

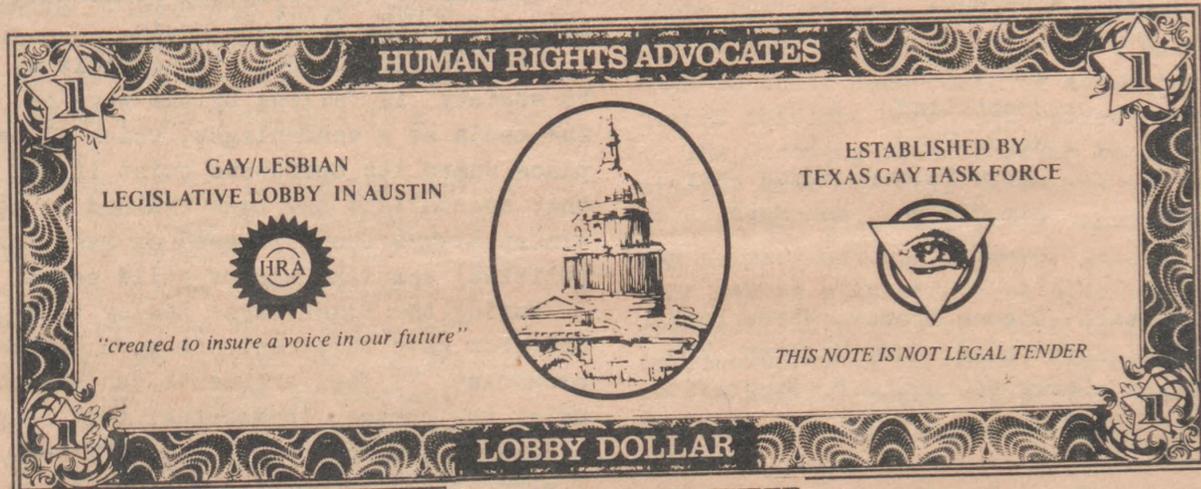
FREE!

CONNECTIONS

DEC. 1979/JAN. 1980

AUSTIN

VOL. 2 NO. 1



STORY ON PAGE THREE

PORN LAW HITS AUSTIN

Travis County prosecutors spent five years attempting to determine a "community standard" in pornography cases. It was an exercise in futility. Now, armed with a tougher state pornography law, County Attorney Jim McMurtry is trying again.

On November 16, police arrested Roy Stambaugh at the Pleasure Shoppe, 603 W. Oltorf St., and Fred Dougherty at the Adult Theatre, 3401-A N. IH 35, on sealed indictments. One case deals with picture magazines and the other with sexual devices, which are included for the first time under the new state statute. The county will also try to prove a case against a corporation distributing obscene material, another new provision.

Although the decision here has been to first test community standards, that hasn't been the case elsewhere, McMurtry said. "In other jurisdictions. . . they are seizing everything in the stores, and when they are

restocked, they're raided again." The biggest crackdowns have been in Houston and Dallas.

McMurtry said the last three obscenity trials in Austin resulted in mistrials, with the 18 jurors on the three panels split 9 to 9 on the issue. When the jury on the last case in 1977 deadlocked, Travis County prosecutors gave up. The cases "are very time consuming--for preparation and for the courts. They're different from what our attorneys are usually trying so we have to invest about 100 hours of attorney time to prepare for one," McMurtry said. So, he advised Police Chief Frank Dyson he would recommend no more arrests or trials until society, the law, or distribution procedures changed.

Some things have changed in the past 2 1/2 years, McMurtry believes. "The material is as offensive now as it was then, but the shops have moved out, closer to the neighborhoods. And, I think society has changed. A few years ago, society was more interested in preserving

individual liberties, but now it is more concerned with its own protection. The initial thrust of our effort will be to test the community to see if they're willing to tolerate this type of thing."

McMurtry is well aware of the difficulties in finding a jury that will return a guilty verdict. "Most people living in Austin moved here from somewhere else, bringing their own ideas. We have a large Mexican-American and black community with their own idea of obscenity. We have a large population of well-educated people and a larger liberal population than anywhere else in the state. Then there's a large segment of religious people, and they are by and large interested in imposing morals through the law. We have people with no religious beliefs, including the world's leading atheist."

"But we don't have anybody who is your typical Austinite. And when you don't have people of similar backgrounds, it's difficult to determine a community standard--if not impossible." Still, he's going to try.

The new state law defines as "obscene" any material or performance that:

--the average person, applying contemporary community standards, would find that taken as a whole appeals to the prurient interest in sex and lacks serious literary, artistic, political and scientific value;

--depicts or describes patently offensive representations or descriptions of ultimate sexual acts, normal or perverted, actual or simulated, including sexual intercourse, sodomy and bestiality.

--shows or describes patently offensive pictures or descriptions of masturbation, excretory functions, sadism, masochism, lewd exhibition of the genitalia, aroused male or female genitalia, covered male genitals in a discernibly turgid state, or any device designed and marketed for the stimulation of genitals.

HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATES

by Kathy Deitsch

The Human Rights Advocates, the legislative lobby project for the Texas Gay Task Force, are concerned about the upcoming special legislative session. House Speaker Bill Clayton has said recently, "The Governor has assured me that he plans to call a Special Session of the Texas Legislature. Although he has not told when he will make the call, he has said it will include initiative and referendum, electronic surveillance (wiretapping), and tax relief measures." The HRA Legislative Committee has determined that our lobby should be present to protect lesbian/gay interests if a Special Session is called.

There is a popular saying in and around the Capitol in Austin, "No person's life, liberty or property is safe when the Texas Legislature is in session." During the 1979 session, the Human Rights Advocates were instrumental in averting legislation which would have increased harassment of gay and lesbian bars by forbidding "sexually oriented conduct", such as same-sex dancing and drag shows, removing a rider in the general appropriations bill which denied campus gay organizations use of university facilities, foiling attempts to make gays scapegoats in floor debate on child pornography and child sexual abuse, and bringing police harassment and brutality experienced by the lesbian/gay community to the legislators' attention.

The governor is not required to give advance notice of a special session call. Therefore, our community would have no time to raise money for a lobby presence after the call. It could come as early as January, 1980, although March or September--months which would put the most pressure on the legislators--are, politically, more likely. A special session is limited to 30 days, but another can be called immediately after the first.

GAY IRANIANS FACING DEPORTATION: THERE IS A WAY OUT

Iranian lesbians and gay men who face deportation may be able to use their homosexuality as a defense to remain in the United States. Because of the executions of gay men in Teheran earlier this year, openly gay students may assert they would be in danger by returning to Iran because of their sexual orientation. Anything that can establish political refugee status may be successful to delay or defeat deportation under these circumstances.

Unlike the Immigration and Naturalization Service, and more recently the State Department, regulations that bar entry into the United States because of an individual's homosexuality, any alien already in the country who has passed through immigration is entitled to limited statutory procedural safeguards. Hearing examiners, furthermore, have stayed deportation of homosexual aliens in the past where political refugee status was determined.

The International Gay Association will work with local American groups to assist those lesbian and gay Iranian students to secure legal counsel at their hearings. If a student is nevertheless deported from the United States, or feels it impossible to raise her/his homosexuality as an issue during a public hearing, then the International Gay Association will attempt to locate through its European member associations another host country.

Interested gay students should contact the Liaison Office in Washington at (202) 234-6268. Your identity will be kept strictly confidential. If you are an attorney who could volunteer your services during this emergency, please call the Liaison Office. (IGNA)

The HRA is attempting to raise enough money to pay off the last session's debt and budget \$6000 for the Special Session presence.

The Human Rights Advocates have been organizing "Lobby Nights" in Texas bars. The first one took place in Houston on October 6, 1979. It netted approximately \$2200 toward the elimination of the 66th session debt. Lobby Dollars were traded for actual dollars. Those purchasing the Lobby Dollar were encouraged to mail it back so their name could be added to the HRA constituency network. More fund raisers are planned.

The upcoming year is going to be very hectic politically with the candidates and their campaigns for office, the political party conventions and the actual May primary and the November general election. Decision makers statewide look upon the lesbian/gay community as a growing force in Texas politics. Texas is considered to be one of the best organized states in the nation, being one of the two states that has been able to fund a lobby program for a full legislative session.

The National March on Washington served notice to legislators that the lesbian/gay community is a force to be reckoned with in the 1980's. Some 2500 to 3000 Texans participated in the March, and approximately 100 of us visited 20 of the 26 members of the Texas Congressional delegation. Many of the Texas legislators had never spoken to an open gay or lesbian constituent before the visits October 15.

It is vital that we join together in the 1980 elections and say very clearly, and very strongly, NO MORE DISCRIMINATION. We are everywhere and we intend to be an influential force politically on all levels. We urge your help in our continuing to have an effective voice in Austin.



Metropolitan Community Church



Pastor: Rev. Candace Naisbitt

Sunday Services: 12:00 noon and 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday Prayer and Communion: 7:30 p.m.
Bible study: Tuesday 7:30 p.m.
Rap group on all subjects: Tuesday 8:30 p.m.
Counseling: Monday - Thursday by appointment

Pot luck supper: January 19, 1980, 7:30 p.m.



REACHING OUT TO THE GAY COMMUNITY OF AUSTIN

614 E. 6th ST., AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701
(512) 477-7747

V.D. clinic

by Larry Palmer

In this issue I would like to report back to you, the Gay community, the results of the blood-drawing effort. The response to this blood-drawing project has been much better than any past attempts at this kind of effort. The openness and support of the Austin-Travis County Health Department and the Gay Nurses Alliance has made this possible. We, from both sides of this project, have been overwhelmed!

The turn-around time for your results have been improved by more than a week by the second week of drawing blood. I give you an example to show you how this is accomplished: the Gay Nurses Alliance draws the blood specimens on Saturday night at some location within the gay community. I myself take the specimens to the state lab early Monday morning to be run, and results are returned to the Austin/Travis County Health Department by Wednesday afternoon. The results can be obtained by calling: 474-6581, Extension 307 or 309. Other questions or complaints can be referred to the VD counselors at EXT. 234, or to myself at 837-4425 after 5 pm weekdays, and anytime Saturday or Sunday. The results by any other process takes 10 days and up to two weeks in most cases. So getting your blood drawn at any of the locations covered Friday nights is a better deal than going down to the VD Clinic yourself.

VD TEST RESULTS ARE IN

We, with the volume of testing we are doing are, in fact, coming up with a few positive tests. The confidential nature of, and respect for all persons involved, in every level from testing to reporting is good to remember. Everybody should be glad to know this so they can be treated--free, and confidential as well. Many people are aware of the possibility of exposure to syphilis by usually anonymous contacts, and get periodic blood tests at 3 month or 90 day intervals. Such a practice of being retested on a continual basis is very wise--especially if you are sexually active with more than one person, or if the person you are involved with is sexually active with others.

NOT EVEN YOUR LOVER KNOWS

I don't want to open the door of moral judgment; my report is not concerned with this. This process is not intended to separate lovers, cause ill or mixed feelings in any involved persons. All your special considerations can be worked out if you cooperate. Chances are, if you are contacted by the Health Department, you were exposed to a positive case and need to be treated. Everything being confidential, none of the Health Department personnel can tell you who named you as their contact. I myself would like to see this super-charged issue, or if you will, explosive issue, defused. We don't punish people for getting a common cold, mumps, measles, chicken pox, or even hepatitis (which can also be sexually transmitted). We only think it's funny if someone we know gets VD. Well, I don't think it is so funny. For your sake, or your lover's, the disease should be treated.

One thing to remember is that not all positive results mean that one does have syphilis. Let me explain. I was one of the positives on the first list of the bloods drawn, but I wasn't the only positive on the list. With a past history from 1974, I always will be run with a

false-positive reading, simply because I had the disease once. I want to remind you that if you ever have had syphilis, PLEASE let us know when you had it, and your telling us will save you from being treated for a false-positive. I look forward to the day vaccines are fully developed and used, and society quits punishing people for communicable diseases. In the meantime, if you come up with a false-positive, only further lab testing will indicate a new infection.

PERSONEL EXPERIENCE

Larry Palmer

I am a gay nurse. I was a gay patient.

"I" pronouns are hard for me to use, and laying cards on the table, even harder. A sexual gamble with a 20%--that's right, a 20% increase in syphilis rates in Texas from last year to this year--makes a more likely bet. A skin rash, stage two in syphilis symptoms, may be mistaken for some other kind of skin rash. In 1974 I was treated by my private doctor for a soap allergy. Later on, on my own, I correctly diagnosed myself with a blood test; I had syphilis. The reason I am concerned, as president of the Gay Nurses Alliance is that I have had a personal experience with this disease, but more than the disease I am concerned with. People's attitude toward venereal disease is very important. I was in a hospital twice last year: eight days for hepatitis, and four months later for surgery for another medical problem--so you might say I learned much as a patient that I never knew as a nurse. Experience has helped me to understand health care from both sides.

SERIOUS SETBACK FOR HOMOSEXUALS IN NORWAY

(IGNA) The Norway Committee for Criminal Law, evaluating existing penalty codes and ruling out bills in consideration, has made a negative decision on a bill to give homosexuals judicial protection from discrimination.

For years Norwegian gays have been struggling to obtain legal defense from discrimination. Both gay organizations and individuals made great efforts to reach this goal.

On the last Gay Liberation Day in Norway there were demonstrations by gays in the capital demanding gay rights and they were extensively carried by the press.

Most people thought a gay rights bill would be enacted, especially since a bill that outlawed discrimination against persons because of religious, racial or ethnic reasons was passed by the committee.

Proponents of the anti-gay discrimination bill contend it was not passed simply because two elderly, permanent members of the committee, both well-known lawyers, stated it would violate freedom of speech. Two specialists, one a sexologist and one a lawyer who testified before the committee, strongly disagreed. The legislation will now be taken to the Ministry of Justice.

PHONE COUNSELORS NEEDED

This message is for people who would like to do telephone counselling at Gay Community Services. I want to encourage you to volunteer as a phone counselor and to discover all over again how good it feels to help someone else. We all have a need to be of service to our fellow human beings. Gay people and some straights, most of whom you will never meet face-to-face, call GCS daily at 477-6699, seeking advice, help, or encouragement.

Let yourself experience the joy of being helpful to a stranger. Help strengthen the gay community in the Austin area. Feel the excitement of entering the world of someone just coming out, or of encountering some new, colorful sister or gay brother.

Troy Stokes does his part by recording the taped GCS message which answers the hot line number when a counselor is not on duty. The University Y does its part by providing rent-free office space for the gay counseling center. Frank, Larry, Michael, and David do their part by staffing the phones Tuesday through Friday evenings.

Would you like to do your part? We have telephone shifts open on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday nights from 6 to 10 pm. We make referrals to bars, bookstores, gay groups, baths, churches; and to doctors, counselors, and lawyers. We listen to people who need someone to whom they can talk anonymously over the phone. We share our life experiences and observations with people who feel lonely or who feel frightened of gayness--their own or ours.

In short, we often help people put the pieces together again and find solutions in a fragmented, estranged world.

OUT OF TOWN, OUT OF STATE

If you've ever visited a new city alone, you can appreciate the graciousness and convenience of having a free gayline that you can call to ask where the bars and baths are. Austin offers that service to visiting lesbians and gays, thanks to Troy, Frank, Larry, David, Michael, Wayde, and the other volunteers from the gay community who work to provide this referral service. Recently, I received a call at GCS from a young man in a downtown hotel who was visiting Austin for a week. He wanted to know where he could meet other guys like himself. He was here from Guatemala. A couple of months ago I took a call from a lesbian and her lover visiting here from Venice, California. They asked if we have any womens' bars in Austin, and they were delighted when I told them yes, we do, and referred them to the Hollywood.

People can find our phone number easily because "Gay" is our first name. Lots and lots of Austin area teenagers, most of them gay, call GCS just to have another gay person to talk to. They don't even have to know any other gay people to find help from Gay Community Services. All they have to do is look in the "G" section of their phone book. Many of you Connections readers came out through Gay Community Services. And for those of us who did not have a gay hotline to call when we were coming out, think how much easier for us it would have been if there had been one! What a shame and a waste it would be if Austin decided to allow the GCS hotline to go down the toilet out of sheer neglect.

Yes, Gay Community Services has been, and continues to be, a great name. We've been offering our phone counselling service for 4½ years. And yet, we are actually hurting for volunteer phone counselors right now. You can help us to continue to provide gay hotline services for the Austin area. Your help is urgently needed. Now. You can be a part of the helping hand we

give others by volunteering to be a GCS phone counselor. Lonely, closeted people just learning to deal with their gayness need you. Gay teenagers need your attention and encouragement. Out-of-town visitors need directions and information about the local scene. People who want to learn about gayness or who want to find out other ways to meet people, need you.

Help make our volunteer phone counselling center more of a solid success, instead of being a marginally effective outfit, open little more than half the nights of the week.

THE BATTLE GOES ON

You see, Gay Community Services is one of those things that everybody is glad to know we have in our city, but that hardly anyone is going to lift a finger to help with. We're glad GCS is there; knowing it's there makes us feel warmer and more secure. GCS is like the Salvation Army. We feel good, knowing the Salvation Army is there, caring for needy people, but we ourselves aren't about to get involved and actually give our time and energy to assist with the work of the Salvation Army. Well, folks, we Austin lesbians and gays have our own self-help community service agency, and it's called Gay Community Services. And unless some more of us do involve ourselves with our community agency, that warm, contented feeling of knowing it's there, may disappear, because Gay Community Services might well go down the tube.

SPEAKING OF HOMOPHOBIA

We GCS activists fought the straight men of the University Y Executive Board to get to keep our large green GCS sign in place above the Sommers Rexall Drug sign at 2330 Guadalupe. We won that battle; the women and a few others outvoted the men of the Joint Executive Committee in late September, 1979. The GCS sign stays where it is, instead of being removed, as the men of the Executive Committee had ordered. Now we GCS people face the dilemma of having only a little over half of our phone shifts filled. Our leaders are frazzled and discouraged. Won't you help us?

Think about giving one evening of your time each week to be a GCS telephone counselor. We especially need lesbian and third-world gay phone counselors. All we have are gay white males! Help us fill those empty phone shifts and those vacancies that always occur around Christmas and New Years. Call the GCS office coordinator, Wayde Frey, at 474-1660. Wayde will discuss being a phone counselor with you, introduce you to the peer counselor's job, show you the office layout, go through the referral files with you, and help you get started as a GCS volunteer.

The added irony here is that I am imploring people to do something that is so enjoyable, once you've done it! The GCS phone counselor experience can be a thrilling, rewarding way to spend an evening. People need you, and you can help give them the reassurance or information they need. Sometimes the phone doesn't ring for a long while, and sometimes there are lots of prank calls. But more and more lately, it's serious gay callers who call us up. They won't have anybody to help them on Saturday, Sunday, or Monday nights unless you lesbian and gay Connections readers volunteer to be there when they call.

Anybody out there still reading this? Anybody out there going to respond to this article by volunteering? I'm waiting to hear from you.

TEX'S COLORADO STREET BAR

As I walked toward the newly painted two-tone gray building at 404 Colorado, I could hear the sounds of hammers, saws, jockhammers and all kinds of power tools. They have been working day and night for months, transforming an old warehouse into Tex's Colorado Street Bar.

Inside, it looked like I had stepped into an apartment complex under construction. Lumber, pipes, power tools, machines and workers were everywhere. The old warehouse has been gutted, leaving one cavernous two story space. A balcony around the entire perimeter is nearing completion. The raised platform beneath it, which will enclose the dance floor filling most of the room has been started, as have several bars. The finished double staircase taking up the south wall waits for a permanent stage to be built in front of it. The main entrance stands at the other end of the building, opening into a large courtyard off the alley. A large patio is being built here. The stairway to the basement is blocked off. It will be renovated and opened later as "a surprise".

The ceiling is a maze of electrical connections. But it will soon be hidden by a grid holding hundreds of lights. The club will boast a 64-channel, computerized light system which offers more than 3000 different light combinations. It can respond to sound vibrations and is capable of being reprogrammed to change the light show at will.

Disk jockeys are Kerry Jagers of Dallas and Austin's own David Drake. They will be playing the latest disco and dance-rock from New York, California and everywhere. "If we think a song is ready for Austin, we'll play it as much as they want."

Manager Mark Williamson promises many weekly and nightly surprises and specials for Tex's patrons, such as bar drinks as low as 35 cents. Even though there will be no plans for regular drag shows, there will be a SPECIAL EVENT NIGHT once a month which is set aside for shows with "dazzle and brilliance." Mark says the philosophy behind Tex's Colorado Street Bar is simple: "We don't intend to be the only gay disco in Austin. Just the best."

--Ron Moss



OPEN

If you were there, you'll know what I mean when I tell you that all the studs in Austin and the surrounding country were there under the roof of Tex's Colorado Street Bar on opening night.

I was still a block away when I started feeling it. There was an energy in the air you could cut with a knife. The very sidewalk was pulsating with it. Streams of hot men were converging on the newly gleaming gray building at 404 Colorado. The crowd sept vibrations, sweeping me into the alley, through a courtyard with trees decked with winking lights, past a sign saying, "Excuse the mess, it takes a little longer to be best", and I was THERE.

Energy was at a fever pitch. Giant speakers pulsed every subtlety of bass through the room. A superb treble blended with excited shouts. Imaginative dances were already being performed on the floor. Strobos flashed to the beat. Racing spotlights and colored flashes mutated into a cooling rainlike haze, which suddenly changed to rhythmically pulsing reds, whites and blues; seemingly endless variations, some spectacular, some subtle. All exciting.

Tex's combines that distinctive Austin feel with the best of Los Angeles-Sunset Boulevard ambiance. Drinks were on the house and everybody was getting down on the dance floor, stripping themselves of restricting tight shirts and other clothes. Muscled bodies gleamed under the lights. Imaginative dancers rendered movements which revealed much skill. A cool heat attenuated each throbbing beat.

This bar is definitely for those into heavy action, those who know the beat of LA streets, Sunset Boulevard stretched into the depth of imagination. It's for those who have sauntered down more than one dark boulevard with full expectation that someone will answer their expectations. Tex's may also be for lovers--but beware. The mood may well capture you, and who knows where or with whom you'll be when it does?

Houston--move over. Your bars are only imitations. Dallas--forget it. One hot bar and home of heavy action has moved to Austin--the heart of LA-TEXAS.

THANKS AUSTIN!



TEX'S COLORADO STREET BAR
WOULD LIKE TO THANK AUSTIN
FOR COMING TO OUR OPENING.

Please bear with us while we're finishing up!

SEASON'S GREETINGS
from the Management and Staff

404 COLORADO STREET

The
St. Charles
 GIFTS • ANTIQUES • ART • DESIGN
 NOON-10 PM



316 EAST SIXTH STREET 478-5598

Why
not!
 (pourquoi pas?)



The movie ad in the newspaper for Why Not? appeals to a certain element, as a friend of mine once put it. The picture of the two men kissing certainly attracted my attention, no doubt about that.

This film is not another version of Women in Love, however. There's not much brooding in this film. The characters are kooky, quirky individualists and lovable eccentrics who have happy-go-lucky attitudes toward life, exemplified in the words of the picture's title.

Although there are beautiful and tender love scenes between the two men in the picture, this film is not particularly a homosexual love story. Why not? Because the people in this menage-a-four are not homosexuals. They're not bisexuals. They're not heterosexuals. They're just--people. Got that? I didn't think so.

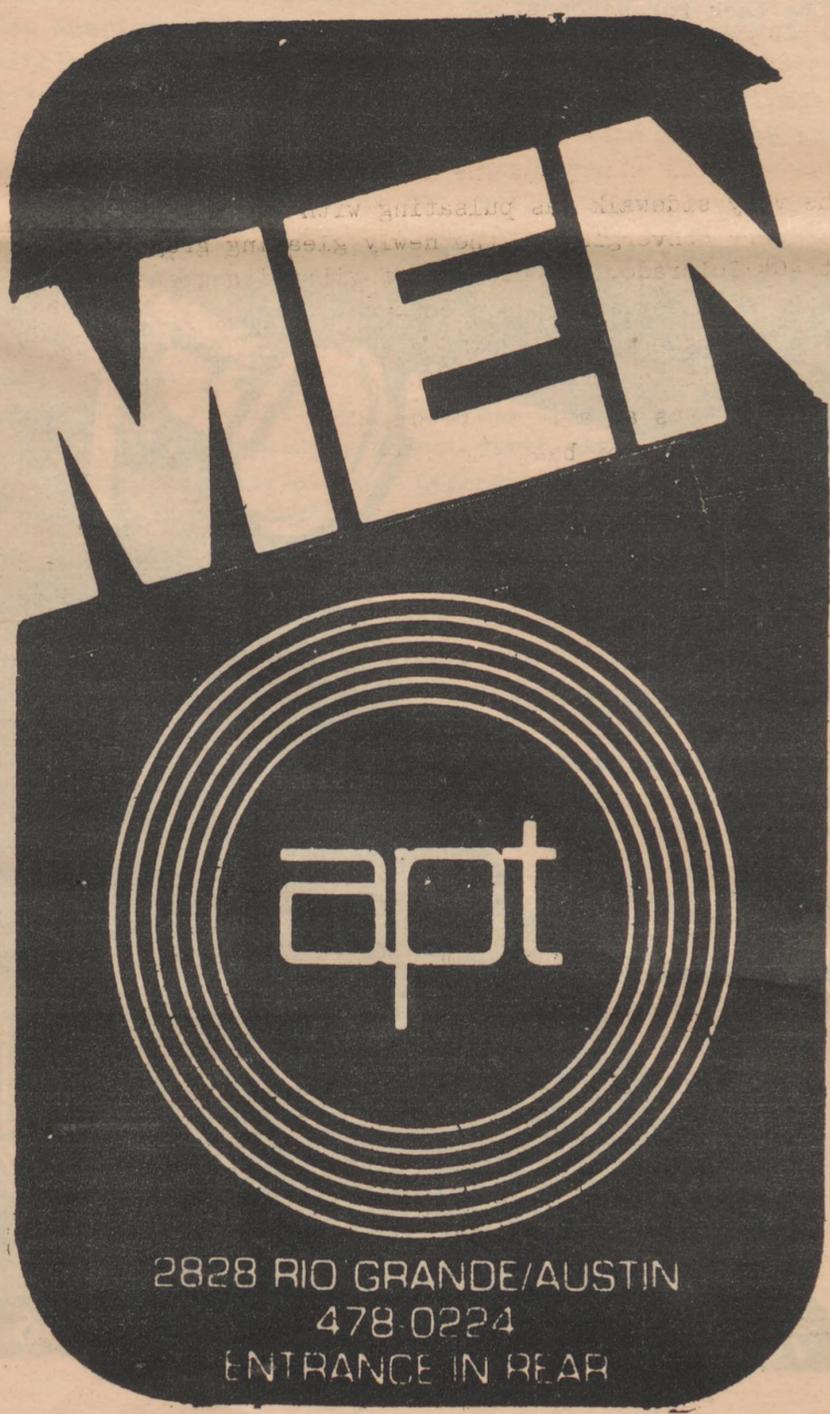
Let me try to explain. Louis and Fernand live with Alex and Sylvie. Louis and Fernand are men. Alex and Sylvie are women. Louis and Fernand are lovers. So are Fernand and Alex and Louis and Alex. So are Fernand and Sylvie. Now do you get it?

A rich comedy and a study of relationships are two of the ways I would describe this film. The main characters have a rare gift for living life, every moment. They are by turns loony, exasperating, intense, and wonderful. I envy them their talent for living life to the fullest and I envy them for their cockeyed optimism. None of your angst or existentialist despair here, thank you. Fernand, Louis, and company are in love with life and in love with each other. They work, they suffer, they survive, and they pay their rent. They attract friends like a flame attracts moths. Society may call Fernand and Louis fags, but all four characters persist in their unconventional living arrangements, and thrive on one another's company. Alex and Sylvie have tender scenes in the film which only hint at a lesbian relationship as a possibility for them.

Fernand, Louis, Alex, Sylvie, and the other characters in this film are neither "immoral" nor "amoral" as Rex Reed, Judith Christ, and other gay/straight/whatever film critics have suggested in the straight media. Rather, these people are in love with life, are in love with each other, and are fulfilling themselves in a profound way that most of the rest of us only think about or dream of. The fact that the screenwriter and the director of this film do not pigeonhole or categorize these characters according to sexual orientation, is what makes this film a breakthrough and what makes it such a special cinematic event. This is cinematic entertainment at its very best at the level of being a genuine work of art, because it shows us the truth about what we are and about what we can be.

Why Not? is a French film with English subtitles, released by New Line Cinema in 1979. Though it is no longer playing in Austin, it is a film well worth looking forward to when it returns for another engagement in Austin. See it.

---Wayde Frey



2828 RIO GRANDE/AUSTIN
 478-0224
 ENTRANCE IN REAR

LAMBDA SLIDES SHOW MARCH

On Tuesday, November 27 (the anniversary of the assassination of Harvey Milk), Austin Lambda gave a slide presentation of the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. The presentation was held at the Gaslight Theatre on W. 4th Street. About 100 people attended.

Response to the presentation was extremely positive and Austin Lambda is planning a second showing in January. Tentative plans are to hold the show again at the Gaslight, this time on Tuesday, January 15 at 8 pm. Watch for posters announcing final plans.

The 45-minute presentation, involving 210 slides and a sound-track, was a month in the making. The creators of the show, Michael Fernandes and Chereese Campo, gathered slides and assorted tapes from among the 200 Austinites who went to the March on Washington in October. Over 400 slides were loaned to Lambda for the presentation, from which the final 210 were chosen and assembled into the story as it is presented. More than three hours of unedited tape was sorted through and edited into a 45-minute sound track which attempts to portray in sound what the slides present visually.

The sound is difficult to understand in spots--and some of the slides are less than perfect in quality. But audience response was a prolonged and thunderous applause--and rightfully so. The slides, taken primarily by amateur photographers, are beautiful visions of the event. The sound, recorded from the midst of the 200,000-person crowd by a hand-held microphone, is the element which lifts the presentation from the level of a good home-show to an artful immersion into the experience of the March. As one viewer put it, "The sections that were difficult for me to understand added to the sense of immediacy for me--like being in the middle of such a crowd--it made the event very present." Everyone seemed to agree that the presentation was more than a viewing. It succeeded in bringing home the experience.

The original slides have been duplicated and returned to the people who donated them. Austin Lambda now can offer the presentation permanently--and hopefully will do so in the future to college classrooms, civic groups, and others who would learn from the experience.

No one should miss the January showing. Many of us will be back for seconds.



NEW YEAR'S EVE & TIFFANY JONES!!
FREE CHAMPAGNE & PARTY FAVORS!!

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D. J.

FRED LEWIS AND DOUG SUMMERS

AUSTIN
COUNTRY

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LESBIANS AND THE LEFT

by Judy MacLean

In the past decade, the relationship between lesbians and the left has been uneasy. In 1972 when the New American Movement, a socialist organization of which I am a member, made gay liberation part of its political principles, many leftists were dismissing gay liberation as merely a personal struggle. Some even called it reactionary. At that time, many lesbians who wanted to change the entire society were convinced the left was hopelessly dominated by men who would never even support feminism, let alone lesbianism.

The tension also exists for anyone who tries to advocate both. When I am talking to someone outside the movement, trying to link socialism and lesbianism means combining the unpopular with the taboo. Small wonder people feel uneasy in our political statements about joining the two. In 1972, organizers of a Washington anti-war march worried that a group of lesbians would turn people off. By 1977, some participants in a Chicago march against Anita Bryant worried about the presence of a group called "Gay Socialists."

Although I expect this tension to continue, there are some encouraging signs. There are fewer parts of the left that don't support gay liberation today. The left has come around, I believe, because lesbians and gay men refused to listen to criticisms of the early 70's and have built a strong and progressive movement. Groups like the New American Movement and individuals who have stayed within the left have also argued for support of gay liberation. And Ms. Bryant herself has probably helped by making the connection between right-wing politics and opposition to gay liberation so explicit.

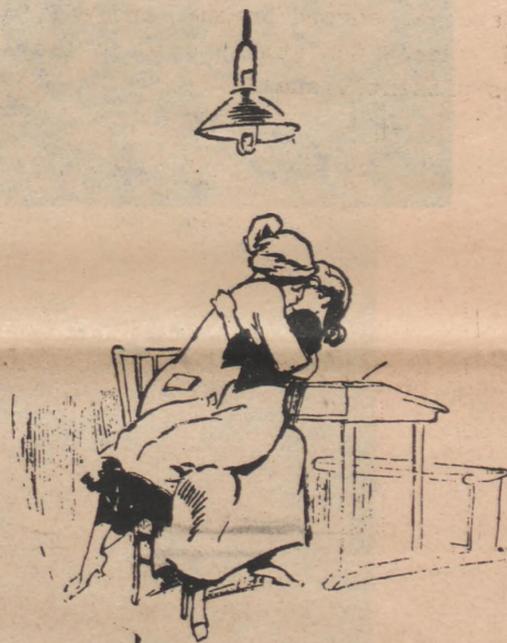
I believe the struggles for lesbian rights and many of the insights of lesbian feminism should be an important, integral part of the larger struggle to transform society, of a socialist revolution. I want to outline here why I think it is important, at this point in history, and in this country. I am making a crucial assumption: that a revolutionary struggle that does not include a commitment to feminism is not worth waging.

While all socialist revolutions have had sweeping changes in the status of women as goals, and most have put some of them into practice, none has ever included rights for lesbians. There are reasons why lesbianism (and gay rights generally) has come to the fore in the U.S. at this time, and I believe those very reasons make the struggle for lesbian rights a crucial part of a socialist strategy.

In the past century, ordinary people have been encouraged by the media and by the circumstances of their daily lives to find fulfillment through their private, personal lives. (Eli Zaretsky, in Capitalism, the Family, and Personal Life gives an excellent description of how this has happened.) As capitalism in the U.S. has developed and life has become more complex, people experience less and less ability to be creative or effective in the world as a whole. At work, even executives in the corporate world feel as much like cogs in a machine as blue-collar workers (or cogs without a machine, in the case of the unemployed.) More and more, we are told by T.V., popular songs, and psychotherapists, we can find fulfillment, happiness and ourselves in our personal lives. In the 1950's, the focus of most of this alleged happiness was the family; by the mid-sixties it had switched to sexual relationships. People are bombarded with the message that

a satisfying sex life is the key to the good life, and that it is achievable, for one and all, if only certain products are used, or certain therapies applied.

The feminist movement provided the great insight that the personal is political. As Shulamith Fierstone showed in The Dialectic of Sex, love relationships between men and women repeat the same patterns--patterns perpetuated by the ways men and women are raised and enforced by unequal access to power over our lives. Our misery as women is shared, and it is not our fault as individuals. It is political in that it stems from the power relationships that are the basis of how our society is organized. And so the way to change our situation is through political changes in the society as a whole, not through changes in ourselves. Of course, we will be transformed, too, in the course of the struggle, by our very act of trying to change the world.



'From Sidonie G. Colette's *Claudine à l'école* (1905?).

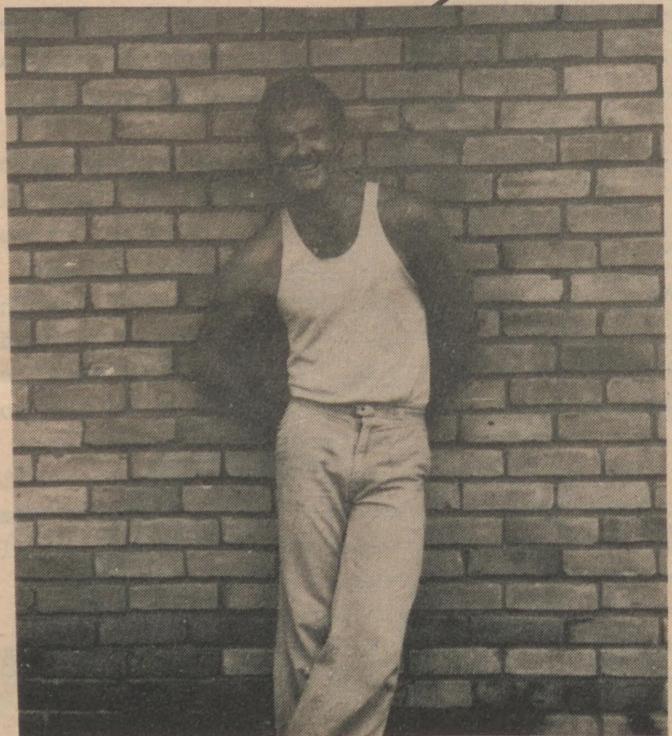
So, we find ourselves impaled upon a contradiction. We are supposed to find freedom and happiness in our sexual lives; in fact, our every move has been choreographed long ago. It is inevitable that with all the propaganda about sexual freedom that some women would actually try to seek some. And for some women, this means violating the heterosexual norms. Surely one of the most basic kinds of sexual freedom is the freedom to love another woman, to build this realm of personal happiness with someone who hasn't been programmed to oppress you.

A hundred years ago there were probably just as many women with inclinations toward lesbianism as there are today. But in a society that downplays sexuality, that doesn't preach fulfillment through sexual relationships, many women probably ignored those inclinations. Of course, some never did. But it is the contrast today, between a keyed-up culture, where sexuality is almost always the backdrop and where it is held as a panacea, and the reality of what many of us would do with real sexual freedom which makes the contradiction acute.

continued on page 16



photonotes





PROSE

Dear Wayde and Jim,

I am writing to you in this manner because even though I am not an active participant in any of the gay functions or societies, etc., I am nevertheless gay. I first stumbled onto your information bureau while thumbing through the pages of a phone directory. I started out this letter with one goal in mind, to mix, to mingle, to meet. Right now, I have no outside contact with the gay community, events, gatherings, whatever. However, I am particularly interested in a sort of Black writer's club based in New York City called Jemima since I am a writer by hobby and would enjoy receiving literature by others.

This letter will be difficult for me since this is the first time I have attempted anything of this nature. The twenty-four years I have lived on this earth I have lived out my life in celibacy and at other times in sheer hypocrisy, knowing even in my childhood where my sexual preferences were concentrated. I was paralyzed between the two worlds of conformity and plain freedom, ridiculed as I knew it would be. Since, for me, there had remained for years only one person whom I truly cared about who also did not care for me, I saw no reason to make my life even more troubled by announcing to the world my differences. Thus I am a recluse, starved out by loneliness and yet fed up with it.

Desperation beckons one to strange acts, wakening me at even stranger hours of the night to pace the floor, to drum my fingers upon the table. In that time, I am allowed other freedoms such as the one that had forced me to at last confront my situation or at least the reasons for my being alone. I knew all those reasons but none had merited investigating until I discovered a truth about myself as I worked on a book entitled, IF YOU TOOK A CHANCE WITH ME, to be hopefully completed by February. I believe that all truths are like that, faceless and retrievable only in times of our greatest needs for them. In relating this discovery to you, I must also tell you about Julie.

Now I sometimes wonder why it is the nature of humans to cling so dearly to past pains, whether real or imagined, the years most certainly would have eroded them away. I think we hold on to them so that we can call ourselves the martyrs for ever having suffered them. And then there are the slaves to it that insist on carrying the weights over and over again so that future weights cannot be placed upon them. But quite selfishly, I've always felt that mine was a different case. True, it hurt as all injuries do, but because there were the ever increasing years separating me from the one I loved I held onto this particular pain, the true substance of my life and the most certain way I have of keeping my memories of Julie intact.

I am now 24 years old but even while in school I never debated whether what I was feeling for her was real or merely something I had conjured up out of my wildest fantasies though I was aware that there were many other bigheaded people walking around that would have rather crudely explained them away for me. I simply loved her, however simple love may be. I simply cared about her, cried when she cried, laughed when she laughed no matter how bad things were going for me. It seemed as though everything she felt had been instantly transmitted to me, some sort of empathy, telepathy. Who can understand the mechanism of the mind that inspires one to love? I

can say that she was attractive, impulsive, different, but none of these provides any clues, because there are negative sides to her nature as there are in all of us, the complete individual being the result of such a balance. At this point, I shall abandon my definition of love, knowing that for all of those that have truly loved no further explanation is necessary. And yet there are some people out there who will never comprehend, no matter how many foreign languages, hand symbols, or cue cards you may use in the vain attempt to convey your message.

...she talked about it with me for awhile, chanting philosophies she probably thought were very wise, but the only statement that stands out in my memory is her statement that no woman could do anything for her."

My mother is one of those people. Some eight years ago she discovered an anonymous letter I had written to Julie, she talked about it with me for awhile, chanting philosophies she probably thought were very wise, but the only statement that stands out in my memory is her statement that no woman could do anything for her. I remained silent, knowing that the slightest sound would have touched off an already volatile subject. It is taboo for her to discuss anything that acknowledges her or myself as sexual beings, much less homosexual. I suppose her doctrine was of a sexual nature but at the age of 15 I knew precious little about sex per se and was much too concerned about the spiritual aspects of my feelings to care less. I was mute and defenseless against her words but my mind cried out, "I don't love her because I thought that Julie could do something for me! Rather I wanted to be and do everything I could for her." Apparently, my mother thought little of my commitment to this attitude because she expected me to stop "looking" at her and all feelings would simply vanish. Later she had transformed into a different being, no longer my mother but an alien creature full of stares and doubt. I cannot speak of the thousands of sensations that raced through my body as I endured the underlying resentment. It was a very difficult period for me. Time passed and when my difference did not resurface, I guess she felt that it was safe for her to be my mother again and we got along fine.

My only consolation in those times rested in an untarnished faith that someday Julie and I would be together. I believed this if ever I was to believe in nothing else! My letters to her continued, anonymously, of course. . . I have no remembrance of their contents, though I am quite sure of the topic. So now you may ask, if this woman meant so much to me wasn't she alone worthy of my coming forth to reveal myself.

To answer this, I must review the relationship we shared. We were buddies, partners in mischief in school. She was always the more daring and I followed her around to keep her out of more trouble. With words I could detail her every facial, bodily feature but when I say her name, one which I have become addicted to, I can only think of the energy she emits whenever she enters a room. Everyone is affected by it. There is an odd chemistry to this woman. At times she could be wonderfully tender, a sort of childlike innocence envelops her and at other times she is earthy enough to be one of the boys.

continued on page 13



Immediately I recognized what was happening to me. I began to feel very large, my mind seemed to encompass the universe, my heart pulsated frantically whenever she was somewhere near, and when she would leave the room I could return to normalcy. Again my heart could regulate its pumping, my hands could stop trembling and I wouldn't have to stutter into another explanation for the reasons for my sudden paralysis. I think she sensed my uneasiness, in fact enjoyed it because she would ask me what was wrong and then touch my face, my neck or my hand with her fingertips. Once she declared rather flippantly that she was in love with me but by then I had become so starved for words that it no longer mattered how they were delivered. A mixture of embarrassment and excitement brushed on my face as I turned to see if other people had heard. But Julie didn't seem to care if other people heard or not. I saw and loved in her as few people have, a fine rebellion against anything that confines her nature to predictability. The second time she uttered the words on another occasion it was more of a confession. She said the words, I love you, softly and far away as if she read them from a distance. And it is to this day that I have never come closer to believing her than I did then. But I said something real stupid just to race over that moment like: "Don't you have enough love at home?"

She collapsed inwardly, mumbling something she didn't know I heard, "That's what you think." This marked the beginning of a turning point for the both of us. There had been a time in our lives when you could not see one without seeing the other, but now we had become so much like strangers that even a glance risked displaying too much familiarity. Several months later, Julie was pregnant.

Seeming decades passed before I was able to sift out those obscure ashes of emotions; those that dealt with Julie and those that dealt with this new world I was to face without her. Like most fools who think they can drown a fire with gasoline, I dealt with it by randomly taking a heterosexual relationship which seemed to pacify a society that would rather have me go through the motions of a meaningless male-female relationship than demonstrate the true love for the one I had chosen or any other such absurd sentiments for that matter. I stood for this kind of shit for as long as I could until I finally shouted to this system of things to just get off my ass! And it did.

I still cared for Julie and now that she was the only unobtainable thing in my life I wanted her even more. But that was not possible. Thus I was left in a handicapped state of mind. I am lesbian, alone, and yet nothing less than Julie will do. Chances are I could have found a reasonable degree of happiness with another woman but I would have no part of it. For some reason I felt that by daring to love anyone else it would lessen the dimensions of, the depths of what I had felt for Julie. Time progressed and I spotted her in various places, downtown, concerts, standing in front of her mother's house. Undetected, I hurried away. On my 21st birthday I suddenly began to realize that time was passing me by all the while I waited on it. And so, I was going to step out of this closet and slam the door behind me!

But there is the problem of being able to scrutinize it all under the lens to see the mere microscopic good that could come from this. If she accepted me then we would go somewhere to live happily ever after but if she did not, then what was there for me to hope for, to fantasize about. Being told to go away is much harsher than living your life out never knowing what could have been.

I began to realize a couple of things that were not revealed to me at first. One: the very secret of my being able to remain in love with her for so long probably lies in the fact that our relationship had ended before it ever had a chance to get started; that had she been mine to love in the beginning it would have been over between us by now and I could have gotten on with my life to find someone else. Secondly, in wanting to give myself reasons to abandon this project, I told myself that the only reason I still pursued her is because I refused to admit that I had only wasted time being shackled and bound hand and foot to this woman. Rather than ending it all here and starting over again elsewhere, I chose to waste it all.

I found her in a hospital bed from some minor injuries received after being involved in an automobile accident. We strolled over the bygone years and I took part in a campaign to get her away from the cigarette habit. In my absence and in secrecy, flowers were sent to her room and other gifts. While congratulating myself for being so bold, I was unaware that she was busy piecing together an old mystery, the identity of that person who had written those letters, who had remembered her birthday each year. Then with only half-suspicions, she asked if I was the culprit who was doing these things for her. And without much skill in lying, I said no.

Perhaps she believed me, perhaps not. At any event, I was not spared the silent ridicule in her eyes. The room was filled with her cold uneasiness as she summoned her male friend to her side to protect her from this pervert; the same guy she always complained treated her so cruelly. I was crushed. She never felt that way with me before and I was the same person I was years ago when we first met. I think I could have handled simple rejection, but the way she looked at me as if I were something grotesque, not human, is more than I can bear. I said at the last reserves of what was left of me, "But I only loved you, Julie," knowing that it was nowhere near all the things I could have said. I knew that her present situation was not working out for her and if she only TOOK A CHANCE WITH ME we could fly. I walked out, leaving my sanity with her.

Now some people may think that it is all very noble and yet just plain crazy to love someone this long beyond all that which has happened. Sometimes I must confess that this seems to be true. My mind comes and goes nowadays. But who can say which is reality and which is schizophrenia or for that matter which is normal and which is abnormal. They are but two sides of the same coin. Constantly I have wrestled with the verdict and I have decided to go on loving her anyway.



continued on page 19

STARLINE

FOR ALL SIGNS: That lightness of the body aspect which carried you the past period now deepens in a somewhat introspective tranquility. Climactic factors do not cause this introspection, for those south of the equator who presently are enjoying the near height of summer are also affected. This introspection does not derive from a melancholic humour, but from a far more affective region: the region of the mind, the spirit, as it dwells within our inner proto-cosmos. The body as real-being comes as a result of a juncture between Uranus and Virgo. Likewise Venus has moved into sixth house affairs, splaying itself on the same cosmic "line" as Crab Nebulae. The body, therefore, feels heavier, more substantial. Our bond with the plasmic membrane called Earth deepens.

AQUARIUS: Of prime importance for you this month is care and pamper of your most prized, beloved possession: your body. The stresses engendered by cleavage of Luna and Mars makes body-active joys a necessity. Pay attention to supposedly mundane chores. But remember what your body needs. A martial arts regimen, or simply jogging, will do the trick. Unusually rigorous sexual activities may require a balancing out of bodily flows. Get into it.

PISCES: Remember January 12. This day is extremely important, because Uranus moves into the sway of Sagittarius. Adopt a reconciliatory attitude toward "the evil ones" and use the energy created by anger to sweep negativities away. A little more attention to rest will bring joy when sensual possibilities appear before you on the 14th. Exercise daily this period. Let it all flow.

ARIES: The 8th looms ahead. It promises what few humans can feel: an ecstasy of the spirit, transcendent bliss. The heaviness of your body as it feels itself a part of all around it will bring outpourings of joy issuing from the solar plexus. By the 18th, the cycle changes. Luna counteracting Venus' actions in sixth house affairs will require a different method of getting it out and in. Lover or friend relationships will improve.

TAURUS: Time evolves into a more natural state, less linear than an affective discourse between spirit and outer proto-cosmos. Saturn's movement into fourth house affairs bespeaks a turbulence to be seen in your relations with persons met. Mars' movement into the third quatrain makes an evocative anger necessary. Fighting as artform will, interestingly enough, bind you to Earth. Let it go.

GEMINI: The seventh house of marriage may not be open to you as a result of the Uranus-Virgo juncture. Nevertheless, they do promise fruitful interaction with others who feel the spirit flowing. Daily, disciplined exercise will be beneficial. Flexibility and strength are necessary for you the interactive Gemini. The center of being, your being, gives meaning to your strength. Don't forget your center. Give it and it will give you.

by Ray Kernistovsky

CAPRICORN: A caprice guides your actions this period because of your innate willingness to act with spontaneous invention. On the 6th, an unlikely acquaintance will speak to you words which will appear as a riddle. It will not occur by accident. It is the Uranus-Virgo cleavage which opens up to you new intimations of meaning. Rooted as you are in Earth, do remember the difference between reality and invention. Much physical exercise will benefit you. Make peace with your bed, as it is influenced by Mars.

CANCER: On the 13th a turn-around will occur which will be extremely advantageous to your inner spirit. Mars and Libra together inspire in your being a quickening of liveliness as a result of the awakening of your real self. Financial affairs may not improve much, and yet the spirit engendered by exercise will suffice for the present. The sensual, the purely physiological, will render introspection into a more pleasurable activity. Move out beyond.

SAGITTARIUS: Saturn links up with Crab in fifth house affairs. Therefore plan with expertise any forthcoming business ventures. On the 4th, the 9th, and the 16th, are times best for moving on. Relocation or re-evaluation of old forms of living may be most fruitful if pursued this period and not the next.

LEO: Virgo moving into second house affairs means more attention to daily patterns. On the 11th and the 14th a person previously unknown will enter. Open doors wide. Financial affairs will take an upswing. Friend and lover relations will improve. Spirit and flesh are cojoined.

VIRGO: Physical being has an intimate tie with the cosmic. Karmic utterances proceed from the pulsations of the body. You may be inclined to forget that as your busy schedule only increases. New pursuits in art, in general culture, are necessary--but so is the body. On the 16th expect communication from a mysterious one.

LIBRA: Luna inspires cleavage between independence as ideal and intimacy as need. Romantic possibilities, as a result, may not be so warmly welcomed. In any case, the key this period is self-satisfaction and return to your body. On the 8th and the 13th the joy of bodily return will triumph over any unneeded introspectory doubts. Your spinal column as it is affected by Luna, is the key to your past and future.

SCORPIO: The coming zenith of Lunar influences means that the purely sensational, the feelings comprising inner being, must at the same time be directed by the body into a more active plunge into depth. On the 7th an encounter with another will result in an ecstatic reappraisal of what being actually is. Let it explode, but direct it into being. It all will be good.

DECEMBER

by Dianne Draper

December--

The last month of the year
the nativity we assign to Christ,
A Holy Season and a Gift-Giving Spree
all rolled up in one
Celebration.

It comes, replete with Santa and Three Wise Men,
Their gift-bearing camels vying
with a reindeer sleigh full of trains and dolls,
Baseballs and games, jewelry, and
something--for someone--who--has--everything--
Gifts far more acceptable than gold for a journey,
or myrrh-and-frankencense, incense-instilling perfumes
for future sanctuary and shroud

December--

the last month of the year,
and the most frantic, at times--
Gift-bearing replaces Heart-Giving,
cedar, pine, and other small green trees replacing
that small manger
as the focus of our adoration
and joy.

THOUGHTS

by George Stojcevic

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

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

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

POETRY

LOVE AND DENIM BLUE

by George Stojcevic

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

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

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

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Yet the reason marriages (and heterosexual relationships generally) continue to be troubled is not just that one half has been trained to oppress the other. Our most intimate relationships are forced to carry so many burdens--economic and emotional security in an increasingly hostile environment, adventure, fun, a place of rest and fulfillment, personal growth--no wonder the fragile craft of life founders and sinks. Because we have no other way to fulfill these needs, we try to fulfill them in our

"When I am talking to someone outside the movement, trying to link socialism and lesbianism means combining the unpopular with the taboo."

personal lives. But we never quite make it; under capitalism our intimate lives are like a bed without enough covers; an arm, a leg, or even a whole person is always out in the cold. And this can be as true for lesbian relationships as heterosexual ones.

The difficulty in creating good personal relationships is a social one. It comes about because our need for a loving community--a community that works together to provide basic things like food, shelter, safety, health care, security in old age, and less tangibly, good vibes and support around us all--is systematically denied.

You can glimpse a shadow of what the fulfillment of this need would feel like. At demonstrations, when thousands come together with shared goals and commitment, the exhilaration we feel is a ghost of the feeling we would get if our society, with its millions of people and vast wealth, were organized around the goal of caring for each other. In crises, like power failures, people often report feelings of happiness and exhilaration in spite of the inconvenience. People see the interrelatedness of their lives and pull together. It is the belief in something like community love that has inspired revolutionaries the world over to brave all kinds of hardships, and even death.

Building a "women's community" or a "lesbian community" is an attempt to come to terms with these needs, and to provide a support system around personal love relationships. But such a community, outside the society, doesn't have the material resources to really meet its members' needs, and much bitterness results. To really create a loving community of the kind I am talking about requires political power. We can only create it by transforming the whole society; such a transformation is what a struggle for socialism must be about. When a socialist movement becomes stronger in the U.S., it will involve our coming to terms with our long-suppressed need for loving social relationships. I don't mean to dismiss attempts to build a lesbian community. They are not substitutes for struggling to change society as a whole. But such attempts at community can be very nourishing, supportive places, where many of us gain strength to keep doing what we're doing.

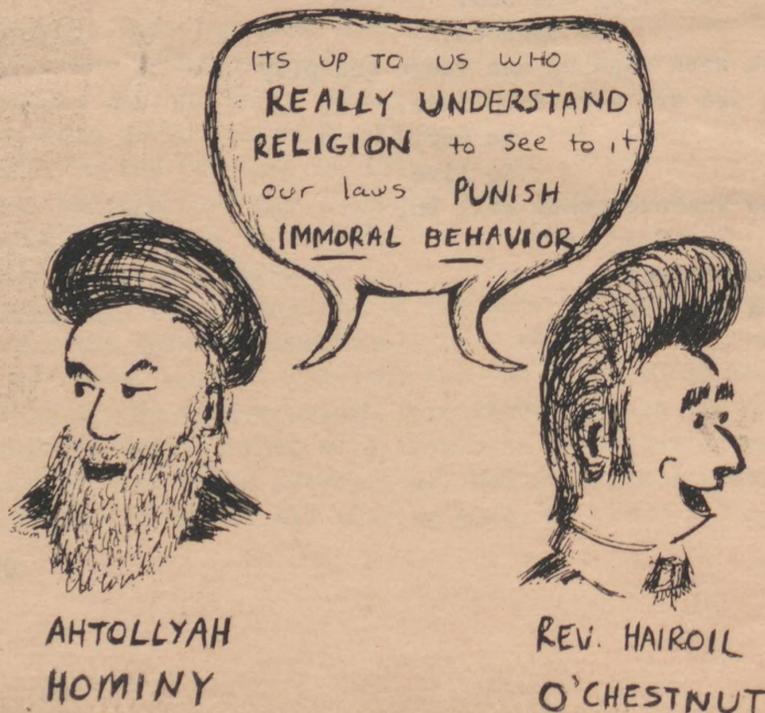
I want to conclude by talking about the importance of winning reforms for lesbian rights for lesbians, for all women, and for the revolutionary movement.

First, gay rights is a matter of human rights, of basic freedom. The fear of discovery most lesbians live with, the lack of rights to jobs, to custody of children to any kind of legitimacy, can corrode our lives. For lesbians and gay men, civil rights are urgently necessary.



Reprinted from MNS

Winning rights for lesbians can also help all women. Being a lesbian is tied up in complex ways with personal autonomy for women, with making choices instead of being chosen, with living a life, however precarious, independent of men in one fundamental, intimate way. By returning control of a very intimate aspect of our lives to women, the struggle for lesbian rights can make us stronger. Any reform that gives us more control can strengthen us, but especially one in a personal area about which we all, at one time or another, feel anxiety. A reform like lesbian rights, which gives us a measure of control over an area of personal, painful, and often unacknowledged oppression, can give us strength to meet other challenges. Those whose daily experience tells them they have no control do not set out to change the world. Much as male leftists have accused us of conservatism, I'm not sure they are happy about the prospect of women within their ranks (and outside of them) becoming sure of what they want, becoming uppity. But it is necessary, if we want a socialist revolution that really reorganizes society to meet human needs, that one half of humanity feels strong and vocal enough to define goals. It's the only way for a socialist revolution to really make the meaningful changes we all need.



AUNT ESMERALDA'S
DREAM
INTERPRETATION

BY MARC

That which the dream shows is the shadow of such wisdom as exists in man, even if during his waking state he may know nothing about it.... We do not know it because we are fooling away our time with outward and perishing things, and are asleep with regard to that which is real within ourselves.

---Paracelus

What is a dream? Some seem totally trivial, like the idle meanderings of a brain off-duty, and it is not surprising that skeptics say they are best forgotten. But others cannot be so easily dismissed.

Usually dreams seem in some way to reflect things which have preoccupied our minds during the previous day or two. Or they may be fantasies, secret desires, or unspoken passions. Or they may be somewhat of hogwash.

Even so, all dreams, no matter how way-out and bizarre they seem to be, either have something to say--a message, an omen--, or they may help you through some difficulty. Some people think they are going through a rough time because of nightmares, when in reality the dreams are trying to help you through a rough time in your daily life.

Have you ever thought of keeping a dream diary? It could be fun and it could also help you through your trials and tribulations. I will explain in our next issue how to decode your dreams and use them to solve problems. Right now, I'm going to give you a few tips on how to keep a dream diary:

1) Pick up a spiral notebook at your local grocery store and a pen or pencil (a must!)

2) Always keep it by your bed when you do go to sleep (some of us don't go to sleep even if we go to bed early). This is valuable in case you wake up and want to write a dream down because some of us have a hard time remembering dreams. You might want to use a recorder.

3) Always date your page or tape in advance.

4) Encourage your dreams by means of suggestion of prayer.

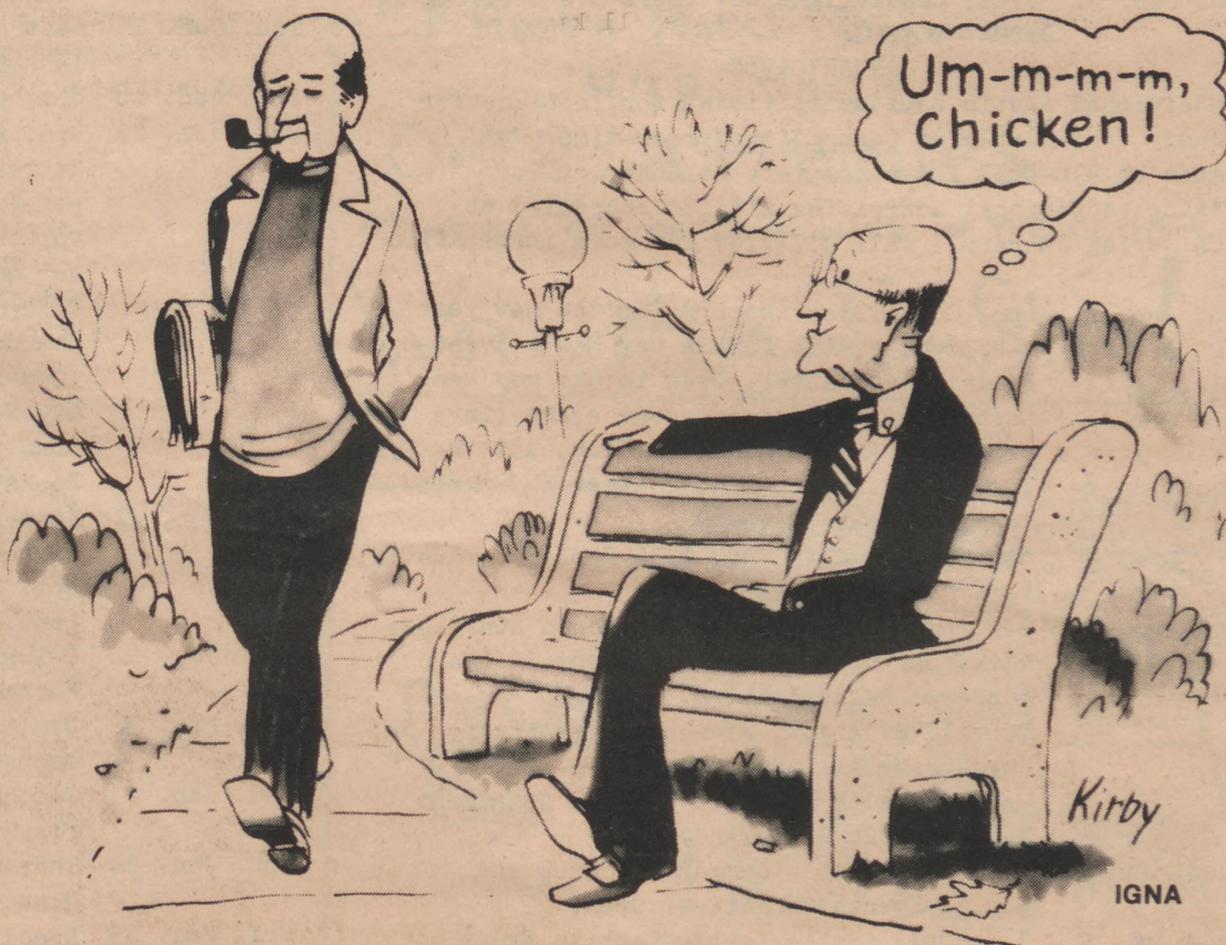
5) Beware of procrastination.

6) Never dismiss a dream if it seems too trivial to record.

7) Describe your dream as fully as possible.

In preparing your diary, use the first page as a title page with your name and date. On the second page, write a brief summary of yourself, so if you wish anyone to read it, he can understand why you dream this or that.

Starting in the February issue I will be interpreting dreams. If you wish to have me interpret a dream for you, just send it, or bring it into the Gay Community Services office. Leave your name and number or address so I can answer those which don't get printed.



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Connections Calendar Dec. 21, 1979-Feb. 2, 1980
 DECEMBER 1979

Fri. Dec. 21 Gay Community Services office closes for the Christmas holidays. Will reopen Wed., Jan. 2, 1980, at 6pm.
 Sat. Dec. 22 7:30pm, Christmas Party, Metropolitan Community Church of Austin, 614 E. 6th
 8pm, Hoe-down and vegetarian pot-luck supper sponsored by Austin Lambda at the Zilker Clubhouse. \$2 cost-donation. Bring a non-meat dish. Plates/utensils provided. 10pm, (No VD Screening tonight)
 Sun. Dec. 23 8pm, Dignity liturgy, St. Edwards Oblate Community Hall, Pete C., celebrant
 Mon. Dec. 24 11pm, Candlelight Christmas Eve Service, Metropolitan Community Church of Austin (MCCA)
 Sat. Dec. 29 10pm-12 midnight, Free VD Screening by Gay Nurses Alliance and Austin-Travis County Health Department at the Austin Country, 705 Red River
 Sun. Dec. 30 8pm, Dignity liturgy, location uncertain, Laurie R., celebrant
 Mon. Dec. 31 11pm, Candlelight New Years Eve Service, MCCA

JANUARY 1980

*Additional Austin Lambda activities for lesbians for January unavailable at Connections press-time. Call Lambda at 478-8653 for a complete calendar.

**Also, additional activities will be scheduled at MCCA during January. Call 477-7747 for more information

Wed. Jan. 2 6pm, GCS office reopens for the new year
 7-8:30pm, Austin Lambda Gay Men's Event-Planning Committee. Open to all gay men.
 Thu. Jan. 3 Austin Lambda sign language class (in progress) Austin Lambda office, 1304 W. Lynn
 Sun. Jan. 6 10am-noon, Austin Lambda Steering Committee, 1304 West Lynn
 8pm, Dignity liturgy, 1706 Rabb Rd., Austin, Pete C., celebrant
 Mon. Jan. 7 8-10 pm, Austin Lambda Gay Men's Awareness workshop. Open. (\$1 non-sponsors). (Jan. subject: Relationships)
 10pm-12 midnight, Free VD Screening by Gay Nurses Alliance and Austin-Travis County Health Dept. at the New Apartment Lounge, 2828 Rio Grande
 Tues. Jan. 8 7-8:30pm, Austin Lambda Concerts and Social Events Committee. Open.
 Wed. Jan. 9 7-8:30pm, Austin Lambda Lesbian Event-Planning Committee. Open to all lesbians.
 Thu. Jan. 10 Austin Lambda Sign Language Class

Fri. Jan. 11 7:30-9pm, Austin Lambda open house--for persons wishing to drop in--refreshments 8pm, GCS Rap Group, University Y Auditorium, 2330 Guadalupe
 Sat. Jan. 12 10pm-12 midnight, Free VD Screening by GNA and A-TCHD at the Private Cellar, 709 East 6th
 Sun. Jan. 13 7:30-9:30pm, Austin Lambda General Meeting for all sponsors and interested friends on the subject of MOVING TO A LARGER FACILITY BY APRIL 1.
 8pm, Dignity liturgy, 737 E. Oltorf, Laurie R., celebrant
 Mon. Jan. 14 8-10pm, Austin Lambda Gay Men's Awareness Workshop. Open. (\$1 non-sponsors)
 Tue. Jan. 15 8pm, SLIDE PRESENTATION OF NATIONAL MARCH ON WASHINGTON FOR LESBIAN AND GAY RIGHTS. Set tentatively at Gaslight Theater, 214 West 4th St. (See article, page 8)
 Wed. Jan. 16 8pm, GCS GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING, GCS office. Plans for formalizing membership in GCS will be discussed and we hope to elect a Membership Secretary.
 7-8:30pm, Austin Lambda Gay Men's Event-Planning Committee. Open.
 Thu. Jan. 17 Last Austin Lambda Sign Language Class in series
 Fri. Jan. 18 8pm, GCS Rap Group, University Y Aud.
 Sat. Jan. 19 4pm, Austin Lambda Gay Men's Mini-Retreat: at ranch house near Austin; pot-luck supper, viewing of Word is Out; followed by dance. Call Austin Lambda for more info.
 7:30pm, Pot Luck Supper, Metropolitan Community Church of Austin, 614 E. 6th
 10pm-12 midnight, Free VD Screening by Gay Nurses Alliance and Austin-Travis County Health Department at Mr. Peepers Bookstore, 213 East 6th
 Sun. Jan. 20 10am-12 noon, Austin Lambda Steering Committee, 1304 West Lynn
 8pm, Dignity liturgy, 7904 Peaceful Hill Lane, Austin
 Mon. Jan. 21 8-10pm, Austin Lambda Gay Men's Awareness Workshop
 Tue. Jan. 22 8pm, Austin Lesbian Gay Political Caucus meets at Austin Lambda, 1304 West Lynn
 Wed. Jan. 23 7-8:30pm, Austin Lambda Lesbian Event-Planning Committee
 Thu. Jan. 24 Therapy Group (Austin Lambda) for Gay Men. For information call 478-8653
 Fri. Jan. 25 Deadline for application for Austin Lambda male coordinator
 Sat. Jan. 26 10pm-12 midnight, Free VD Screening by

FAMOUS NOVELIST GAY

by Johannes Werres

(IGNA) Thomas Mann, the most famous German author of the twentieth century, a Nobel Prize winner, is shown to have been homosexual according to his "Day Books" (1918-1921), published in Germany in 1979.

Mann's predilection was for youths, thus providing some clarification of the autobiographical nature of Death in Venice, one of his best-known books. However, apparently the author never engaged in real homosexual activities, remaining homoerotic instead.

The "Day Books" also indicate that Mann fell in love with his son, Klaus Mann, who was also homosexual.

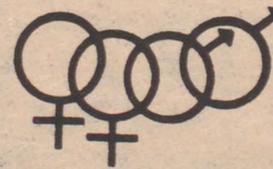
C A L E N D A R

GNA and A-TCHD at Club Austin baths, 308 West 16th

- Sun. Jan. 27 Interviews for new Austin Lambda male coordinator... 7-9pm, "GAY RIGHTS AS A CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL ISSUE," 1980 Lay Academy, University United Methodist Church, 2409 Guadalupe, Austin. No cost. Pre-registration requested by Wed., Jan. 9. Rev. Gary Reuthinger, coordinator. (Other issues to be considered Jan. 13-Feb. 3 include desegregation, women in crisis, and rights of the elderly.) 8pm, Dignity liturgy, 1908 Willow Creek #101, Austin
Mon. Jan. 28 8-10pm, Austin Lambda Gay Men's Awareness Workshop
Wed. Jan. 30 7-8:30pm, Austin Lambda Gay Men's Event-Planning Committee
Thu. Jan. 31 Austin Lambda therapy group for gay men. Call 478-8653 for information.
Sat. Feb. 2 10pm-12 midnight, Free VD Screening by Gay Nurses Alliance and Austin-Travis County Health Dept. at the Stallion Bookstore, 706 East 6th

WEEKLY EVENTS

- Sunday 9:45am, Affirmation Sunday school class for adult United Methodist lesbians and gay men, Room 320, University United Methodist Church, 2409 Guadalupe, Austin. Call 474-1660 for more information. 12 noon and 7:30pm, worship services at Metropolitan Community Church of Austin, 614 East 6th 1pm, Holy Trinity Church of Austin liturgical service, 1606 S. Congress 8pm, Dignity liturgy. (gay Catholics) See Calendar above for weekly location.
Monday 8pm, Lambda Alcoholics Anonymous, All Saints Episcopal Church, 209 West 27th
Tuesday 7:30pm, Bible Study, MCCA 9pm, Rap Group on various topics, MCCA
Wednesday 7:30pm, Prayer and Communion Service, MCCA
Friday 8pm, CCAA bowling, Brunswick Capitol Bowling Center, 5700 Grover. 60¢ shoes, 90¢ a game. 8pm, Lambda Alcoholics Anonymous, 1614 East 6th 8pm (during university semesters) Gay Community Services rap group, University Y Auditorium, 2330 Guadalupe, upstairs.



PROSE continued from page 12

"The room was filled with her cold uneasiness as she summoned her male friend to her side to protect her from this pervert; the same guy she always complained treated her so cruelly."

Do I really have a choice? Do any of us? It is the very nature of love to last forever, unrequited or otherwise. Because of this discovery, I am complete, yes, immortal. Someday this typewriter will cease to function. In time, the paper I have written on will crumble to dust. Only a century or more will completely eradicate the present generations that exist on this earth today. Like anything that is fragile and requires nourishment, reader and author both will cease to exist. Only one thing is withstanding through life's heartaches and persecutions. And that is love. Had I TAKEN THE CHANCE with Julie when she first made her daring advances which in my youth I was not able to decode, I would have never known the things that I know now.

EXECUTIVE HEALTH CLUB

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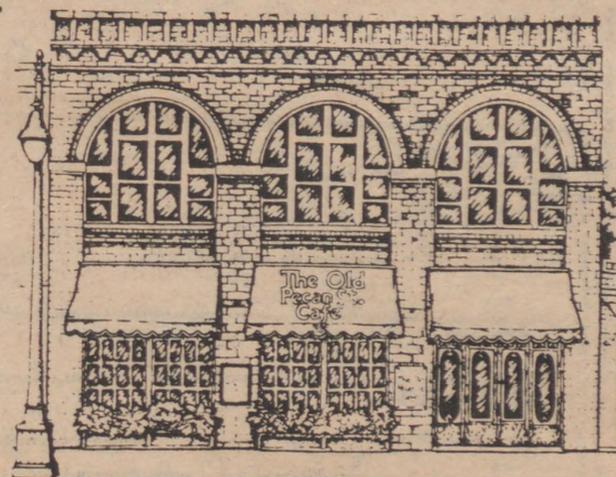
- NO DRUGS OR BOOZE ALLOWED IN THE CLUB -

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CLASSIFIED AD SECTION

CONNECTIONS reaches a special audience which other austin papers can't reach. Use your paper and it's ad section. We will give your classified ad a no. so you can remain anonymous. All ads must be submitted by the deadline. Call GCS for that date.

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Classified Ads are \$1.00 for the first ten words and 5¢ for each word over ten. Please send in your ad and money before the deadline. Mail to GCS and CONNECTIONS at 2330 Guadalupe Austin, Tx. 78705 or drop them by the GCS office between 6:00 and 10:00 p.m. daily.

I am looking for a ROOMATE aged 18-25. Write me a letter and tell me a little bit about yourself. Please give your phone number and send a picture if possible. I will acknowledge all letters by calling you on the phone. (Box 269).

GAY CARPOOLER WANTED. Alternate days driving or paying for gas. 8-5 shift. From 183 and Lamar to East 7th or downtown. Reliable only. 837-4425.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH OF AUSTIN. Liturgical service Sunday 1 pm. David Charles, worship leader. 1606 S. Congress, 447-7359

ROOMATE WANTED for 2-bedroom, 2-bath apartment. \$137.50 plus ½ electric. Graduate student would prefer nonsmoking, masculine, good-looking grad student, early 20's to early 30's. No fems, fats, or weirdos. Into music, jogging, and tennis. If interested, call 385-2186 after 6:00 pm.

ROOMATE WANTED for 2-bedroom house in North Austin. \$120 plus ½ bills. Furnished. Washer-dryer, plus babygrand piano. Large yard for pets. Smoking tobacco or other herbs allowed. I am 25, someone within 5 years of that age preferred. One-half block from city bus. Call Scott at (work) 453-9406 until 3, (home) 451-0770 after 9.

PIANOS TUNED IN THE AUSTIN AREA. Call Jayson Carver at 443-4100.

Do you have a BLIND friend? Could he/she use our services? PRINT TO BRAILLE COMMUNICATIONS. 1900 Burton Dr. #115, Austin, Tx. 78741. 443-4100

Affirmation Class offers fellowship for United Methodist lesbians and gay men. 9:45 am Sundays, Room 320, University UMC, Austin. Call 474-1660 for information.

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