUBLICATION

TOGETHER

GAY

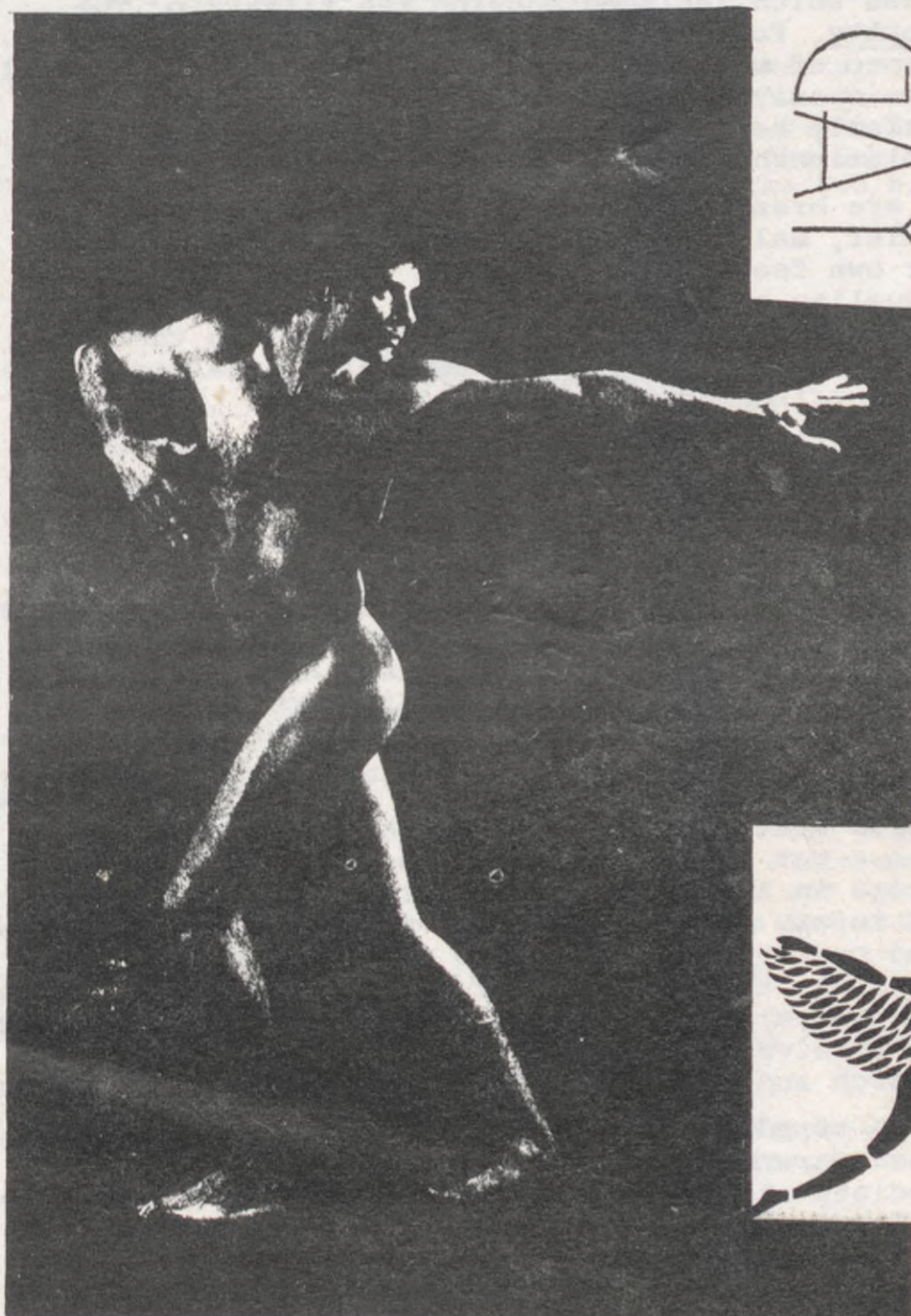


PHOTO by MASINTER



VOL. II, ISSUE 1 Sept., 1974

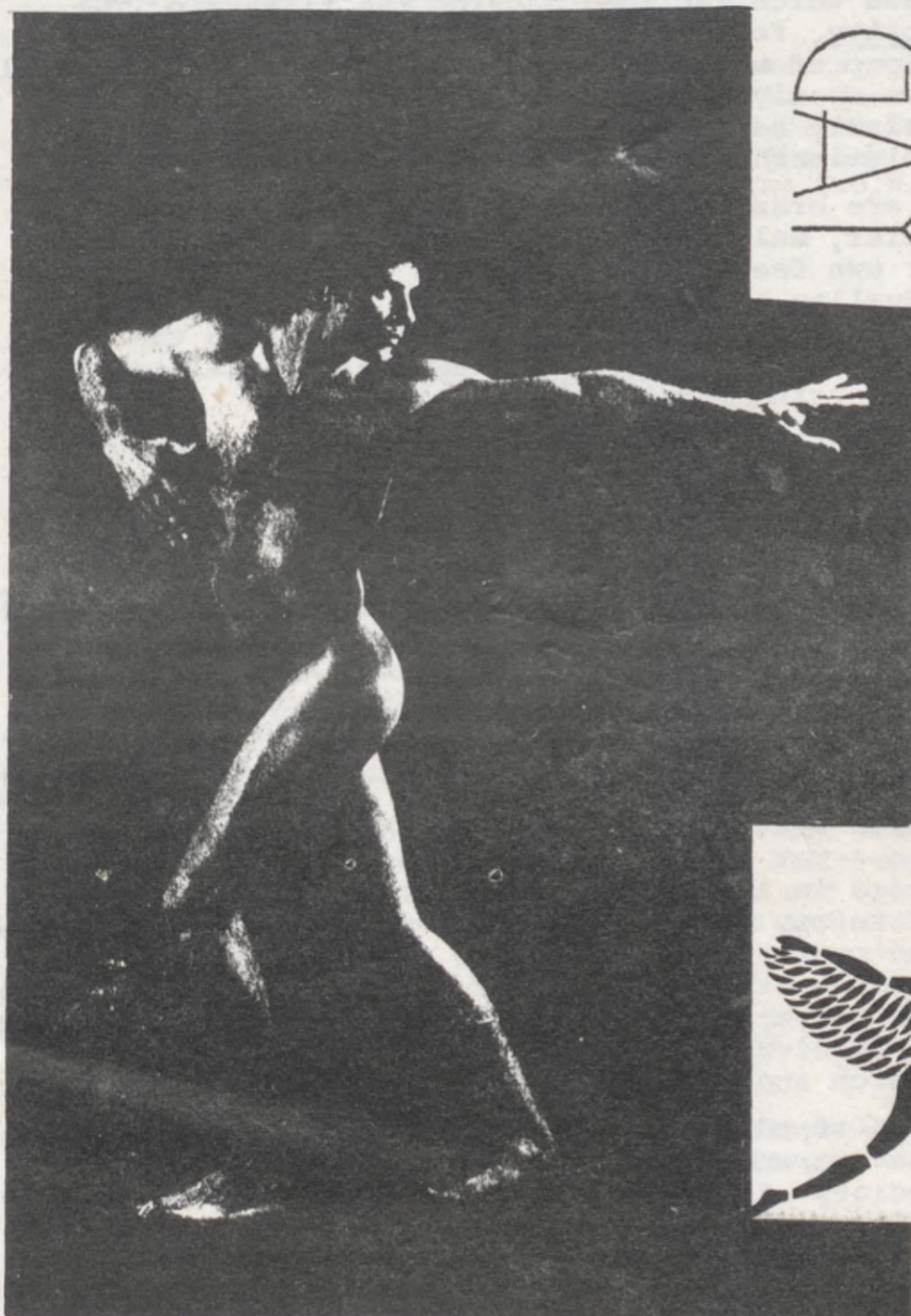
SAN ANTONIO
GAY COMMUNITY CENTER

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GAY COMMUNITY CENTER

"Lesbians are your sisters, too!" The impact of this statement was realized August 1 in a positive, progressive step to break down the barriers of misunderstanding and lack of trust between lesbians and our straight sisters. Coordinators of the Sexuality and Lesbianism Task Force of the local chapter of the National Organization for Women (N.O.W.) presented a program which included showing the filmstrip, The Invisible Minority, followed by a rap/discussion among the large mixed group of women present. Our objective was to deal with lesbianism openly, to destroy many of the myths and stereotypes falsely held, and to promote a more trusting, comfortable relationship with our straight sisters.

As women are breaking out of predetermined, oppressive roles of a sexist, male-dominated society, they are becoming aware of their own feelings as women and exploring their own individual sexuality and human potential. With this self-awareness and confidence is evolving an openness to the lesbian in realizing and accepting the lesbian's sexuality, worth, potential and contribution to the feminist issue.

This attitude is evidenced in two important decisions. First, in 1971, the national N.O.W. conference passed a resolution expressing a woman's right to control her own body and choose her own lifestyle and recognizing further "the double oppression of women who are lesbians." At the 1973 national conference, N.O.W. took a definite stand in resolving to actively introduce and support legislation to eliminate discrimination based on sexual orientation. As a result of this resolution, the Task Force on Sexuality and Lesbianism was established to provide a base from which education, legislation and research could be accomplished. More specifically, the 1973 Conference workshop on Sexuality and Lesbianism passed an implementation statement which the Nat'l Task Force has translated into a set of interim guidelines for local chapter action. Included in this workshop report "is the pressing need for legal reform regarding married women who are 'required both by law and custom to acquiesce to a husband's sexual demands', as well as the necessity of working for civil rights for lesbians. The Nat'l Task Force has further been 'mandated to engage in a massive sex education program within N.O.W., including research and the latest findings on female sexuality.

In the area of education, the Nat'l. Task Force will work to increase the awareness and understanding of both N.O.W. members and society-at-large of the broad range of female sexual expression and lifestyles, as well as provide information on all levels of the educational system.

Within the judicial and legislative systems, the Nat'l. Task Force will hopefully be instrumental in the repeal of all sodomy laws which define sexual behavior for both heterosexual and homosexual people. Further legal actions will be taken in the area of rights for lesbian mothers.

Finally, the Nat'l. Task Force will actively encourage women to do research on female sexuality."

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Our local task force is open to all women and strongly encourages their support in participating and working toward our freedom and bridging existing communication gaps.

A very positive outgrowth of the interaction on August 1 has been a CR (consciousness raising) group consisting of women of any sexual preference. The primary objective is to explore our sexuality and how we feel about ourselves and each other as women. Women have tremendous potential and much to give and gain. Through our growth as people, our unity and purpose cannot help but be strengthened and our ultimate liberation be realized.

The Nat'l. Organization for Women meets the 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. of each month. The meeting place is at the San Antonio Free Clinic Human Growth Center. For additional N.O.W. information call the Gay Switchboard Thursday evenings 7-11 at 733-7300 or the N.O.W. information line, 734-0441.



SAN ANTONIO GAY BAR OWNERS MEET

by Randy Roesler, President

On June 11, the first meeting of the San Antonio Gay Bar Owners Association, met at The Arena to discuss the mutual problems caused by inflation and possible solutions.

The owners present also agreed to hold regular meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at different bars. So far, The Arena, White Gazebo, El Jardin and Spanish Harlem have hosted these meetings. (Thanks to the above bar owners.)

At our last meeting on September 10, at the Spanish Harlem, fifteen of the eighteen Gay Bar owners were present. Also represented were members of the Gay Community Center and staff of TOGETHER GAY.

The Bar owners present agreed to support fully Gay Community Center and their activities, and to become part of the Center.

The San Antonio Gay Bar Owners Association was organized in June, 1974, as a social and business type group, in order to discuss our mutual problems and better understand the desires of our patrons.

As President of the Association, I will be reporting the thoughts of your local gay bar owners and how they affect you and your bars' activities.

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DIRECTORY OF GAY BARS IN SAN ANTONIO

4.

The Arena, 801 San Pedro, 225-9159
The Cork Room, 411 N. St. Mary's, 223-8652
The Friendly Lounge, 622 Roosevelt, 534-0710
The Frisco Lounge, 147 E. Travis, 223-0858
The Gay Silhouette, 2522 Culebra, 432-9336
Granny's, 309 W. Market, 223-0866
The Hypothesis, 2012 Broadway, 225-0693
El Jardin, 106 Navarro, 223-7177
The Keg Tap Room, 826 San Pedro, 223-7700
The Lancer Club, 607 N. St. Mary's, 223-0900
Mary Ellen's Lounge, 815 Fredricksburg Rd.
OOz and Barrel Lounge, 1621, S. New Braunsfels, 532-0255
El Safari, 13194 S. Hwy. 81, 623-9812
San Antonio Country, 1122 N. St. Mary's, 222-8273
Spanish Harlem, 349 W. Josephine, 732-0110
The Unicorn Pub, 1607 W. Polar, 732-0369
The White Gazebo, 6724 San Pedro, 826-9307

FLEA MARKET

Sometime this fall (probably late October) we will be having a flea market at the clinic. Your donations are needed for this fundraising project. Almost anything will be accepted. Please bring your donated items in bags or boxes to the clinic between 12 noon and 4pm. Or on weekends. See Angel.

If you want to rent a table or if there is anything you want to do at the flea market, please talk with Angel Castillo. Call 12 to 4pm, Monday thru Friday 732-4661. Help make this event profitable as well as enjoyable by getting involved in some way. Support your free clinic!

WE HAVE MET THE ENEMY AND HE IS US

TENNIS IS FUN, TOO

WANTED: Tennis partner, male, intermediate level or above.
Call Gay Switchboard.

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SOUTH TEXAS REGIONAL CAUCUS

Representatives of the gay organizations in the San Antonio area met on Sunday, September 8 to choose two delegates to serve on the Coordinating Council of the State Gay Task Force.

According to the guidelines set up at the August statewide caucus, one woman and one man from each of four regions are to be selected to serve one year on the Council. The Council will meet four times a year.

The current South Texas organizations are Gay Women of San Antonio, The Brotherhood, Companions of St. Francis, House of the Covenant, Gay Methodist Caucus, Forward Foundation and Bar Workers (all of San Antonio.)

Fran Coley, of the Companions of St. Francis, was chosen as the male representative. The female representative chosen is not presently in a position to be publicly named.

Other state organizations include the following:

North Texas - Agape MCC, Ft. Worth; AURA, Ft. Worth; Circle of Friends, Dallas; Daughters of Bilitis, Dallas; and MCC, Dallas.

East Texas - Integrity; Transexual Referral and Counseling Service; Task Force on Sexuality and Lesbianism, National Organization of Women; and MCC (all of Houston).

West Texas - Gay Awareness, Lubbock; Gay People of Austin; Gay People of Austin on Campus; Texas Unitarian-Universalists Gays, Austin; Gay Liberation at the University of Texas, Austin; and Austin Women Workers' Lesbian Caucus.

New organizations wishing to join the Texas Gay Task Force should approach their respective regional caucus to ascertain whether or not they are in harmony with the state purpose. If the regional caucus approves the organization, it becomes a member organization. In the event any organization is rejected by a regional caucus, the group may apply to the Coordinating Council for intervention.

Membership in the State Task Force shall be open to any sympathetic group regardless of ideological or religious beliefs, sexual orientation, racial or ethnic background.

The first meeting of the Coordinating Council will be held October 5 in Austin.

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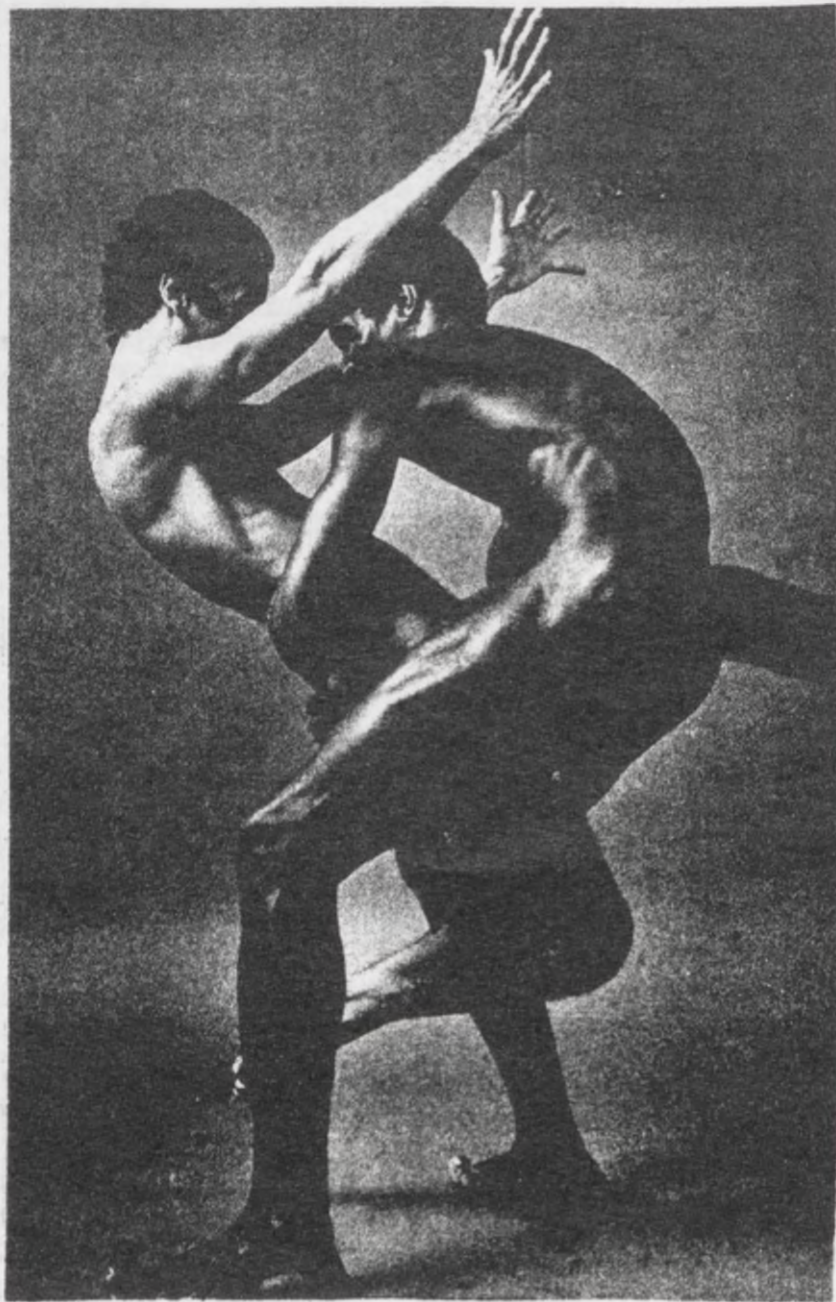
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WHERE IT IS

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A FOOD STAMP ODYSSEY - OR - FAGGOTS NEED FOOD, TOO

by Gene Leggett

On Monday afternoon, July 29, I reported to Mr. Arthur Martinez, supervisor of the home investigators for the Food Stamp Program, Department of Public Welfare on East Houston, that Robert de la Cruz, one of the workers under him, had discriminated against me as a member of the gay minority, had contributed to the economic oppression of gay people and, in short, was suffering from homophobia. After receiving a full report from me, Mr. Martinez agreed to have a conference with Mr. de la Cruz and sensitize him to the rights of gay people.

A Classic Tale of Homophobia

The chain of events leading up to this meeting were as follows:

On July 15, at my monthly interview for participation in the food stamp program, Ms. Diana Garcia decided a home investigation should be made to verify that I had separate kitchen facilities where I lived (hot plate and ice chest are bare necessities, which I have). Ms. Garcia said an investigator would probably come by the end of the week.

By Friday afternoon, July 19, no investigator had come. I had stayed around home for the entire week so I wouldn't miss "the visit" and thought it best to call down to the East Houston office to verify that someone was going to come.

I was informed that the investigation had been completed on Thursday, July 18. I talked next to Mr. de la Cruz, who said he was the one who had come on Thursday afternoon and the investigation was indeed completed. (Mr. de la Cruz had handled my papers in June and did not seem to care for my bracelets, rings and earring.)

I inquired how he could complete his investigation without making the home visit and talking to me personally, and he replied that no one was home when he came on Thursday.

How You Find Out No One's Home

I told Mr. de la Cruz that I was home and asked him how he made the decision on one was home. First, he replied, there was no car in the car port. (I don't have a car.) Secondly, he said, he asked the landlady and she said no

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Reluctantly, Mr. de la Cruz read me the qualifications. When he finished I pointed out to him that he would have to indicate to me which qualifications I did not fulfill and, again, I thought this could best be ascertained by a home visit.

When I then suggested that I wished to appeal his decision, Mr. de la Cruz hastened to add that he had not yet turned in his complete report; he was in the process of completing it.

Yes, He Will Come Visit Me!

Keenly aware of the repetitive nature of my suggestions, I again offered my opinion that Mr. de la Cruz should make a home visit before turning in his final report.

"Alright," Mr. de la Cruz finally agreed, "a home visit will be made this next week."

Could he come on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday? I had to attend a family wedding the end of that week. Yes, he could be fairly certain that a visit could be made on one of those three days. Fine, that was all I had wanted from the beginning.

The Second Vigil

Monday I waited; Tuesday I waited. I ran to the window every time a car door slammed; I heard imaginary door bells ringing; I slept wondering if my bedroom door would be smashed in so I would be "caught." (With a wife or husband? I wasn't sure.)

Late Tuesday I decided I better call the food stamp office again. This time I asked for Ms. Garcia (my caseworker for July). Ms. Garcia was surprised to hear my story. Mr. de la Cruz had turned in his report on Monday stating that I was ineligible for food stamps. When had I talked to him, she asked. On Friday, I replied.

He must have lied to me, I added unnecessarily.

Ms. Garcia assured me that someone would come the following week. I replied that I would let Mr. de la Cruz in if he were the one to come, but that I preferred that someone be sent who was not prejudiced against gay people, as Mr. de la Cruz obviously was.

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I wasn't sure I had heard correctly. Did he mean that he had come all the way to my home and then decided no one was home on the basis of an empty car space and the word of a neighbor rather than the elementary and practical method of knocking on my door? I couldn't believe this was ordinary procedure for welfare workers.

Mr. de la Cruz replied that a home visit would not be necessary because he had enough reports from "other sources" to ascertain that I was not eligible for food stamps. When I opined a second time that a home visit and personal talk with me should be primary in all investigations, Mr. de la Cruz claimed I was trying to intimidate him and darkly suggested that through his sources he knew "what was going on there."

Moment of Truth

"What was going on here?" I asked him. Quickly blurt-
ing the words out as if the very saying of them might con-
taminate him, Mr. de la Cruz declared, "You're living with
that man as husband and wife!"

"Husband and wife?" I asked, much amazed. "Where did you pick up this information? From the neighbors, from the streets, from the gutter? Did you ask me if I was living with someone as husband and wife?"

"Well, are you?" he asked, seeking final vindication.

"Of course not!" I replied. (Husband and wife, indeed! The very terms are oppressive to me. Whatever my relationship is to the person with whom I live, it is not husband and wife. Does the food stamp manual specify who you may or may not sleep with in order to qualify for food stamps, I silently wondered.)

Getting Down to the Nitty Gritty

"Read me the qualifications in the manual for food stamp eligibility," I demanded.

Mr. de la Cruz, in a somewhat tacky voice, suggested I had a food stamp manual by my side and simply because I had a hot plate didn't make me eligible.

I replied that I did not have a food stamp manual by my side, but that I would not have applied for food stamps in the beginning if I had not felt I was eligible.

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For Prometheus

Hold fast to the rock that binds you.
 Today we are here to set you free.
 For centuries your friends have been few.
 You gave us hope from the oppression of the oak
 Tree.

We cheer you for fighting for the right to be free,
 And being different from the rulers.
 Although the sky was darkened and you could not see,
 You called the biased rulers liars.

We cheer you for being courageous and withstanding all
 The pain throughout the years.
 From you we have learned, broadened our insights.
 Your pleas for a release have reached our ears.
 Soon you will be free,
 From your plight.

Soon we shall overcome all oppression.
 Peace, tranquility, and harmony with love
 Shall be the world's to share.
 Then you will be freed from your wearisome position.
 At the time you will realize
 That we do care.

Michael E. Butler 1971

Food Stamp Odyssey (concluded)

A Happy Ending

On Monday morning, July 29, Mr. Joe Lopez came, very efficiently made his investigation, was quite pleasant to me, and told me my living quarters did comply with all the necessary requirements. By that afternoon, Ms. Garcia had completed the necessary papers; I had my monthly allotment of food stamps and the assurance of Mr. Martinez that he would call Mr. de la Cruz in for a talk.

Well, it was an interesting experience. Many times we gay people suffer intimidation from straight people who, by innuendo, suggest that we are engaged in activities so horrible that basic rights available to other people should be denied to us.

I hope Mr. de la Cruz now knows otherwise.

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REDEMPTION

a young
 Tradesman sits licking stamps
 behind th
 Counter at th redemptioncenter.

there's no
Salvation for me with you.
nor can I
Trade you for th stamps
you keep
Licking. all
you have in
Stock is balls
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LICK THOSE STAMPS!

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Bonus for highgrade tradingstamps!
 (WHATEVER YOU CHARGE ME, IT'S WORTH
 YOU

To Bruce W.

Your blond, sky blue eyed beauty
 Is unreal and your eyes mirror
 the heavens;
 I want to grab you, caress you and drag you
 Down to earth, where our hot breath,
 Lost in an endless kiss, swoon and embrace,
 Can make our hearts pulse with fever, lust
 And ecstatic throbbing, plusing, and flowing
 Of our life fluids into each other,
 As we ride each other into the heaven,
 Your eyes reveal and your body promises.

Gus Sobel

REDEMPTION

a young
 Tradesman sits licking stamps
 behind th
 Counter at th redemptioncenter.

there's no
Salvation for me with you.
nor can I
Trade you for th stamps
you keep
Licking. all
you have in
Stock is balls
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MA BELL RELENTS! NO LONGER DOWN ON GAYS

(Will your telephone repairman SWISH?)

The August 10 issue of The Wall Street Journal reports a new policy statement by American Telephone & Telegraph Co., the parent company of the Bell Telephone System, concerning employment of gays. The statement sets forth policy to be followed by the operating subsidiaries (such as Southwestern Bell, locally).

Discrimination against gays on the basis of sexual orientation not affecting job performance is no longer allowed and supervisors are cautioned against seeking information about such orientation when there is no job-related reason. Furthermore, a job applicant is not to be rejected because of known homosexuality or for belonging to a gay activist group!

This startlingly liberal stance taken by A.T.& T. will presumably end the rather grim attitudes taken by most of the operating subsidiaries toward gays. The company has been under pressure by the National Gay Task Force because of its lack of performance in the gay rights area, and some of the company's policies have been outlawed (in Minneapolis, for example) by antidiscrimination ordinances, such as the one under study for San Antonio.

A.T.&T. is the country's largest private employer, with over 1,000,000 people in the various divisions.

A BRIEF EDITORIAL

This paper is late; this paper is rather long, and this paper doesn't have in it half the things the staff wanted it to.

AS you may have noticed, this is the first issue of TOGETHER GAY as an "independent publication" (whatever THAT means). In becoming independent, we passed through a commercial issue, complete with ads; it never got to the bars, thanks to the generosity of a number of bar owners and other patrons who have offered to pay publication costs for this newsletter to keep it FREE to you, the reader, without ads.

At last, here it is; the first issue of the second volume of TOGETHER GAY, and thanks to everybody whose work and patience have made it a continuing reality of the community of San Antonio Gays.



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"Gay Bars are the community for most Gay people. Not only does one go to a bar to socialize and drink, but to share news, ideas, and friendship. Hopefully, we can broaden our goals to have other forms of community for Gays. This is how the bar owners and the Gay Community Center are working together." George Barbosa, owner of the Frisco Lounge at 124 E. Travis, is one of the Bar personalities in San Antonio who is interested in more than just making money. "Our younger Gay friends, those not old enough to go to bars, need someplace to go. Life on the streets is rough and we who have been around for awhile can help these kids have a better form of life from the beginning." George hopes to work with others so that someday youth activities can be a reality.

George sees the Frisco as a "friendly bar." "Most people come here and get a chance to talk to friends and meet new people because of the atmosphere, and we're hoping to extend our hours so that more of this can go on." The Frisco will be open from 10am to 2am daily starting on Sept. 23rd. It will serve beer and wine during those hours and will have a "Happy Hour" from 4pm to 7pm daily. Coming events at the Frisco will include a "Miss Frisco Pageant" on October 26th. First Prize for this event will be a Trip to Mexico City. On Halloween, George's Birthday, there will be free beer and food from 9pm to 2am.

When this reporter asked George what was the one unique factor of the Frisco, he replied, "Well, we're the crusiest bar in town!" Besides friendship and a good time, nice people like George, and cruising..... what more would you want!

Ft. Worth

In the wake of Ft. Worth police harassment of the Texas Gay Conference, the police chief has apologized to the gay community of Texas.

Ft. Worth police chief H.F. Hopkins also assure gays the license numbers taken by police have been destroyed.

A demonstration against the police station for July 4th was called off after Hopkins apologized.

According to reliable sources a State Investigation of local Authorities is now underway.

THE FREE UNIVERSITY

An Alternative Education Project of the San Antonio Free Clinic

A United Way Agency

Register in person at the San Antonio Free Clinic, 1136 W. Woodlawn on the following days:

Saturday, September 28 - 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 29 - 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m.

Monday, September 30 - 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

For further information call the San Antonio Free Clinic at

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THE GAY COMMUNITY CENTER'S OUTREACH FROM A
LESBIAN'S POINT OF VIEW

by K & R

Being involved in the Gay Community Center has provided an opportunity not only to communicate and work with other gays but also to share with straights how we think, feel, live, and love. In a society that all too often inhumanly alienates the homosexual, it is a unique experience when we are accepted, understood and cared for as what we are.

We must not allow ourselves to continue to be alienated, ostracized, and rejected. One of the most positive ways to deal with society's insensitivity and ignorance is to communicate openly and honestly with members of straight society our acceptance of ourselves and happiness in being what we are. This is difficult to turn off. Consequently, our sharing with straights has resulted in increased awareness, understanding and empathy on their parts.

During the Gay Community Center's existence, both gay men and women have talked with college students, counselors, newspaper reporters and organizations, both on an individual and group basis. On several occasions we have been part of sociology classes at Trinity University and psychology classes at San Antonio College. Placed in a free, relaxed, comfortable situation, we related to each other on a personal level how we felt about being gay and the kind of lifestyle we have chosen. Not only were they interested and asked many questions they came to see us as real people and many genuinely cared, changing previously held misconceptions and attitudes. Being members of the National Organization for Women, we, as a lesbian couple, are part of the Task Force on Human Sexuality and Lesbianism. Through their Speaker's Bureau and the task force, we have expressed our feelings and ideas. There is a definite need to raise the consciousness of the women of N.O.W. and through dealing with lesbianism openly, progress has been made in achieving understanding and trust.

Perhaps you have read the series on Changing Lifestyles in San Antonio in the Express and News several months ago. In these articles, Deborah Weser included the Gay Community Center and the lifestyles of both a male and female couple. Although lack of space prevented a more in-depth study, it is gratifying to know that someone in the news media is supportive of us and our efforts. In her interview with us we found Ms. Weser to be very open and sympathetic to us, our problems, and struggles to live freely and openly.

Although there are those in society who find it difficult to recognize and accept gays, we have discovered that there are people who, given the chance, will listen, accept, and support us. We find that this strengthens our belief and confidence in ourselves and gives us courage to live and be more open to work toward total acceptance by society.

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IT ALL DEPENDS ON WHO YOU TALK TO

This is psychotherapy?

"....The duckling sat in the corner nursing his bad humor. Then he began to think of the fresh air and sunshine and an uncontrollable longing seized him to float on the water. At last he could not help telling the hen about it.



"What on earth possesses you?" she asked. "You have nothing to do. That is why you get these fantasies in your head. Lay some eggs or take to purring, and you will get over it."

"But it is so delicious to float on the water," said the duckling. "It is so delicious to feel it rushing over your head when you dive to the bottom."

"That would be a fine amusement!" said the hen. "I think you have gone mad. Ask the cat about it. He is the wisest creature I know. Ask him if he is fond of floating on the water or diving under it. I say nothing about myself. Ask our mistress herself, the old woman. There is no one in the world cleverer than she is. Do you suppose she has any desire to float on the water or to dive underneath it?"

"You do not understand me," said the duckling.

..... .. from The Ugly Duckling by Hans Christian Andersen

Sometimes you have to talk to one of your own kind to be understood! This is the reason for the existence of Gay Switchboard: to provide a truly understanding source of information and help for gay people.

Volunteers are now being recruited for this work, which is of a kind that mature, concerned people often find deeply satisfying. Here there is an opportunity to help others like themselves, in situations where they can draw from their own experience as a gay person. There is also the opportunity to help dispose of the stereotype of gays as frivolous and irresponsible people. A Switchboard worker often finds that he or she is the sole confidant of some deeply troubled caller, and the realization of this gives a deeper meaning to one's past experience--especially if it has involved suffering because of rejection for being gay.

On Sept. 8, at 7:30 p.m., the Gay Community Service Group will hold a meeting at the Human Growth Center of the San Antonio Free Clinic for the purpose of reviewing current Switchboard operation and providing information for those who want to know more about this activity. There is a special need for Switchboard workers who are members of ethnic minorities, but the principal qualifications are, as always, maturity and responsibility. For further information call 733-7300, 7-11 p.m.



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To cite a case in point, Szaz notes Clive Boutilier, a Canadian national. He was deported by the Immigration and Naturalization Service because he identified himself as homosexual. This case finally wound up in the Supreme Court. In an incredible ruling, the court stated that Boutilier's homosexuality was "a condition, namely, a (and get this now obsolete A.P.A. jargon) psychopathic personality at the time of his admission (into the U.S.A.)."

Szaz continues by asking a significant question: if the United States government wanted to know if immigrant aliens were homosexual couldn't they ask them upon immigration instead of spying on them later, as with Boutilier? He had lived in the U.S. for ten years before he was deported.

Szaz shows that in today's society many see Gays not as persons, individuals with individual needs, but rather as ridiculous objects. In short, one who is Gay is thought of as a nonconformist and therefore SICK.

The great philosopher Sartre said it best: "Human relations are possible between homosexuals just as between a man and a woman. Homosexuals can love, give, elevate others and elevate themselves." Let us therefore hope that in time our society will ultimately come to that view.

Dr. Szaz simply underlines the fact that America (and France) have not heard this message. Gays are not criminal psychopaths; since the American Psychiatric Association no longer considers Gays psychopathic at all, it is a matter of simple logic that they cannot be criminal psychopaths.

WOMEN ON THE MOVE

On Sunday, September 8, a picnic was held at the Northeast Game Preserve with over forty people present throughout the afternoon. Planned by several bar owners and members of the Gay Community Center, the purpose was one of unity and bringing the two groups together.

The events involved were the "carry-in" and the keg which was furnished by one of the bar owners, get acquainted time, a meeting concerning future activities, and the election of the representatives to the Coordinating Council of the Texas Gay Task Force.

Resulting from this group was a beginning toward a greater feeling of sisterhood and the establishment of a smaller group to work toward and plan a weekend campout in November.

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BOOK REVIEW

LESBIAN/WOMAN by Del Martin
and Phyllis Lyon *

reviewed by k

This book is undoubtedly a milestone in my years of gay life. First, it fills a much-needed vacuum in the area of what we can read or give others to read so Lesbians can be better understood. I have felt at a loss for many years because I couldn't in good conscience recommend an authoritative book about ourselves as Lesbian/Women. Secondly, the book personally motivated me to become actively involved in the lesbian cause. I became aware of how these two lesbian women have totally dedicated their lives to helping other women either more or less fortunate than themselves. The great number of people they've contacted, the hundreds they've counseled; the lecturing and studying they've done--has all been to improve the lives of lesbians. Such a totally humanitarian concern for an oppressed group truly has my most deeply felt respect.

The book consists of ten chapters. Subject areas covered actually take in the entire lesbian experience: self-image, lifestyles, sexuality and sex roles, common myths and paranoia that are all too often felt by gay women. Often excluded in most gay literature but not forgotten here are chapters on Lesbian Motherhood and Growing Up Gay. The latter chapters share the history of the Daughters of Bilitis and the now-present Lesbian/Feminist movement. It concludes with our demands as lesbians--full rights as citizens and freedom to be the people we are.

*Glide Publications, 1972. Also Bantam paperback ed.

BAR WORKERS MEET

On Tuesday, September 10, eighteen representatives of almost all of San Antonio's gay bars and mixed bars (Is there a bar in town that doesn't have at least a few of us there most of the time?) met to continue recently begun discussions of mutual concerns of bar owners, managers, workers and the gay community at large (that's us). Two representatives of the Gay Community Center were also present.

Topics ranged from problems of the under-age gays to keeping restrooms from being trashed (Really!) to drag concerns to drug problems. Also, a good amount of time was given to good old get acquainted chit-chat.

Consensus was reached in two significant areas: the group will continue to meet monthly, with minimum organization and maximum communication, and the group understands itself to be a part of the Gay Community Center.

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The only homosexual tolerated is the active role (this I know from personal experience-. The passive agent then becomes an object of ridicule. There is no reciprocation as in our relationships. The urge to domination in Machismo is the reason, and it dehumanizes.

There is a pilot group seeking to establish a 'phone distress and family counseling service and to translate sympathetic material into Spanish. They operate as a tiny minority in an embattled group. Bob Figueroa, nevertheless feels that it is necessary to develop a higher self-esteem and Gay pride, although the author feels that the environment does not seem to be conducive. Figueroa is the leader of this group, and is dedicating a good deal of his time to this effort.

Let this moment...

Let this moment we are joined be endless,
As I take you in my mouth,
And clasp you to my throbbing, pulsing breast,
In this forever moment, whose heat seizes
And loses us in an endless dream,
Whose joy is eternal.
I drown in the white dawn flow of your rapture,
Let me drink of you till I quench my heart
Forever.
Lover let this moment be an endless dream we
share.

Gus Sobel

BAR WORKERS MEET (CONCLUDED)

As talk rolled from subject to subject, it became increasingly apparent that the various bar owners were concerned, not only for their own economic growth, but for the welfare of the entire gay community. Indeed, the two concerns could not be separated. (Could it be that individual liberation IS gay liberation IS human liberation?)

This meeting was an important step in improving the quality of gay life in San Antonio. I suspect we shall be hearing more from this group.

If you have any concerns relating to the bar scene, pass them on to your favorite bar or call them in to the Gay Switchboard.

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Whose joy is eternal.
I drown in the white dawn flow of your rapture,
Let me drink of you till I quench my heart
Forever.
Lover let this moment be an endless dream we
share.

Gus Sobel

BAR WORKERS MEET (CONCLUDED)

As talk rolled from subject to subject, it became increasingly apparent that the various bar owners were concerned, not only for their own economic growth, but for the welfare of the entire gay community. Indeed, the two concerns could not be separated. (Could it be that individual liberation IS gay liberation IS human liberation?)

This meeting was an important step in improving the quality of gay life in San Antonio. I suspect we shall be hearing more from this group.

If you have any concerns relating to the bar scene, pass them on to your favorite bar or call them in to the Gay Switchboard.

REFLECTIONS ON THE YEAR PAST
(by a Lesbian, for Lesbians)

19.

For the past year I have been involved with the Gay Community Center. It has been a positive turning point in my life resulting in change and self-growth as a lesbian woman. It has caused me to become a stronger, more confident person. My awareness and commitment to the gay community has increased and deepened, particularly for my sisters.

My involvement encompasses a wide range of thought, feeling and emotion. The newness in the beginning was refreshing and stimulating, full of wonder, hope and expectation. Here was a chance to truly be myself without the hassle of whether or not I would be accepted. Here at last was an opportunity to be and communicate with other gay women outside of the bar scene. Possibilities for developing a center for all gays, no matter what their needs, desires, hangups, and capabilities might be, abounded.

A natural outgrowth was the women's rap group. The desire that existed then, as it does now, was to get to know and experience where other gay women are at. Our real selves have been hidden from each other too long; it is time to unite and work for our self-respect and the right to be. The goals identified and defined then are still vital now. Through individual and group sharing, there exists real potential for self-growth, increased understanding of others, and alternatives to the bar for the lesbian. We're hopeful that the common bond of lesbianism that we share will create a more secure, comfortable, open situation. Hardly any response we've received has been negative, yet few women have actually come. And many of our meetings and rap sessions have proven to be productive, worthwhile self-growth experiences. Yet I have also felt much frustration and helplessness because more women do not support our efforts. Is the lesbian in San Antonio that insecure in her identity that she must remain uncommitted and threatened? Although I realize not all lesbians are insecure and uncaring, I also feel strongly that in order for anything ever to be done to promote our cause and find solutions for our concerns, the lesbian must raise her consciousness concerning the oppression not only against women, but against lesbian women.

If we work together, what can we hope to gain? The possibilities are unlimited, if we would only allow ourselves to be open and grow. As I see it, we must begin with self-acceptance as lesbians. Faith and confidence in what we are can only be positive. Next, we must accept other lesbians wherever they're at. We all have a right to be who and what we are, but at the same time to be open to new ideas and lifestyles that can enrich our lives. Change is good. By raising our own consciousness we can help raise the consciousness of other lesbians. Together our strength cannot be ignored. The numbers of us who choose to live as openly as possible are then capable of raising the consciousness of straight society. Many of us have done so and have been accepted, not just tolerated, for what we are. The more open and sharing we become, the more possibilities exist for mutual acceptance. This can only mean a more positive future, freer from hassle and discrimination and alienation. In liberating our individual selves, we then make it possible to be liberated as a minority. Our future is built on what we do now. Let's not wait!

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GAY SWITCHBOARD

733 7300

7 PM to 11 PM

GAY PRIDE WEEK '74

--- How it was ---

Gay Pride Week in Frisco

A series of attractive and colorful floats was featured in Gay Pride week in San Francisco last June 30. There was an element of patriotism that went with a joyous, open frivolity. The parade was 40% shorter than last year, but the theme was Obtaining Full Gay Rights by 1976.

Gay Pride Week in Hollywood

Los Angeles celebrated Gay Pride Week with a carnival and parade that was joyous, bucolic and rather "sock 'em, rock 'em, knock 'em dead" last June 30. People came out into the open in a variety of outfits and moods and there were some attempts to bait the police, who are rough on Gays in L.A. A carnival, complete with well-labeled gays, games of chance, hot dogs, etc., was staged. The L.A. parade even had a large contingent of young gays from Orange County, outside, L.A., blowing bubbles and drawing "yaks and howls".

Gay Pride Week in N.Y.

A record 43,000 gays marched in the parade on Christopher Street in N.Y. last June 30 and there was a militant and caustic anti-Catholic mood in the wake of the defeat of the local Gay rights law known as "Intro 2" by the City Council. There was a spirit of pride, militancy and joy among the gay people. Typical was the college kid who rode the shoulders of his lover in hot pants, holding a placard for the TV, reading "Hi, Mom and Dad". There was a rally in the band shell in Central Park.



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