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GAY AUSTIN

april 1979

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March on Washington Set for October

PHILADELPHIA — Some 300 lesbians and gay men representing organizations from across the country met in Philadelphia February 24th and 25th to lay plans for the national gay march on Washington proposed last summer by slain gay leader Harvey Milk. The march has been set for Sunday, October 14th, three months after the July 4th date Milk originally suggested.

The Philadelphia meeting began with something less than a consensus, not only on the nature of the march and its date but on whether a march should be held at all. Several large gay-rights organizations, including the National Gay Task Force, had already declined to participate in the conference. And delegate Steve Endean of Gay Rights National Lobby in Washington argued against the event on the grounds that it wouldn't help the effort to obtain Federal gay-rights legislation. Washington, D.C. activist Frank Kameny expressed the general scepticism of several gay activists in the capital when he told the delegates, "If I was assured that

there would be enough people at the march, I'd support it. But I'm not sure that would happen."

But Wendy Levine of the San Francisco Ad Hoc Committee on the March on Washington disagreed. She read to the delegates the results of a nationwide survey which showed support for a march in the early fall of 1979 with political issues as the primary focus. And Brandy Moore of San Francisco argued, "Gay Freedom parades show us that we can draw people together in these numbers in support of our rights."

The vote of 106 in favor and 56 against was greeted with applause. "This effort is a quantum leap forward for the gay-rights movement," Rita Goldberger of San Francisco declared.

But Steve Shiflett, president of the Houston Gay Political Caucus, was not convinced. "Just because the vote happened doesn't mean the march will happen," he said. Houston representatives were critical of the date set for

Continued on page 18.



Delegates vote to march on Washington.

TGTF Won't Seek Repeal of 21.06

by JOHN MURRAY

There is not going to be a bill introduced in this legislative session to repeal section 21.06 of the Texas Penal Code. It seems that the Board of Directors of the Texas Gay Task Force has decided, based on a January 23rd letter from their legislative consultant Karol Phelan, that it would not be in the best interest of the gay community to introduce such a bill at this time.

Originally there was concern among

members of the Board about the possible negative effects of pushing for repeal in that it might inspire the introduction of more repressive legislation or even a strengthening of current penalties. The Board was also aware that this was an issue of major concern to the gay community and that an introduction of a bill to repeal was expected of the lobbying effort. Facing the reality of the slim chances such a

measure would have for success, the Board decided to seek the introduction of a bill but not to enthusiastically encourage its adoption.

TGTF legislative lobbyist Bettie Naylor pointed out to me that she felt this original decision was unwise

for two reasons. She indicated that it would be essentially the throwing away (and wasting) of a political favor that could possibly be of vital importance in the event of the introduction of even more repressive legislation. As

Continued on page 2.

ALGPC Endorses, Delays

The Austin Lesbian/Gay Political Caucus voted at its March 18 meeting to support the International Day of Action for Reproductive Freedom scheduled for March 31. The day of action, planned last summer at a conference of European, Latin American, African and North American women, is for the purpose of demonstrating support for the right to safe birth control and abortion and an end to forced sterilization.

In other action, ALGPC voted to table a motion by co-chair Steve Thomas to withhold endorsement of the National Gay March on Washington scheduled for October 14 of this year, until the members knew more about the event and about the organization planning it. (See article, this issue.) The motion stemmed from a steering committee decision to oppose the

march as planned by a conference in Philadelphia on February 24 and 25 and to call for a second conference.

In explaining the steering committee decision, Thomas said the Philadelphia conference was dominated by delegates from San Francisco and New York while other regions of the country were inadequately represented. He claimed more time was needed to prepare for a successful march and that a march that failed to draw enough participants would be a serious setback for the gay community.

Concerning the coming elections, the chair announced the steering committee's decision not to endorse city council candidates.

On a motion from the floor, ALGPC voted to donate \$25.00 to a lesbian custody defense fund. Individual donations from members were also collected.

House Bill Would Ban Poppers

by DAVID MORRIS

Representative Tony Pumbo of Houston has introduced a bill to make it illegal to sell or offer to sell "any substance that contains any quantity of butyl nitrite or isobutyl nitrite," known popularly as "poppers." The proposed legislation would add a section to the Controlled Substances Act making it a Class C misdemeanor, punishable by a fine up to \$200, to sell the substance, but makes no mention of possession or manufacture. Normally, sale, possession or manufacture of substances on any of several lists contained in the Act is prohibited by law except when licensed, as in the case of prescription drugs. Any substance may be added to the official Controlled Substances lists at the discretion of the Director of Public Health after a public hearing, but it is not clear whether Pumbo's bill adds poppers to the list.

Currently, the sale of poppers is prohibited by federal food and drug

See related article, page 7.

regulations only if the seller specifies the substance is intended to be used as a drug. Poppers are generally sold as "room deodorizers" or "liquid incense." The state Controlled Substances Act is more effective than food and drug regulations.

Butyl nitrite can be sold only by prescription in Georgia and has been banned outright in Connecticut.

Pumbo's bill (HB907) is presently in a subcommittee of the House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee. If passed by the full House and the Senate, the law would take effect September 1, 1979. ▽

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Bob Prewitt _____ Office and Peer Counseling Coordinator
Gary Reese _____ Media Coordinator
Phil Conard _____ Finance Coordinator
Paul Guttery _____ Speakers Bureau Coordinator

TGTF...

Continued from page 1.

examples of the types of legislation that the lobbying effort is currently up against, she mentioned a bill to bar gay teachers from public classrooms (which has since died in committee), Senator Mengden's bill to bar same sex dancing, drag, entertaining in drag, and a wide range of other activities defined as obscene from on-premise alcoholic beverage establishments, and a bill introduced by Representative Polumbo that would add butyl nitrite (poppers) to the Texas Controlled Substances Act.

She was also very concerned with the possibility of irreparably damaging the career of one of our few supporters in the Legislature. It seems that it is much easier for our legislators to oppose repressive legislation aimed at the gay community, which is usually interpreted as a civil rights issue, than it is to actively seek the repeal of existing discriminatory legislation such as 21.06, which is currently seen as advocating and/or approving the homosexual lifestyle. She added, however, that Representative Sam Hudson had indicated that he would be willing to introduce a bill to repeal 21.06 but had been discouraged from doing so.

Karol Phelan, in her response to the original decision to seek a repeal measure, has written in part that the "TGFT must face the reality that the Legislature has, in the past, seen fit to pass discriminatory legislation and to publicly mock efforts to repeal Section 21.06 of the Texas Penal Code. With this prevailing mood, asking a member to make a token gesture to the gay community by merely introducing a repeal measure is ludicrous." She also urged the education of the Legislature as to the needs of the gay community and also the education of the gay community on the "existing political environment and the importance of timing" in the legislative effort. ▽



Human Rights Festival, 1978

Upcoming GCS Events

HUMAN RIGHTS FESTIVAL

Gay Community Services and the Austin Lesbian/Gay Political Caucus will sponsor an Arts and Crafts Show combined with the Second Annual Breakfast for Human Rights. Both events will be held on Auditorium Shores on May 26. Live entertainment will augment the many artists displaying and selling their work. The Breakfast will follow the pattern of last year's Festival. Complete details will be in next month's *Gay Austin*. Artists interested in setting up a booth should contact the GCS office at 477-6699.

COSTUME DANCE AND DRAG SHOW

Gay Community Services will sponsor an all-out drag show to determine the King/Queen of Austin drag. Following the show will be the first GCS Costume Dance. These events are planned for early May at a downtown location. All people, male and female, interested in participating in the Drag Show are encouraged to enter. Applicants should have one number prepared, roughly ten minutes in length. GCS will provide both lighting and sound. Exact date and location will be announced in next month's *Gay Austin*.

DRAG SHOW ENTRY BLANK

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Stage name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Special needs: _____

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Broadcasters Seek Lesbian, Gay Advice

by GARY REESE

On March 14, representatives of the gay community met for the first time with panels of Austin broadcasters in an effort to determine how the community's needs may best be met.

Federal Communications Commission requirements have recently been expanded to require that minorities other than ethnic groups be consulted by broadcasters. The broadcasters must ascertain community needs in order to fulfill their public service function under FCC guidelines. (See *Gay Austin*, February, 1979.)

"Each station has the responsibility of determining these needs and has to justify its performance to the FCC when its license comes up for renewal," explained Woody Egger, one of the community representatives and a board member of the Texas Gay Task Force. "The local broadcasters have decided that, instead of doing this on their own, they would set up panels

with one representative from every TV and radio station sitting on each panel." Initial inquiries about gays being included in the interview process were made by Carr Strong, general coordinator of Gay Community Services, and Troy Stokes, former GCS media coordinator. Egger and Mary Ann Edwards of Womenspace held interviews with the two separate panels of broadcasters.

"I told them that we needed to be able to speak to our own members of the community and to enlighten the community at large," Egger explained. He said that he identified three areas that require attention. "We need to be able to get public service announcements aired, to get on interview and talk shows, and also to have some kind of program of our own." Such a program, Egger added, would be aired at a regularly scheduled time and would be produced and moderated by gays.

"In the past we've only gotten on talk shows and interviews in response to challenges from people like Anita Bryant or Reverend O'Chester. Or,

when a nationally known gay spokesperson has come through town." The local gay community's needs have not been served until we can get broadcasting time in our own right, Egger explained.

The lack of minority membership in gay organizations is another problem

which could be ameliorated through increased local access to broadcasting channels. "As of this time, we have restricted access to those communities - Black, Chicano, and the young gays coming out who have no way of getting in touch with others their age who are having the same difficulties." ▽

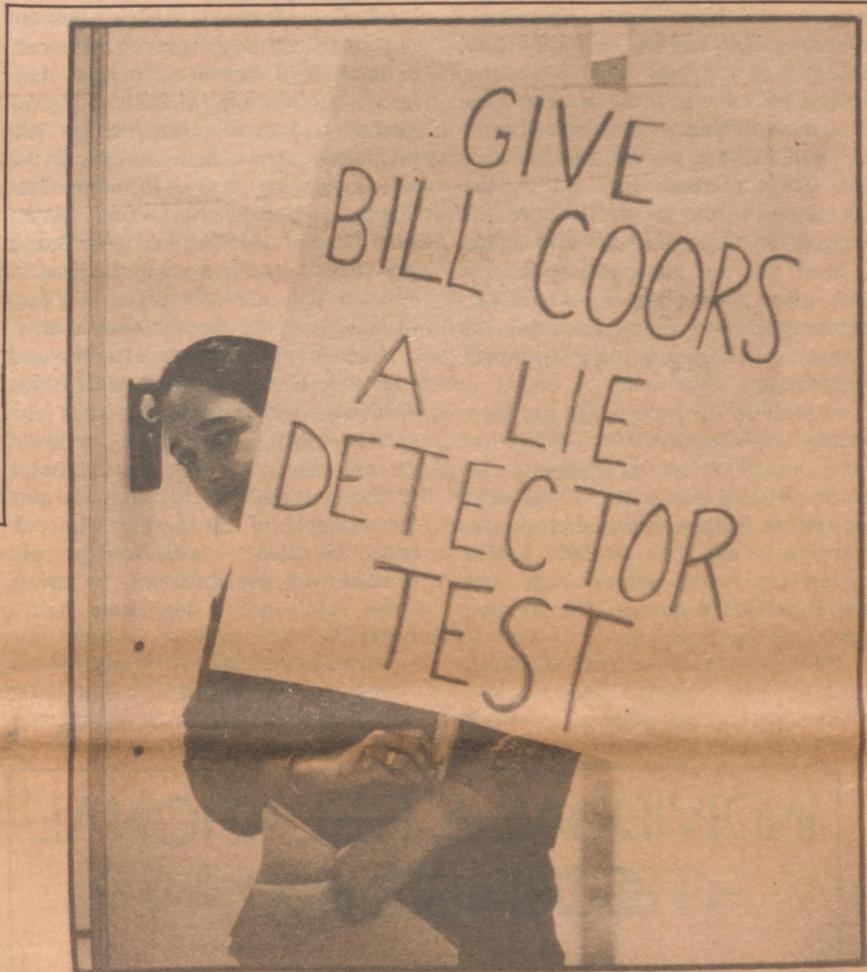
Documentation Sought

HOUSTON - Representatives of the American Civil Liberties Union, the Political Association of Spanish Speaking Organizations, the Houston Gay Political Caucus, and four law firms are assembling documentation of harassment and brutality by Houston police against gay people, Chicanos, and Blacks. The evidence will be presented to the U.S. Civil Rights Commission at its hearings in Houston this spring.

The hearings result from a long list of allegations of police brutality in Houston. Best known is the case of Jose Campos Torres who drowned when police beat him and threw him in a bayou in 1977. ▽

Women's Caucus Endorses Candidates

AUSTIN - The Austin Women's Political Caucus, at their March 20th Candidate Forum, has decided to endorse the following candidates in the upcoming City Council elections: place 3, Rick Ream; place 4, Richard Goodman; place 5, John Trevino; place 6, Jimmy Snell. There was no endorsement in places 1 and 2, and no endorsement for Mayor. Of the eleven issues the Caucus considered to be of concern to the City Council and the people of Austin, all four of the candidates endorsed responded favorably to the addition of sexual orientation to the existing Fair Housing Ordinance. ▽



Demonstrator Pat Cramer has suggestion.

Gay men and lesbians were among demonstrators at the LBJ Library last March 1 to greet William Coors of the Coors Brewery, who was there to participate in a conference on "the new partnership between business and government." The Coors Brewery is being boycotted by homosexuals and many other groups for its allegedly racist, homophobic and anti-labor practices. At the conference, Coors placed the blame for mistrust of big business on public ignorance and misunderstanding.

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Tom
KESSELER
Editor

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- Charlie Rose

VOTE

APRIL 4th



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Gay Legal Conference Held

by KELLY KAY

NEW YORK — Three hundred gay lawyers, law students and others interested in the legal profession participated in a national conference entitled "Law and the Fight for Gay Rights" held March 10 - 11 on the campus of New York University. Sponsored by Lesbian and Gay Law Students of the New York University School of Law and the Rutgers Gay Caucus, in conjunction with the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc., the conference focussed on the gay lawyer's role in the struggle for recognition of gay people's civil rights.

Most of the conference's activity took place in a series of workshops, which covered topics as varied as child custody, immigration, and criminal proceedings.

A proposal to form a gay bar association was considered by the conference, which voted to postpone the action until an assessment of the need for such an organization could be made. Participants did vote to hold similar conferences on an annual basis, and several persons suggested that the next one be held in the South.

Newly elected New York Attorney General Robert Abrams delivered the conference keynote address, in which

he reaffirmed his "commitment to advance the causes of gay people in the courts." The New York attorney general expressed an understanding of gays' problems vis-a-vis the law far above that of his Texan counterparts.

Discussion during the workshops centered on strategies for increasing the legal protection currently afforded gays by the law.

Wayne Dynes, President of the New York Gay Academic Union, pointed out that although gays have made definite legal advances, judges often ignore prior pro-gay-rights court judgments and most policemen are still prejudiced against homosexuals. Dynes was joined by many, including Tess Siegel, a straight New York lawyer who boasted that she has never lost a gay client's case, in voicing the need to educate the public in order to dispel the many myths about homosexuality.

John Ward, a Boston attorney and Executive Director of Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders, warned lawyers representing gay clients to avoid defenses which are just as homophobic as the laws gays are fighting. He gave the example of the lawyer who defended his client — a divorced gay psychiatrist with five children — by saying, "This man's not a degenerate, he's a daddy."

Jane Trichter, a current city council-member of New York City who began her political career as a pro-abortion

lobbyist, discussed lobbying as a strategy for securing gay rights. Referring to her involvement in the unsuccessful attempt to pass a New York City gay rights package, Trichter said that it is important that there be a close working relationship between the sponsors of any gay rights bill and as broad a spectrum as possible of the gay community.

Steve Endean, Executive Director of Gay Rights National Lobby in Washington, D.C., agreed with Trichter that the weakest part of the gay movement is its community organization. Endean explained that no lobbyist can be effective without "a constituency network" organized to support his efforts. For example, he said, an organization called Christian Voice — which fights against gay rights, abortion, affirmative action, etc. — can mobilize 100,000 members to contact their legislators when an important issue or vote comes before Congress. Endean said that gays must be organized to the point that they can apply just as much or more pressure on their legislators.

Trichter encouraged gays to run their own candidates for elected offices when possible, even if success seems unlikely. She said that even lost campaigns are productive, because they build the candidate's name recognition and credibility, as well as mobilize support and raise issues. ▽

Nat'l Gay Law in the Future

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A bill to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in housing, employment, and public accommodations has been introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives but probably will not receive a hearing in the Education and Labor Committee or the Judiciary Committee to which it has been referred. The measure, co-sponsored by representatives Henry Waxman (D-Calif.) and Theodore Weiss (D-NY) is not matched by a corresponding bill in the Senate.



Lobbyist Steve Endean.

Similar attempts in past years have met similar fates. No gay-rights bill has ever been introduced in the Senate and none of the bills introduced in the House has ever received a hearing.

Steve Endean of the Gay Rights National Lobby says Federal laws protecting lesbians and gay men should not be expected soon. "Anyone who believes in a quick effort — even five years — is fooling themselves," he says. "It could be as much as 10 to 15 years before we get a bill." Endean believes hearings on gay-rights bills shouldn't be held until grass-roots support has been developed, probably within another three years. ▽

University Bans Gay Group

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Invoking the "moral teachings of the Catholic Church," the Georgetown University administration has overturned a student government decision to grant official campus recognition to Gay People of Georgetown, a student organization. The administration said that "while the University supports and cherishes the individual lives and rights of its students it will not subsidize this cause. Such an endorsement would be inappropriate for a Catholic university."

With little opposition, the Georgetown Student Senate had upheld a decision by the Student Activities

Commission to recognize the group. "The students are behind us," a local gay activist said. "The students are willing to listen to people who are different from them; the students are willing to radically confirm our basic human rights . . . If there is any part of the university that needs to be educated . . . it is the administration." ▽

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Letters

Editors' Note:

We are providing this space for letters from our readers for feedback, comments, and announcements of interest to the lesbian and gay community in the hope that an effective forum is established.

Coors boycott still on

To the Editors:

A few weeks ago William Coors was in town for a seminar sponsored by the LBJ School, the Graduate School of Business, and the Institute of Constructive Capitalism. The University of Texas Employees Union in cooperation with other groups picketed and leafleted that meeting. Now Coors has a full page ad in *The Advocate* asking us to "check it out" for ourselves. If you do check it out you will find that the owners of Coors are not as good and pure as they claim their beer is.

The workers did not vote 2 - 1 against the union. Coors broke the strike; it broke the union. It fired all of those on strike; it replaced the strikers with scabs. Coors stalled and finally the election was held with the scabs voting out the union. The strike is over. We lost. The boycott is *not* over. The AFL-CIO is continuing the boycott.

Coors continues its usual ways. In their *Advocate* ad, they admit that they require polygraph tests. They humiliate their workers. They attempt to control the private lives of their employees. Check it out — read the ad yourself. Coors continues to be a major cornerstone of those rightwing groups who continue to attack unions, the ERA, gay-rights — anything that might help bring a decent life to the vast majority of Americans.

The purpose of the conference at the LBJ School was to bring Coors

into the dominant business coalition that now rules America. If the "Coors" of America continue to be successful in their attacks on unions, gays, women, minorities, the poor, then these forces will become the new "center" of American politics. We cannot allow this.

No one — lesbian, gay, worker — no one should ever willingly participate in his/her own oppression. Please do not be bought out by ads. Do continue to boycott Coors.

Shelly Caldwell
President
James Kieke
Executive Vice-President
University of Texas Employees Union
TFT, AFT, AFL-CIO
Box 8182
UT Station
Austin, Texas 78712

Laments closing of theater

Editor:

Austin's first and only all-male movie theater closed its doors on Wednesday, March 7, 1979. Financial difficulties were believed to be the reason the three partners closed the Cinema Follies Club. I, for one, really enjoyed those Jack Wrangler films. Austin finally had a gay porn theater of its very own! Here's hoping the owners can get some other investors to buy up their lease and reopen the theater. We in Austin deserve our own gay movie house. It's a disappointment to all of us involved in the venture right now. May the situation improve for the better real soon, so all of us can see our favorite gay porn stars on the big screen once again.

Wayde Frey
Austin, 3-14-79

Lesbians Charge Police Harassment

SAN FRANCISCO — Support is growing for two lesbians who have charged the San Francisco police with harassment in an incident outside a women's bar in late January. The women say police handcuffed and beat them outside the bar and later abused them

physically and verbally at two different police stations. They were eventually charged with resisting arrest, public drunkenness and failure to identify themselves.

Wages Due Lesbians, a San Francisco organization, has asked Mayor Diane Feinstein to take action against the officers involved in the incident and to issue a public statement reprimanding them, and has demanded that charges against the women be dropped. ▽

Buy Gay Austin Classifieds

Exile in Holland

Gay Man Flees U.S. 'Justice'

BOSTON — *Gay Community News* of Boston reports that Richard Bearse, who fled from the courtroom during his trial on charges of "intent to rape" a 14-year-old youth, is now in Holland. The Fitchburg, Massachusetts barber was accused of sitting naked in a darkened sauna with the youth for 20 minutes and of massaging his neck, shoulders and stomach. No genital contact, solicitation or sexual conversation was alleged and the youth made no objection to Bearse's actions. The youth had inquired about using the barber shop's sauna while Bearse cut his hair and had accepted Bearse's invitation to join him in it.

After a trial in which the judge showed what observers described as bizarre behavior and blatant prejudice against the defendant, Bearse disappeared from the courtroom while the jury was considering its verdict. The offense he was charged with could result in a life sentence and the prosecutor assured Bearse he would be sentenced to 10 to 15 years without probation.

The Sexual Reform Institute of Holland and the Werkgrupp Pedophilie have provided Bearse with lodging,

financial support and two lawyers. Dutch police and immigration officials have assured him he will not be extradited and have given him permission to remain in the country for at least three months.

The case has been widely publicized in Holland and supporters have protested at the U.S. Embassy. Frank Torey of the Dutch Spartacus Organization commented, "Living in Holland, where sexual education is light-years ahead of where it is in the English-speaking world, it is easy to overlook the significance of what is happening in Boston. But we won't."

Bearse is now working with a coalition of Dutch gay and youth groups who are trying to help 14-year-old Bubba Mayes of Mississippi, recently sentenced to 48 years in an adult prison, without the possibility of probation, for his first conviction of participation in a robbery. "I've learned how important political action is," Bearse said. "The boy in my case was abused by the trial as much as I was, and Bubba is abused. All U.S. 'justice' knows how to do is abuse minors and those adults who relate to them." ▽

Brydon to Head NGTF

NEW YORK — Charles F. Brydon, a 40-year-old insurance executive who is currently co-chair of the National Gay Task Force Board of Directors, has been named to replace Dr. Bruce Voeller as co-executive director of NGTF. Voeller resigned in October.

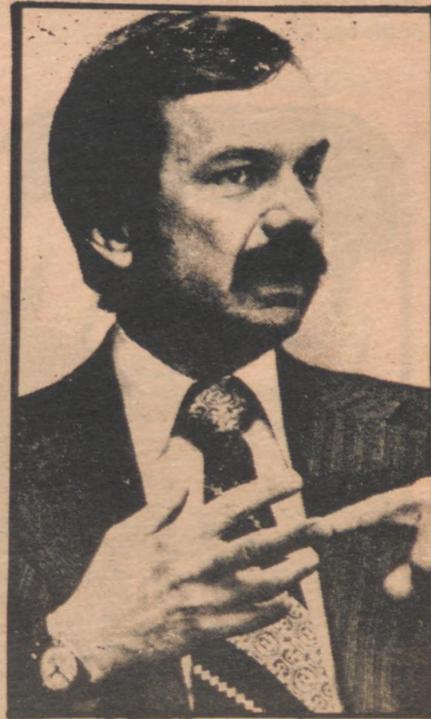
As an army captain, Brydon served in Germany, Korea, and Vietnam in the '60s and became a gay civil rights activist in the '70s. He joined the NGTF Board of Directors in 1976.

The new director hopes to build greater grass-roots support for NGTF. "The task force has only 10,000 members out of an estimated 20 million gay people in the U.S.," he said. He also urged NGTF to build alliances beyond those already established with feminist organizations. "Gay groups need to make connections with black civil rights groups, such as the NAACP, and with the labor movement," he said.

Brydon says past gay civil rights efforts have shown that "we can gain allies in the civic and political leadership." He believes that "the gay rights movement cannot afford to alienate the conservative who believes in privacy and who understands that it is wrong

to discriminate."

Brydon will assume office on April 9. ▽



Charles Brydon.

Gay Couple Sues INS

LOS ANGELES — A gay couple claiming to be legally married has filed suit against the Immigration and Naturalization Service to prevent deportation of one of the partners. The suit, filed in U.S. District Court by American Civil Liberties Union lawyers, results from the INS's refusal to grant preferential resident alien visa to Anthony Sullivan, an Australian citizen, as the spouse of Richard Adams, a citizen of this country.

In its initial decision, the INS told the pair, "You have failed to establish that a bona fide marital relation-

ship can exist between two faggots."

A later ruling claimed a gay male spouse "cannot function as a wife by assuming female duties and obligations inherent in the marital relationship."

The lawsuit claims the INS decision violates constitutional guarantees of equal protection.

The ruling is at least the second instance of discrimination against homosexuals since the INS told representatives of the National Gay Task Force last year that they would end the practice. (See Gay Austin, March, 1979.) ▽

Brazilian Press

Supports *Lampião*

SAO PAULO, BRAZIL — The Brazilian Press Association, the journalists' union, and a number of artistic and cultural groups have rallied to the defense of *Lampião*, Brazil's first serious gay publication, since the Brazilian military dictatorship issued subpoenas against the paper's editorial collective last September (see Gay Austin, March 1979.) A coalition called the Permanent Commission for the Defense of Freedom of Expression characterized the subpoenas and other government threats against the paper as "one more attack on freedom of expression" and called charges of "offending morality and propriety" a "subterfuge for censorship."

The legal action against the paper is based on the Press Law passed by the military government when it took power in 1964. Journalists for at least four non-gay publications who have written articles on homosexuality are also currently under investigation for alleged violations of the same provisions of the law. ▽

Gay Couple

Adopts Child

SAN FRANCISCO — For what is believed to be the first time in history, a court has granted an openly gay couple the right to adopt a child. On January 12 a Los Angeles Superior Court judge approved the adoption of 23-month-old Robert David by Reverend Jim Dykes of the Metropolitan Community Church and his spouse, Albert Lanny Dykes, a physician.

Since there is no legal recognition of gay couples under California law, Dr. Dykes is the official parent while Rev. Dykes is the child's guardian. It is officially considered a single-parent adoption. ▽

Youth Counselor

Acquitted

HOUSTON — A former counselor for a half-way house for runaways in Houston was found not guilty of sexual misconduct after the alleged victim, who was also the state's chief witness, admitted he had lied in a similar trial against another counselor at the same half-way house last December. The 16-year-old youth told the jury police had grilled and rehearsed him before his testimony in the earlier trial, which also resulted in acquittal.

The two trials resulted from a statement made by the youth during an investigation by what is known locally as the "chicken-hawk squad" of the Houston Police Department. Two other counselors from the half-way house who were also charged have not yet been brought to trial.

Assistant District Attorney Brian Rains, who admits he knew of the perjury, refused to explain his prosecuting the second defendant. Defense attorney Larry Watts accused the District Attorney's office of "knowing use of perjured testimony in violation of the canon of ethics."

The defendant in the first trial claims police offered him a deal in exchange for his testifying to sexual offenses on the part of a prominent Houston attorney with whom he is acquainted. ▽

Lesbian Relationship Grounds for Alimony Cut

ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA — A Minnesota District Court judge has ruled that a woman's stable lesbian relationship is sufficient grounds for the termination of alimony payments from her ex-husband. After a divorce agreement made in 1972 which required alimony "until such time as she remarries or dies," the ex-husband took the woman to court to stop alimony when he discovered she was involved

in a relationship with another woman.

Although it is not believed the decision will establish important legal precedent, Jean O'Leary of the National Gay Task Force considers it significant. "I think the judge is right," O'Leary said. "If this is a stable relationship, it certainly is the equivalent of a marriage situation . . . We could solve all these problems just by legalizing homosexual marriages." ▽

Arson Suspected in Gay Commune Fire

WOLF CREEK, OREGON — Arson is suspected in the fire which destroyed the farmhouse of a small commune of gay men here last January 12. The commune, at which the gay men's journal *RFD* was published until recently, has been the target of harassment and vandalism for the past year and last fall townspeople expressed concern when two boys, aged three and seven, moved to the farm to be raised there.

The local sheriff found two unused Molotov cocktails and an empty gasoline can near the site of the fire.

There were no injuries but damage was estimated at \$30,000. No arrests are expected. ▽

TV Evangelist Dropped for Anti-Gay Sermon

DALLAS — Dallas television station WFAA-TV has discontinued its weekly broadcasts by evangelist James Robison because of a sermon he delivered in late February in which he called the gay movement "despicable" and "a perversion of the highest order."

Station manager David Lane said he believed the sermon violated the Federal Communications Commission's Fairness Doctrine.

"I should be able to say what's in my head and in the Bible," Robison said. "I'll always preach that homosexuality is a sin." ▽

Demonstrators Attacked

NEW YORK — A group of 50 gay and lesbian demonstrators at the office of a Queens City Councillor was attacked by several dozen teenagers who threw eggs, fruit, and bottles at them and yelled, "Get out of our neighborhood" and "Castrate gay men." Witnesses say the eight or ten police on the scene escorted demonstrators to safety when they had finished, but made no attempt to stop the attack.

Joyce Hunter, a member of Lesbians Rising, said, "In all the years I've been demonstration, I've never encountered

anything as vicious as this . . . It was really dangerous." She said the demonstrators "didn't expect a nice crowd, but we didn't expect the violence either. The police encouraged their behavior, but we kept our cool."

The demonstration was organized by the Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights against Queens City Councillor Thomas J. Manton for his consistent opposition to gay rights.

Hunter says the activists will return. "We have to demonstrate in the area again because many of us live in the district," she said. ▽

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POPPERS

a guide for consumers

by LARS EIGHNER

"Poppers" is the common name for the drug butyl nitrite. Well known in the gay community, it is sold in small bottles or in mesh-covered crushable vials in most adult bookstores, many headshops, and by mail order. Butyl may not legally be sold for human consumption, so each of these dozens of brand-name products is sold as "liquid incense" or "room deodorizer" or "scent." This is ironic because few people find the smell entirely pleasing.

Butyl nitrite is very similar to the medical drug amyl nitrite. Both are sometimes incorrectly called nitrates and one manufacturer labels his product with a complex chemical name which, nonetheless, translates into butyl nitrite. Differences in effect between butyl (the incense) and amyl (the prescription drug) would seem to be minimal. More reports of minor side effects are encountered with butyl, but these may be the result of impurities which do not occur in pharmaceutically controlled amyl.

The nitrites are strong vasodilators. Blood vessels in the body are not rigid pipes, but are more like a system of valves capable of being opened or closed. When the vessels are opened (dilated), blood may rush through them more freely; if this happens in the face it is called blushing. With most people, vasodilation occurs over most of the body surface when they approach orgasm, resulting in the well-known sexual flush.

Medically, nitrites are used to treat *angina pectoris*. When the arteries which supply blood to the heart become narrowed by the deposit of sediment on the inside walls — the way hot-water pipes are narrowed in hard-water areas — they are no longer capable of delivering maximum blood supply to the heart. This may not bother a person engaged in quiet activities, but in heavier activity or in excitement, the heart's demand for blood may increase beyond the diseased arteries' ability to supply it. The result is severe pain in the chest: *angina pectoris*. Nitrites have the ability to dilate these blood vessels temporarily and so reverse the situation of insufficient blood supply to the heart.

If the artery becomes completely blocked, however, then part of the heart tissue is bound to die. This is called myocardial infarction — or heart attack — and the possibility of its happening is why no one should attempt to treat chest pains with nitrites except under close medical supervision.

The folks who sniff butyl nitrite in bookstores and discos, of course, do not have *angina pectoris*. They sniff it for the rush.

Recreational use of nitrites seems to be related to three factors. First, nitrites produce a strong, hot, flushing sensation similar to the flush which accompanies sexual activity. Many men identify this sensation as sexual, although not as many women experience it in this way. Variations of the effect accompany many kinds of heavy activity such as fighting, weightlifting, and other athletic endeavor.

Secondly, poppers are believed to be aphrodisiacs. Almost every psychoactive drug has at one time or another been thought to increase sexual drive or ability. But the primary place of sexual arousal in human beings is not between the legs; it is between the ears. Virtually anything will increase sex drive and ability if the user believes it will. Nitrites do not directly cause men to have erections. The many reports of this effect can be explained by the mental association of the use of the drug with sexual activity.

Finally, nitrites usually cause a sensation of lightheadedness. This is related to their vasodilator effects. The blood vessels in the body constitute a closed container. A strong vasodilator causes the blood vessels to open up, which amounts to making the container much larger. If a container gets larger, the pressure of the enclosed fluid gets lower, so nitrites can suddenly reduce blood pressure. When blood pressure goes down, there may not be sufficient force for enough blood to overcome gravity and get to the brain.

Temporary drops in blood pressure are common and normal; they account for the sensation of faintness that people sometimes experience when stand-

Continued on page 16.

DOING IN DOWNTOWN

austin's official approach to revitalization

by PHILLIP CONARD

On December 8, 1977, the Austin City Council instructed the City Manager to prepare an economic development plan for Downtown. This study, recently approved by the Council, proposes a set of "development strategies designed to halt the economic and physical deterioration of Central Austin." Although the goals and objectives of the study are desirable, the strategies for achieving them fail to break with the specious comfort of wishes, familiar superstitions, and oversimplifications; they relate only minimally to the real world and ignore the need for effective physical planning to create a continuous network of safe, lively and interesting streets which foster public contact and encourage a variety of commerce, cultural opportunities and cultures.

The primary goal of the plan is to insure the fiscal health of the City. This is a worthy goal which, in keeping with safe, lively, and interesting streets, can be achieved through the encouragement of private entrepreneurship and small-business activity. Commendably, the plan recognizes these methods, but also proposes that the city "assist with land assembly" for large, single-use developments (office towers). Land assembly is objectionable because, to insure diversity, an area must serve more than one, and preferably more than two, primary uses. These uses must insure the presence of people who go outdoors on different schedules and who are in the area for different purposes.

Office towers do not meet this criterion. Further, banks and office towers, by function, lack a spread of people throughout the day (one of the main current problems), and thus replace old stagnation with new. Most unfortunate, the measure of success under the new plan is increased tax-base revenues (money generated from a higher tax assessment of land and buildings); thus the downtown problem has become a problem not in social theory, community or psychology, but in bookkeeping. Downtown ceases to become a human creation and becomes a commodity. Its achievements are not to be judged by architectural beauty, cultural inspiration and human association but by economic productivity, taxable resources, and fiscal success. Urban ideology has become

business ideology.

Downtown Austin has the potential to become a well-balanced, diversified and exciting district. Wide choice and rich opportunity is the purpose of cities. Sixth Street is lively largely by virtue of its great collection of small elements. This diversity — not the bank towers or City Hall — has made Downtown vibrant and exciting.

The current city plan for Downtown redevelopment has lost sight of this fact. This is its most tragic flaw — its emphasis on economically viable mass culture.

"Bars, pornographic bookstores and other nuisance land uses can be found along parts of Congress Avenue and Sixth Street. Although these uses are not numerous, they and the patrons they attract act to destroy whatever wholesome environment the vicinity might otherwise possess."

"Strategies for the Economic Revitalization of Central Austin," p. 66.

It is unfortunate that the Council chose to include this paragraph despite public opposition voiced at the hearings. Their inclusion of it shows a profound misunderstanding of the purpose and potential of the Downtown area. As for the "nuisance" land uses and their patrons, well, I live on Sixth Street — somewhere between Mr. Peeper's and the Adult Store. These two establishments are the only businesses that keep the street active (and therefore safe, relatively crime-free, and interesting) twenty-four hours every day. What makes Sixth Street successful is its diversity, twenty-four hours a day.

Before following their plan closely, the City Council should break away from their pseudoscience of city planning and examine just what makes the real world tick.

Copies of "Strategies for the Economic Revitalization of Central Austin" may be obtained from the Planning Department or by calling 477-6511. Demand a copy (they hesitate to give them freely); your tax dollars paid for its production. ▽

RIVER CITY CINEMA

by Bob Prewitt

The only thing certain about the 51st Annual Academy Awards, to be televised April 9, is that Jason Robards will *not* win a third consecutive Oscar for Best Supporting Actor. Robards, who pocketed awards for his performances in *All the President's Men* (1976) and *Julia* (1977) has not been nominated this year, which suits me just fine. Last year he "spoiled" what would have been an otherwise perfect scorecard for me. I correctly predicted the winners in all the major categories (Best Picture, Director, and performances) — except Supporting Actor, for which I chose the redoubtable Alec Guinness. Oh well. Considering the number of surprises the Academy provides each year, I guess I should be satisfied with five out of six.

This year, choosing winners seems even more precarious. In almost every category there are legitimate reasons for picking a number of nominees to win. No single film would seem to be a clear favorite, though very typically one movie will end up bagging most of the major awards. Still, look for at least one minor upset, and perhaps a major one or two. There are too many intangible factors at work to expect otherwise. Frankly, I'll be quite happy if I pick three of the top six categories correctly this year.

Best Supporting Actor. The biggest surprise here is the incomprehensible omission of veteran character actor Robert Morley, who marvelously redefined gluttony in *Who Is Killing the Great Chefs of Europe?* It appears that the film's overall mediocrity spoiled his chances. Had he been nominated, my choice would have been much more difficult. As it is, the prediction isn't all that nerve-racking. Richard Farnsworth gave an affecting performance in *Comes A Horseman*, but the film was ignored by the public, and he stands little chance. Two of the nominees mentioned most often, Bruce Dern (*Coming Home*) and Christopher Walken (*The Deer Hunter*) will in my estimation walk away from the Dorothy Chandler pavilion empty-handed. Dern is a competent actor, and yes, it's true he's not received enough attention for his work. In this film his portrayal of the volatile Vietnam veteran left behind by life in America was quite engaging. But it's a performance too similar to others he's given in the past (did anyone see *Black Sunday?*), and one grows weary of repetition, obscure or otherwise. Dern will receive a healthy vote, many for sentimental reasons, but it shouldn't carry him over. Walken, on the other hand, has had no trouble with publicity, and he hasn't been working in films that long. All his interviews and photo essays had me geared for the supporting performance of the year. It's true Walken is good in *The Deer Hunter*, but frankly I was more impressed by John Savage, and my gut feeling is the Academy will not let hype completely guide their vote.

Jack Warden was wonderful as the L.A. Rams trainer in *Heaven Can Wait*. It's a tribute of no small stature that Warden upstaged his funny, bumbling co-star, Charles Grodin, with a nomination. (Grodin had received more pre-nomination publicity than had Warden.) Still, Warden's "light comedy" role undoubtedly will be overshadowed by the heavy duty performances he's forced to compete with. My pick to win, with little hesitation, is John Hurt (*Midnight Express*), the British actor who so overwhelmed with his subtle, yet devastating performance as the drug-riddled Max. The vote will be close, with Walken and Dern not far behind, but Hurt should pull it out, and it's an honor richly deserved.

Best Supporting Actress. Probably the most difficult category to predict. Still, it's essentially a four-way race. Penelope Milford (*Coming Home*), as best I can remember, was all right, but I had totally forgotten her performance by the time nominations were released, and was surprised to see her name. Where is Kelly Bishop, so affecting as Jill Clayburgh's best friend in *An Unmarried Woman*? Or even Diane Keaton for *Interiors*? At any rate, I don't expect the Academy to remember Milford any better than I do, especially considering her competition. To pick the winner from the remaining four one might as well draw straws.

Although it's certainly possible that Dyan Cannon (*Heaven Can Wait*) will win in an upset, I really can't choose her. The competition's too strong. However, should the Academy decide to give nearly every award in sight to the light, frothy comedy (which could very well happen, given the current "let's-not-deal-with-it" mood of the country), her chances would increase dramatically. Cannon is blessed with a marvelous gift for comedy and an exquisite sense of timing, but something tells me this just isn't her year. No doubt there will be others.

That leaves three nominees, and my choice is based solely on intuition — not a bad criterion when the Oscars are the concern. All three women — Maggie Smith (*California Suite*), Maureen Stapleton (*Interiors*), and Meryl Streep (*The Deer Hunter*) — are spectacular. Smith and Stapleton are in a similar position, having been nominated several times before (Smith won the Oscar for Best Actress in 1969 for *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*; Stapleton has never won in two supporting nominations). In fact, my choice was more difficult before I saw Streep's performance; both Smith and Stapleton are established veterans and Academy favorites. I had just about decided to go with Stapleton on a hunch when *The Deer Hunter* finally got to town, and mercifully forced my decision another direction: in a sizable surprise, Meryl Streep will win the award. It's not often that a nominee wins the first time around, but it's not unheard of, either (Diane Keaton did it just last year). And Streep's performance is absolutely fascinating, one of the many marvels of *The Deer Hunter*. Still, a lot depends on how the membership reacts to *The Deer Hunter* as a whole; if it turns away from the Vietnam epic in other categories, it will probably turn away from Streep as well. I say this probably won't happen, but if it does, and Smith, Stapleton or Cannon win instead, I won't be upset in the least.

Best Actress. Another tough one. Ellen Burstyn (*Same Time, Next Year*) nabbed the nomination I thought might go to Marybeth Hurt (*Interiors*) or Melanie Mayron (*Girlfriends*). Burstyn is quite good as Doris, one-half of the affectionate, if adulterous, pair of lovers originally created for the stage. And she is an Academy favorite of sorts, having won Best Actress in 1974 for *Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore*. But as a whole *Same Time, Next Year* is uneven, and with the strong performances of her peers, Burstyn has to be considered a long-shot.

I really was not impressed with Jane Fonda in *Coming Home*, and do not expect her to win. Her portrayal was too bland, and at the same time too mannered and self-conscious. Also working against her, *Coming Home* was released early in the year, a very real factor indeed; the Academy, it has often been said, has a short memory. She could win a "sympathy award" for losing to Keaton last year, but that, too, seems unlikely.

Once again the choice comes down to three: Geraldine Page (*Interiors*), Jill Clayburgh (*An Unmarried Woman*), and Ingrid Berman (*Autumn Sonata*). Page was brilliant in *Interiors*, and may have the most expressive face in movies today. She also has been nominated several times before. But her part was relatively small, and *Interiors* received mixed reviews; these could be crucial. Based purely on performance, I believe Clayburgh should win. She met the challenge of a large and demanding role, displaying a wide range of emotions with great power and control. But Bergman will win. As the distraught, emotionally impotent mother in "Sonata," she was wonderfully convincing, but this in itself would not be enough for her to win the Oscar over Clayburgh. The sheer force of sentimentality will make the difference, and I do not say this disparagingly. Bergman is one of the most magnetic, important stars in Hollywood history. If she wins, she will own four Oscars, more than any other performer. And since "Sonata" may in fact be Bergman's last major work, who could really blame the Academy? If she doesn't win, it will be a mild, and perhaps melancholy, surprise.

Best Actor. I feel the least comfortable predicting here, because I haven't seen two of the films represented: *The Buddy Holly Story* (Gary Busey) and *The Boys from Brazil* (Laurence Olivier). Still, I have some confidence. I have seen Busey before (in *Straight Time*, particularly), and know he is talented and powerful. Still, as a newcomer among the nominees his chances diminish significantly. Olivier's nomination was the one major surprise this year, and Brad Davis (*Midnight Express*) deserves an apology. I can't help but believe Olivier was honored for the ninth time out of respect for his long, illustrious career rather than for his performance in "Brazil" (both the film and Olivier have received mixed reviews). In either case he is no heir apparent to the Oscar.

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Continued on page 16.

VINYLLISMS

by Dennis Haney

DISCO BITS AND PIECES

Prelude Records has a hot album release called "Fire Night Dance" by the Peter Jaques Band. Both the title cut and "Walking on Music" are receiving heavy play which should make this LP one of the year's biggest and best.

No, that's not a new disco song by the Emotions, you're hearing, but, rather, Alton McClain and Destiny doing the ultimate rip-off with "It Must Be Love."

Village People strike again with "In the Navy" from the forthcoming album "Go West." Casablanca, meanwhile, has raised the list price of their previous albums from \$7.98 to \$8.98, making Village People the first group to have their entire catalog raised all at once.

Capitol Records has finally started releasing more commercial twelve-inch singles. Three worth noting are A Taste of Honey's classic "Boogie Oogie Oogie," Desmond Child and Rouge's "Our Love is Insane," and Gonzalez' "Haven't Stopped Dancing Yet."

Although Herbie Mann's "Superman" is doing well, the original version by Celi Bee is infinitely superior. Both are currently available as twelve-inch singles.

Melba Moore follows up her successful rendition of the Bee Gees' "You Stepped Into my Life," with a new disco single entitled "Pick Me Up, I'll Dance."

Additional disco singles worth noting are Carrie Lucas' "Dance With You," the Bombers' "(Everybody) Get Dancin'" and remixed versions of Celi Bee's "Fly Me On the Wings of Love" and Cher's "Take Me Home."

Donna Summer is currently in the studio at work on a new album with producers Giorgio Moroder and Pete Bellote. Meanwhile, she has become one of only seven female solo vocalists to top both the pop single and album charts simultaneously. The Queen of Disco continues to reign!

"Bang a Gong" is the latest rock song to be redone disco style, this time by a group calling themselves Witch Queen. Other recent remakes have included Led Zeppelin's "Stairway to Heaven" and Del Shannon's old rock and roll hit "Runaway." Meanwhile, the Beach Boys are the latest to try their hand at disco with a new twelve-inch release entitled "Here Comes the Night."

Sylvester has a hot new twelve-inch single out called "I (Who Have Nothing)" from his new album "Stars." Portions of the LP were co-produced with Cerrone.

Linda Clifford's new album titled "Let Me Be Your Woman" has been released and features a sizzling disco version of "Bridge Over Troubled Water." From the lady who gave us "Runaway Love" and "If My Friends Could See Me Now," this one should be dynamite.

Madleen Kane, who scored well last year with "Rough Diamond," is back on the chart with "Forbidden Love" from the forthcoming album "Cheri."

Vicki Sue Robinson returns to the scene with the release of her new disco single "Nighttime Fantasy." Remembered best for "Turn the Beat Around" and "Hold Tight," she should score well with this latest outing, featured in the upcoming film *Nocturna*. ▽

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NEW RECORD COMPANY RELEASES GAY ALBUM

Aboveground Records, a new record company based in Philadelphia, has just announced the release of its first album, *GAY NAME GAME*, featuring singer/songwriter Tom Wilson.

Wilson, who accompanies himself on piano, has appeared at coffeehouses, bars, and conferences in Philadelphia and New York. On the record he is backed up by a small group of instrumentalists.

GAY NAME GAME is the album's title song and there are twelve others ranging from humor and satire to quiet ballads.

Writing about his appearance at The Glines in New York, *Gay Community News* (Boston) called Wilson "the surprise hit of the evening . . . the gay version of Tom Lehrer, with a little Randy Newman thrown in . . ."

Philadelphia's *Drummer*, applauding an appearance at the University of Pennsylvania, called Wilson "wry, engaging" and "appealing."

At a recent statewide conference in Pennsylvania, *Gay Era* was "completely charmed by his songs and demeanor after dinner."

The album will be available at gay bookstores and specialty shops and can be ordered directly from Aboveground Records, Box 2131, Philadelphia, PA 19103. (\$7.00 plus 50 cents postage and handling; Pennsylvania residents add 6% sales tax.)

"We're a gay company," according to a spokesperson from Aboveground, "so it's appropriate that our first offering is an upbeat, upfront gay album. We plan to record other gay artists in the near future." ▽

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Photonotes





—Photos by Joseph Kelly

The Gay Gourmet

by Georg Stojcevic

For most of us the kitchen is a place filled with the memories of good food and good times. However, it seems whenever we attempt to recreate that good food in our own kitchens the results are a mixture of chaos, bedlam, and severe heartburn.

It is the intent of this column to lead you through the culinary battlefield and help you to achieve the basic sense that will enable you to prepare and enjoy food that is edible, reasonably inexpensive, and relatively hassle-free.

The recipes that I will pass on to you are not very fancy; I'll leave the Cordon Bleu to those souls with more time, money, and nerves.

Whether your kitchen is large enough for a game of rugby or smaller than a breadbox, a few things remain the same. In the pots and pans department you should have some kind of kettle or large pot, at least a couple of gallons worth, and a few medium and small saucepans, a skillet, and perhaps a tea kettle. This basic set is a must if you want to rise above the prepared/tinned/frozen neofood syndrome.

Lay in some spices — garlic, cayenne (red pepper), basil, oregano, chili, curry, thyme, as well as good old salt and pepper. These basics can give a dish that borders on the mediocre a push into the divine.

Don't forget a few utensils — wooden spoons, slotted spoons, spatula, wire whip (cool it you fetishists) and perhaps a good strainer. With these varied implements of destruction you should be able to launch a fair-sized culinary catastrophe.

Now that you have a vague idea of what a kitchen is all about let us get into the more practical side of things. The recipes that I'll be sending your way in this column are all laid out with simplicity in mind, and after you get the hang of each one, please vary, experiment. Cooking can be an art form as well as a whole bunch of fun. ▽

VEGETABLE SOUPS

Italian Vegetable Soup (Minestrone)

2 qts. water	6 - 8 beef bouillon cubes
1 cup celery chopped	1 onion chopped in very small pieces
4 - 6 carrots chopped	½ cup parsley chopped
4 tomatoes chopped	Dash garlic

Let the above come to a boil, then turn down heat and let simmer a couple of hours. At that point, add:

2 cups macaroni	1 can garbanzo beans
1 can stewed tomatoes	1 can pinto beans

Let cook till macaroni is tender, add salt, pepper, and a dash of cayenne. Have a little crusty bread and enjoy.

Farmers Market Vegetable Soup

2 qts. water	6 - 8 beef bouillon cubes
1 lb. fresh green beans	1 lb. fresh peas
5 fresh tomatoes	4 - 5 small zucchini squash
4 med. size potatoes	1 pkg. frozen corn
1 pkg. frozen lima beans	4 carrots

Slice and cut up fresh veggies and combine with water and bouillon; let cook for an hour and a half. Add frozen veggies and cook another half hour. Salt and pepper to your taste. A good way to end a long day.

Potato Soup

8 - 10 large potatoes cubed	2 onions chopped small
1 quart milk	1 stick margarine or butter
2 cups water	5 slices cooked bacon

Salt and a generous amount of pepper

Combine above ingredients and cook till potatoes are well done. Stir often to prevent scorching. Use low heat. Very good with hefty sandwiches and beer.

Bean Soup Southside Style

2 qts. water	½ lb. bacon or ham, chopped
2 onions chopped	4 potatoes cubed
4 carrots sliced	Salt and pepper
1 lb. Northern or pea beans soaked overnight and rinsed	

Combine all of above and cook till beans are tender, about 2 - 2½ hours. Great with franks or sausage.

Recycled Soup

This recipe is a do-it-yourself-as-you-go-along kind of recipe. Just put anywhere from 2 to 4 quarts of water in a pot and add leftover beef and bones, pork and bones, etc. Add a bit of onion, salt, pepper, and let boil for a while, like an hour or two. Strain out the bones and debris and add any veggies, pasta, rice you feel like; cook until they are done. This is also a great place to use up leftover veggies, noodles etc. You can make some really good combinations in this way. Bon appetit.

Serbian Hunter Soup

This recipe came to me in a drunken stupor. After indulging in a wee trifle too much of slivovitz (the fiery native plum brandy of my homeland, Serbia) I decided a meal with above-average restorative power was called for. So I devised this number to set me right. It worked and not only will destroy a hang-over, but is downright tasty. Even non-drunks and non-Serbs found it appealing.

1 qt. water	1 qt. cheap red wine
6 white onions	1 pound smoked garlic sausage
1 small chicken cut up	4 potatoes
2 cloves fresh garlic	6 tomatoes
1 bunch green onions	3 tsp. cayenne
2 tsp. Tabasco	1 pint tomato juice
2 tsp. basil	5 tsp. black pepper
1 stalk celery, chopped	Salt to taste

Combine all of above and cook at least three hours. Invite over some friends, break a loaf of crusty bread and enjoy. It is spicy and will get your blood moving again.

BOOK REVIEWS



by Marian Phillips

Herland. By Charlotte Perkins Gilman. 146 pages. Pantheon. \$2.95.

I have my prejudices — as indeed who hasn't? — and two of them are that I don't like utopian novels because they bore me, and I do like feminist literature but it depresses me (and well it might.) So when I came across a book whose front cover said *Herland: A Lost Feminine Utopian Novel* by Charlotte Perkins Gilman, I sighed, reminded myself that even reviewing books has its drab moments, and started to slog through it.

Slogging was unnecessary: I flew through it instead. When I finished the last page I paused briefly in order to make out a list of people that I wanted to send copies to, and then went back to the beginning and read it all over again. From the first line to the last, *Herland* is a jewel of a novel — fast-paced, entertaining and thoughtful. Everyone should read it at least once, merely because it's clever, well-written and instructive. For women, however, it is additionally recommended that you reread it on certain specific occasions, to wit: when you start thinking that if one more man patronizes you because of your sex, you're going to punch him in the nose; when you've been subjected to a chorus of insults, wolf-whistles and obscene suggestions because you choose to walk down the street alone; and finally, when it gets to the point where a man calls from his car, "Hey baby, you need a ride?" and it takes a conscious effort of will for you to refrain from screaming insults and breaking his windshield. *Herland* is medicine for all of these symptoms, guaranteed to soothe, heal and otherwise repair the abraded nerves which, like the pugilist's broken nose, are the occupational hazard of the full-time feminist.

Gilman's novel (which was serialized in her magazine *The Forerunner* in 1915, but never reprinted until now) presents us with a country entirely populated by women and completely cut off from the rest of the world until it is discovered by three (male) explorers. Between them the men show us the two ends and middle of the sexist continuum: Jeff is a Southern gentleman who feels that women are weak, helpless darlings with the souls of angels; Terry believes that there are two kinds of women — "those he wanted and those he didn't," and whose pet theory is that all women love to be "mastered," a word which for him encompasses everything from overbearing rudeness to rape; and Van (the narrator) represents a man of reason — prejudiced, certainly, but willing to change his opinions when faced with undeniable facts.

The emotional atmosphere in *Herland* is in striking contrast to that of most feminist writings. Feminist literature as a whole is written in a context of physical menace. Women, who are (in general) smaller than men, and who are usually given little or no physical training, are constantly threatened with violence, either implicit or explicit. We cannot walk out alone at night for fear of assault and rape. We are advised not to resist a rapist because he'll probably be strong enough to murder and/or mutilate us. We need multiple locks on our doors and windows because we cannot be safe even in our homes. The deference men have exacted from women for so many centuries is due precisely to their ability to punish us if we don't comply, and although nowadays a

threat is frequently disguised as patronage, the violence surfaces quickly enough if a man is challenged (as almost any uppity feminist can testify.)

In *Herland* Gilman has shown us a country where, because the women outnumber the men a million to three, this physical threat is missing, and it is this which makes the novel so relaxing. Terry blusters and threatens, and instead of trembling, the women "would gather around and watch him as if it was an exhibition, politely, but with evident interest." The women are never bitter or scornful, but neither are they intimidated. The point is driven home at the end of the book when the three men fall in love with, and marry, three women of Herland. Terry's desire to "master" his wife leads him to pull out what in our society is the male trump card — violence. He attempts to rape her, and — but I won't spoil it for you, since to this particular uppity feminist it was the high point of the novel. It leads to a trial in which Terry disdains even to defend himself — because, as Van notes, "in a court in our country he would have been held quite 'within his rights,' of course." Instead, Terry told his judges

that they were incapable of understanding a man's needs, a man's desires, a man's point of view. He called them neuters, epicenes, bloodless, sexless creatures. He said they could of course kill him — as so many insects could — but that he despised them nonetheless.

And all those stern grave mothers did not seem to mind his despising them, not in the least.

This passage is typical Gilman — unfailingly polite, always grave, but with goodnatured merriment practically bubbling out as she faces and deflates the most swollen manifestations of male pride. This repressed laughter takes her triumphantly to the finish as the men, about to be expelled from Herland, are requested by their guides not to reveal Herland's existence until the women deem it advisable. Terry, consistent to the last, refuses, and threatens to bring an expedition and force entry.

"Then" they said quite calmly, "he must remain an absolute prisoner, always."

"Anesthesia would be kinder," urged Moadine.

"And safer," added Zava.

"He will promise, I think," said Ellador.

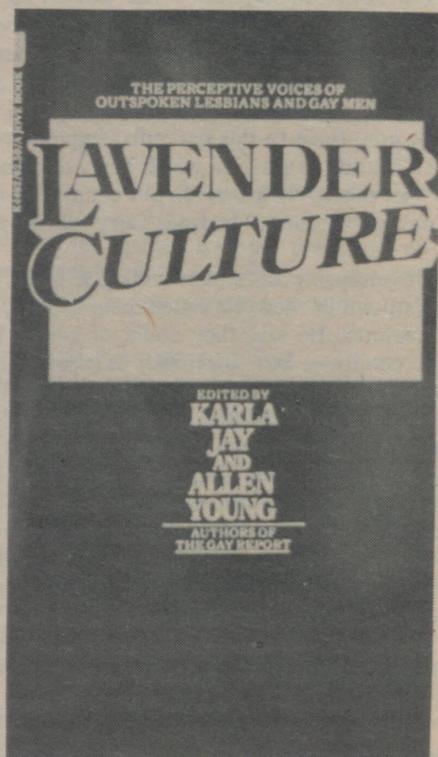
And he did. With which agreement we at last left Herland. ▽

GAY BOOKS PUBLISHED

NEW YORK — St. Martin's Press has announced plans to regularly release, in both paperback and hardcover editions, outstanding fiction with gay themes and settings. Michael Denny, editor for the program and associate editor for *Christopher Street Magazine*, explained the purpose of the project: "We need gay fiction for two reasons — one, to strengthen the sense of self-identity and two, to develop gay writers and artists." St. Martin's has undertaken the gay fiction program with the realization that gay readers now constitute a major sector of the book-buying public, and that there is a lack of well-written literature available to these readers relevant to their own lifestyles.

The three novels chosen to inaugurate the program are: *David at Olivet* by Wallace Hamilton; *Special Teachers/Special Boys* by Peter Fisher and Marc Rubin; and *A Queer Kind of Death* by George Baxt. Publication date: February 28, 1979. Price: \$4.96 paperback; \$10.00 hardcover. ▽

Book Reviews continued on next page.



by John Harrison.

Lavender Culture. Karla Jay and Allen Young, editors. Jove/HBJ, 1979. \$2.50.

Although I am unacquainted with Jay and Young's previous editorial endeavors (*Out of the Closet, After You're Out*), having now read *Lavender Culture* I will certainly take time to read them. Presenting on equal footings writings by both gay women and men, the book is divided into more than 40 short essays and articles with topics ranging from "Forum on Sado-Masochism" to "The Cleveland Bar Scene in the Forties," from "Images of Gays in Rock Music" to "Aging Is a State of Mind."

Two quotes give some sense of the scope of the book. The first is from Ian Young's *Gay Sunshine* article called "The Poetry of Male Love":

A sense of the past, or of its own past, is infinitely valuable to any group that feels the need to define itself and to create or develop a sense of community. A knowledge of gay history and culture, and especially of gay literature, is worthwhile not only to put the larger questions of cultural development in their right perspective, but to help individuals now to realize themselves, to see, and to act.

It is precisely this lack of community sense that keeps so many of us in the closet, that leaves so many of us to be exploited by straight society. A viable sense of community is initiated by strong interest in gay literature and thought.

The other quote carries this sense of community to the theater. From Don Shewey's article "Theater: Gays in the Marketplace vs. Gays for Themselves," a comment from playwright Dorie Wilson:

When I first started the theater, the first response from people was, "Gay has nothing to do with my art, gay is what I do when I get to bed." It seems to me as long as we define ourselves only sexually, then we are also going to have a slight puritanism about sex and so a slight dismissal of any public statement of our gayness.

This definition of homosexuality, apart from what one does in bed, is beautifully expressed in many of the lesbian articles in the book. The double sexual repression entailed in being a woman and a lesbian has led many women further along the activist path than their gay brothers. For some indication of Karla Jay's "community sense," from her article "No Man's Land":

Where there are enough lesbians in any given town or city, women have usually tried to build alternatives [to gay bars] . . . The advantage [of coffee houses, rap groups, or consciousness-raising groups] over the bars is that one's primary purpose in the bar, however masked, is usually to cruise, and that underlying assumption reduces us to sex objects and often fills the air with tension.

No one volume can pretend to encapsulate the total range of gay thought in the 1970's but *Lavender Culture* is enjoyable reading, finely edited, well representing a variety of the gay experience in American today. ▽

by G. P. Stojcevic

A Queer Kind of Death by George Baxt — St. Martins Press paperback, \$4.95

When this book first made its appearance in the rather paranoid atmosphere of the pre-stonewall, pre-gay lib year of 1966, it received a fair amount of critical acclaim as a mystery novel. The strong undercurrents and the fact that the detective and main characters were gay was played down or simply not mentioned at all. Now revived in a quality paperback format, the book is once again getting some attention, and not as just another mystery.

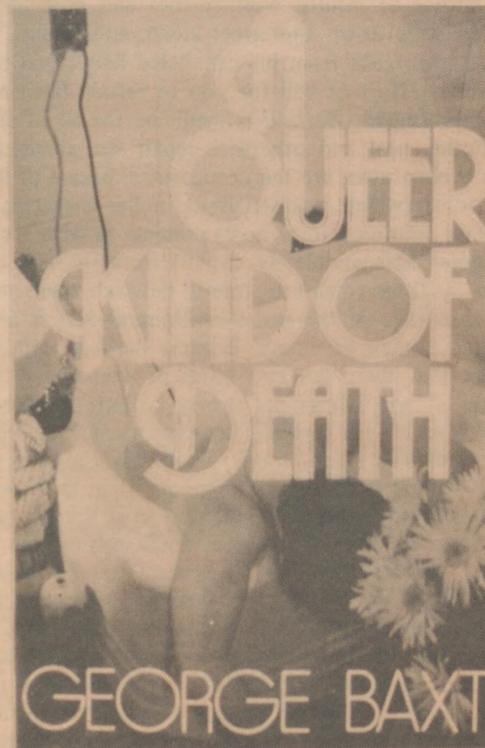
A Queer Kind of Death is filled with all types of extremely complex and well-delineated characters. The plot, that of the murder of an actor-model-hustler-blackmailer in his bath by electrocution, evolves through varied interplay by the various people that were either victimized by him or who inhabited his world. Two characters are the main focus and it is through their eyes, their actions, that the events unfold.

Seth Piro, a young writer in his early thirties, former lover and roommate of the victim, is a key suspect. In an attempt to clear himself and come to a better understanding of his life he decides to write a novel about the life of the victim. In the process of finding out all the facts, the other characters react strongly, with fear, panic, and hostility. The possible motives and suspects mount up quickly.

Enter Pharaoh Love, a black New York City police detective. He questions everyone and opens many closets, and during the course of his investigation begins to fall in love with his number-one suspect. The pieces begin to fall in place and a most tangled web is woven.

The conclusion of the book is a beautiful knockout punch that was surprising, yet totally believable. Suffice it to say, it is one of the most unusual and interesting cocktail parties you will have the occasion to attend.

George Baxt has given us a universe that is morally bankrupt, peopled with selfish, bitching, wounded, savage, and loving creatures that are both completely alien and familiar at the same time. His New York City is a nerve-jangling paranoid nightmare that flows like some dark, garbage-strewn river under the very core of our souls. You hate the victim, yet he is no worse than any of the living. Even Pharaoh Love and Seth Piro have their own ends, their own needs, and both scheme and plot to serve them. Murder is the obvious crime, its solution the obvious concluding point of the book, but Baxt has given us and left us with much more than that. This is a book that should be read over again. Even at the first reading it will gnaw at you, grate, jar, offend, make you feel a little less complacent with the world, with yourself. Whether you are gay or straight, a mystery fan or not, this book should not be missed. ▽



Retrospective Dive

— Scott Lind

Retrospective dive
 crystal sea-shell strands breaking
 fronds of a froth of waters
 like Captain Nemo descending below the
 gloom meeting new enchantsome sea
 creatures like octopusses
 legs capturing one
 or arms wringing

rock upon which one lays
 his suit so sleek so warm
 laying it wet upon the rock
 cliff face ending in a tumble of stone
 crystal salt surroundings of sun melding
 beating upon the rock whereupon one lays
 his suit to dry before he falls
 quite naturally in
 quite in so he looks up hardly stinging
 clear pacific waters through the surf
 swimsuit sleekly folding let no
 one come

far off a boat drifts
 around the cove a boy points
 lighthouse set turnings of gulls
 around its shaft wheeling
 flowing wheeling

bubbles dominion overcome pressure
 building inside to burst one long burst
 of air trapped inside gasping lungs
 — retrospective dive —
 so breathing out and in quickly
 so breathing out and in and out one
 forgets lostness of shells clinking
 amidst shuddering blazing salt volcanic
 rocks and sand swishing with the waves in

late one night a bleat of seaship
 calls the birds the gulls the birds the
 gulls calls starshine clinking bells
 shadowless wind and silence
 before which one balls
 must submit to it

recalls without the moon to see

Night trip

— G. P. Stojcevic

A young man with hair unkempt,
 casually at ease —
 waiting for the bus —
 day almost spent,
 light soon passing,
 the nights beginning —
 then dancing — letting loose,
 midnight cruiser in
 a harlequin parade of
 bars, faces, bars, lovers
 moving down quiet streets
 to hungry rooms where
 bodies find release and
 sometimes even love —
 tongues caress in the darkness,
 young men, hard men,
 bodies press, hold, stroke,
 Asses taut, spread, penetrate —
 As the night reaches
 its peak — finds climax
 before the coming dawn . . .

poetry

Turning

— M. D. Williams 3/78

turning
 i see,
 seeing,
 i know,
 knowing,
 i cry out.
 as the
 loverushes
 out,
 leaving only

emptiness.

and the
 fearflows
 through me,
 leaving

nothing.

and in the
 nothingness

i turn

to meet
 myself;

turning

once again.

PERFORMING ARTS

by GARY REESE

For its mid-March concert, the Austin Symphony joined forces with the Choral Union to present Bach's *Mass in B-Minor*. It was a wise decision to concentrate an entire program on this choral masterpiece. Bach's *Mass* is a perfectly proportioned piece of musical architecture, both grand and sublime in expression. The performers assembled under Akiro Endo's direction did honor to this music and to the profound aspects of the liturgical text.

That the Choral Union shone brightest should come as no surprise. The sheer size of the choir — almost 150 strong with the women outnumbering the men almost two to one — was over three times the force required effectively to perform the work. This limited somewhat the dynamic range — things tended to go from loud to louder — and a clear delivery of the contrapuntal texture. But this did not prevent the Choral Union from giving a vivid and inspired performance, particularly in the mid-section of the credo — the "Et incarnatus," "Crucifixus," and the "Et resurrexit."

The same could not be said for the four soloists. The tenor and mezzo-soprano in her "Agnus Dei" solo struggled with pitch problems and seemed hard pressed just to stay in tune. (Although, in all fairness, Ms. Wilmore's solo, "Qui sedis ad dextram Patris," was the most pleasing of the *Missa*.) Discord was

not confined to vocalists. In the bass aria, "Et in Spiritum sanctum," the obbligato of the oboes broke out into a reedy argument where harmonious collaboration should have prevailed.

More disappointing than any particulars, however, was conductor Endo's conception of the work. While the pacing never became sluggish — the solemn piety of the *Kyrie* being nicely rendered — Endo did not offer much variety in his tempi and at times his interpretation threatened to become prolix rather than revelatory. The orchestra was never able to match the sense of exaltation the choir imparted. Nevertheless, for the most part Endo kept the considerable musical forces coherently together and was successful in projecting an overall effect of the spiritual and the monumental, if sublimity and intimacy did evade him.

Unquestionably, the star "soloist" of the evening — to judge from the applause — was concertmaster Leonard Posner. His accompaniment of the alto aria "Laudemas te" in the *Gloria* almost turned it into a violin solo with alto obbligato! Posner drew a strong, sweet string tone which incredibly filled every corner of the auditorium and was a model of sterling, if not entirely self-effacing, instrumental support. ▽

Poppers...

Continued from page 7.

ing up suddenly. If the drop in blood pressure becomes too severe, the person will faint. Few people do poppers to the point of actually fainting — but many feel a bit intoxicated or unsteady on their feet.

All drugs, including poppers, involve certain risks and side effects. The decision to use a drug involves weighing the expected benefits against the risks involved.

Some of the risks involved with poppers are what might be termed mechanical — they involve the circumstances in which the drug is used.

— Butyl nitrite preparations are extremely flammable. This must be considered when poppers are done at a party, where there may be candles or where people are smoking.

— Butyl nitrite cannot support life. Only oxygen can do that. Things like getting into a plastic bag with butyl nitrite are extremely foolhardy.

— Poppers induce temporary faintness and intoxication. Doing poppers while driving, around dangerous machinery, or where there are lots of hard sharp objects to fall against is decidedly unwise.

Poppers can cause undesirable effects including nausea, vomiting, dizziness, fainting, cold sweats, and, most often, headaches. In fact, it is not uncommon to hear only of ill effects: "All it did to me was give me a headache." Adverse effects can be warning signs. Any recurrent or strong adverse effect should be viewed as a message to leave poppers alone.

On the other hand, butyl nitrite has received a number of bad raps. Because they are sniffed, poppers are sometimes associated with paint, glue, gasoline, and other petroleum products. While paint and glue are extremely dangerous inhalants, they are in no way related to butyl. Nitrites are not guilty on this charge.

There has also been increasing concern about nitrites and nitrates as preservatives in food as possible causes of cancer. While this is an open question, the danger would seem to lie in the introduction of the substance into the digestive tract. There does not appear to be an association between inhaling the nitrite vapors and cancer. Butyl, of course, should never be swallowed.

Poppers do not seem to have a potential for physical addiction, although users note that in the course of an evening's use, it takes more and more to get off. Some people report a saturation point at which no additional sniffing produces a high.

All drugs, however, have the potential for psychological addiction. This is especially true of sexually related drugs; people tend to substitute the drugs for sex or believe they need them in order to have sex. The feeling of the "need"

for the drug in certain situations is a sure sign of psychological dependence.

While there are no documented cases of death or serious harm from the use of butyl, still there are possible dangers and certain "high-risk" situations in which it is wisest to avoid it.

Because of its strong effect on the cardiovascular system, persons with any form of cardiovascular disease would be well advised to avoid nitrites, except when taken under the advice of a physician. This includes persons with *angina pectoris*, varicose veins, coronary heart disease, hardening of the arteries, and high or low blood pressure. Also, for anyone taking a medication associated with any of these diseases, especially medication for high or low blood pressure, using poppers is just asking for trouble.

In theory, poppers could cause a variety of dangerous effects in susceptible individuals, ranging from stroke to shock.

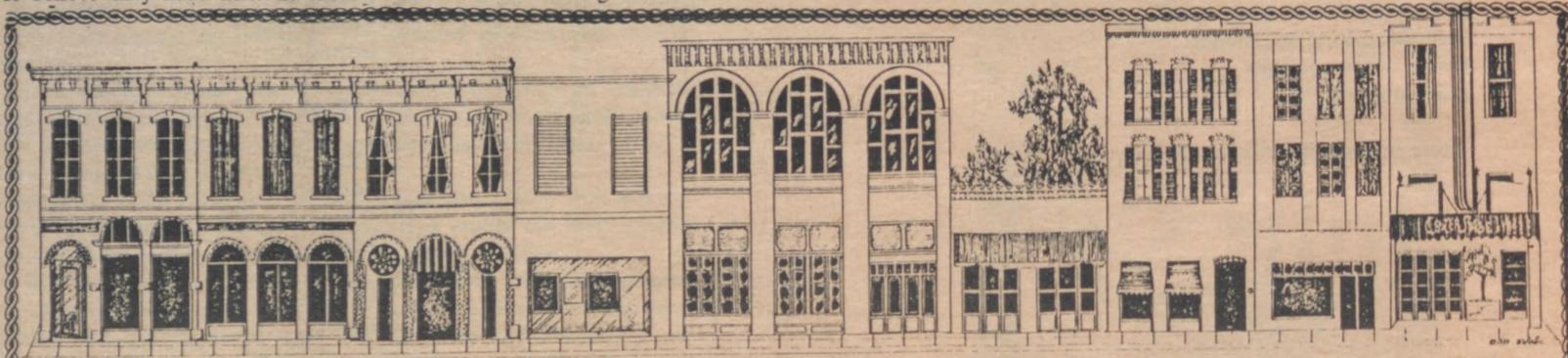
Reports of bad effects from poppers are most common in people who are dehydrated — probably because fluid in the body is a primary means of coping with blood pressure variations. Avoid poppers when drinking alcoholic beverages heavily, particularly in the sun, or when taking diuretic medications (water pills.)

Because poppers open up the blood stream, they may dislodge blood clots and the clots may become lodged in damaging positions. Persons with a history of clots or who take anticoagulant medications may find themselves in dire straits if they use poppers. Persons with kidney or liver disease or persons taking other vasodilating or vasoconstricting drugs may be in a high risk group. Persons subject to migraine may find that poppers aggravate their condition.

Even if you are not diagnosed as belonging to one of these high-risk groups, there is always a certain risk involved with any drug. On the other hand, very many people seem to use this drug regularly without apparent ill effects.

Legally, butyl is in limbo. Various authorities have attempted to limit its manufacture and sale, but without the force of law they can be ignored with impunity. But if a manufacturer or retailer implies the drug is meant to be inhaled, he may be in violation of numerous food and drug laws — which generally have less teeth than controlled substances acts.

If you are going to use butyl, then some comparison shopping may be in order. Prices of nationally advertised brands may vary by as much as 300 per cent. All of the well-known brands are butyl nitrites — although the chemical names on the labels may vary. Butyl is a fairly unstable chemical, so shopworn bottles may indicate that potency has been lost. Imitations and "bootlegs" are common, as are fly-by-nights which may produce inferior or adulterated products — but it is not necessary to pay the highest price to get as good as the market has to offer. ▽



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- Located on the sidewalks of the 200 through 700 block of Historic Old Pecan Street (East Sixth Street).

AUSTIN BOTANICAL NOTES

*Stan
Bear*

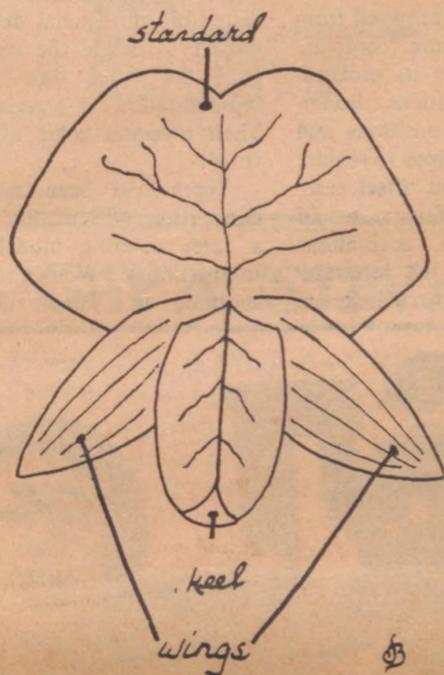
Some families of flowering plants are easy to recognize and one that is quite prominent in Austin during the spring is the legume family. This is the family to which bluebonnets, peas, beans, mequite trees, red bud trees, soybeans, wisteria and clover all belong.

The familial relationship in this otherwise diverse group is most evident in the basic similarity of the flowers. The flowers, which are said to be "papilionaceous," are bilaterally symmetrical and have five petals: The "standard" which is usually purrigh and large; two "wings"; and the "keel" which consists of two petals fused together along one edge and which wraps around the stamens (ten of them) and the pistil. There is a good deal of variation between species in the relative positions of the keel and wings, but almost always the ovary at the base of the pistil looks like a tiny pea or bean. (Of course the ovary eventually develops into a pea or bean or something very similar.)

This family is of extreme economic importance not only because it is an important food source but also because of the effects of the bacteria which inhabit nodules on the roots of the legumes. These bacteria take nitrogen (N₂) out of the air and convert it into a form (N₀₃) which will dissolve well in water. This essential nutrient is thus available in the soil to other plants. Legumes, therefore, are said to "rejuvenate" the soil in which they grow and are frequently planted in depleted fields to help rebuild the soil.

Some members of the Leguminosae are poisonous and/or hallucinogenic. This family has traditionally been called the "Leguminosae" but during the past 25 years it has also come to be known as the "Fabaceae," a term which is more consistent with the nomenclature guidelines set forth in the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature. ▽

A Typical Papilionaceous Flower



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Proposition 2

Vote NO on

Propositions 1,3,&4

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March...

Continued from page 1.

the march, claiming they needed more time to organize for it.

Chuck Renslow of the Metropolitan Gay Business Association of Chicago agreed with the Houstonians. "I'm pushing for a 1980 date in order to get properly organized," he said.

Differences aside, Shiflett and Ray Hill, also from Houston, later agreed to serve on the interim steering committee for the march.

An important decision on the nature of the planning organization was made early in the conference when the delegates accepted a proposal from the women's caucus to assure "complete gender parity throughout its proceedings and march preparations, leadership, publications, paid positions and in all related areas." The vote to require an equal voice for women offset early accusations that the conference would be dominated by men, accusations stemming in part from the letter inviting organizations to participate in

the conference, which encouraged, but did not require, gender parity in the delegations.

Since delegates to the conference represented organizations, a disproportionate number of them came from large cities with highly developed gay communities like San Francisco and New York. On the second day the conference was criticized in a proposal from the Hinterlands caucus, which consisted of delegates from non-urban and non-coastal areas. Bringing to light antagonisms already glimpsed, they accused the delegates of "cultural and regional imperialism," and "blatant disregard of regional delegates." They moved to delete the word "national" from the march title "until adequate representation of regions is obtained." Their proposal failed by a vote of 74 to 24.

There had been talk before the convention of scuttling it in favor of a later meeting modelled after the International Women's Year Convention, in which delegates were

chosen by regions.

But the conference decided the principal organizing structure for the march would be a steering committee whose members would represent every region of the country equally. The rest of the organizing body is to consist of a national board made up of representatives of groups supporting the march and a coordinating committee whose members would represent two proposed offices and other committees.

The delegates accepted a list of demands for the march, which reads:

1. Repeal all anti-lesbian/gay laws.
 2. Pass a comprehensive lesbian/gay rights bill in Congress.
 3. Issue a Presidential executive order banning discrimination based on sexual orientation in the Federal Government and in Federally contracted public employment.
 4. Non-discrimination in lesbian mother and gay father custody cases.
 5. Full rights for gay youth, including revision of the age of consent laws.
- Gary van Ooteghem, publisher of

Houston's *Upfront*, a gay paper, has been advocating for some time a "human rights" march on the capital which would be organized primarily by homosexuals but would avoid being identified as a gay event. Originally set at May 6, the date was later changed to October 28. Claiming that "Houston human rights activists are the furthest advanced of any in the country," an article in the January 12, 1979 issue of *Upfront* said that "large numbers of gays would not attend a gay march, but would support the more broad human rights concept."

Van Ooteghem's proposal was soundly rejected at the Philadelphia conference.

Unless conflicts evident at the Philadelphia convention grow and destroy what solidarity exists between lesbians and gay men across the country, we are likely to witness this year a spectacle never imagined before: a million openly homosexual people on the streets of Washington. ▽



Co-chairs Walter Lear and Mariana Hernández.

Cinema...

Continued from page 8.

Once again, there are three nominees who could very well win. Warren Beatty (*Heaven Can Wait*) is an enigmatic, mythified darling in Hollywood; he may overwhelm everybody with his magnetism and sexiness, but not with his somnambular performance in this film, his personal brainchild. Once previously nominated, Beatty could steal the award, but I say he won't unless "Heaven" sweeps most of the categories. Don't hold your breath.

Jon Voight (*Coming Home*) was a favorite throughout most of the year, and may indeed pull it out. His warm, sensitive portrayal of a paraplegic Vietnam vet practically saved the movie. In his favor: he has been nominated before. Working against him: like Fonda, Voight must contend with the Academy's poor memory of springtime films. My bet is that Robert DeNiro (*The Deer*

Hunter) will take home the Oscar. He has been growing slowly since his electrifying performance in *The Godfather, Part II*, and the Academy has been watching closely, offering first one Best Actor nomination (for *Taxi Driver*) and now another. With *The Deer Hunter*, DeNiro firmly establishes himself as a major talent and artist. He makes superb acting appear effortless; his concentration and his ability to communicate with or without words are amazing. I can't help but believe that, in the Academy's eyes, his time has come.

Best Picture of 1978. Predicting this category is always tricky business. To guess Best Picture with any hope of success, at least two things must be considered. First, how narrow is the nominated film's subject and theme? Second, how closely does the film reflect the nation's "tone"? That is, do the attitudes and the mood of current American society better projected in this nominated film than the others? I think these are important considerations, and they often work together. *Annie Hall*, for example, was not a narrow film; it dealt with a very fundamental concern in our society: the interpersonal relationship, and how it works — or doesn't work — under the pressures and priorities of the seventies. Since this is a topic that is relevant and important to almost everyone today, it follows that the film also reflected the "tone" of America to a substantial degree. Consequently it wasn't really surprising that *Annie Hall* won Best Picture.

What about this year? I'm afraid that *Midnight Express*, which documents the personal ordeal of an American youth imprisoned in Turkey for drug smuggling, is too narrow a film to win. *An Unmarried Woman* is not really "narrow"; it deals with a woman's perspective of love, and coping with change and newfound self-reliance. That is relevant to everyone — women, and those who women affect in some way. Still, the film has a sort of upper-class bias that lessens its overall impact, and it doesn't carry the social consciousness that distinguishes the other dramas nominated. So I rule it out.

Coming Home and *The Deer Hunter*, among those newly emerging films that try to bring the Vietnam War to some sort of meaningful perspective in the American conscience, should be considered together for the purposes of the Best Picture award. Vietnam is not a narrow concern in any sense; though some of us would rather not think about the war and its consequences, it remains in our minds, and therefore is relevant in one way or another to all of us. The question is, "If competing alone, which of the two war films would win the award, based on its ability to deal with the concern most relevantly, skillfully and powerfully?" *The Deer Hunter* would probably come out ahead of *Coming Home*. It is more ambitious (to some extent *Coming Home* is contained within it) if not necessarily more skillful. And, in my mind, it is more powerful, though of course there is room for disagreement here. Still, I believe, *The Deer Hunter* wins out.

So that leaves two movies to consider head-to-head: *The Deer Hunter* and the one comedy nominated, *Heaven Can Wait*. To speak of the latter as "narrow" or "irrelevant" is ironically useless; where a light comedy is concerned, its escapism is precisely what people like about it. Its irrelevance to its relevance, and in this case that's a powerful force indeed. *Heaven Can Wait* is a slick, classy daydream, full of wit and gentle sarcasm. So the choice for Best Picture comes down to two films as different as night and day; there can be no hazy allegiance. The Academy will swing either to a painfully relevant emotionally purging movie, or to a joyous harmless fairy tale. Whichever way the Academy chooses, the decision will influence winners all the way down the line. I believe the award will go to *The Deer Hunter*. But the selection of either film will be an interesting reflection on the times in which we live.

Best Director. I don't mess with this one. Twenty-three out of the past twenty-five years, the Director award has gone to the person responsible for the Best Picture. Since I have picked *The Deer Hunter* as Best Film, I would be foolish not to pick the director of that film, Michael Cimino.

Other picks. Cinematography: Nestor Almendros, *Days of Heaven*; Best Original Score: Giorgio Moroder, *Midnight Express*; Original Song, "Hopelessly Devoted to You," from *Grease*. ▽

ALL AMERICAN NEWS

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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Red Rider Preservation Society
 Urban Survival Skill Fair
 Waterloo Park - 10 am till dusk.

4/01/79
ALGPC Steering Committee Meeting
 Stokes Building, 3rd floor conference room, 1 pm.

4/4 - 6/79
"The Honorable Urashima Taro"
 Hogg Auditorium, UT
 Tickets: \$3.00/adults, \$2.00/students.

4/11/79
GCS Coordinating Council Meeting
 2330 Guadalupe, 8 pm.

4/17/79
DANCE FESTIVAL
 B. Iden Payne Theatre, UT
 Tickets: \$3.00/adults, \$2.00/students.

4/17/79
INTERNATIONAL PIANO SERIES
 Janina Fialkowska, Canadian
 For information phone: 471-5319

4/18/79
GCS General Meeting
 2330 Guadalupe, 8 pm.

4/15/79
Medieval Faire
 Waterloo Park, 12th & Red River
 12 pm till dusk. Admission free.

4/18/79
Harlem Opera
 Hogg Auditorium, UT, 8 pm.
 For more information phone: 471-5319

4/20/79
AUSTIN SYMPHONY PERFORMANCE
 Municipal Auditorium, 8 pm.

4/22/79
ALGPC Regular Meeting
 Location to be announced.
 For more information phone:
 Gay Community Services at 477-6699.

4/30/79
TASHI: Quartet in Performance
 Paramount Theatre, 8 pm.
 Tickets: \$1.00 & \$4.00.

GAY AUSTIN needs you!

Issue by issue, GAY AUSTIN has grown steadily since it began as a mimeographed newsletter a few short years ago. With a little help, it can continue to grow into the kind of newspaper the Austin gay and lesbian community needs. It can continue to be a guide to the entertainment and cultural events you are looking for. It can become a forum for debate on issues important to our community. And it can become a dependable source of news on events in Austin and beyond that will affect your life but that never seem to be covered by other news media.

You can help.

- 1 You can contribute articles, news stories, news tips, letters, poems, photographs, whatever you would like to share with the rest of us. Mail your contributions to GAY AUSTIN, 2330 Guadalupe, Austin, Texas 78705, or bring them to the GCS office.
- 2 You can subscribe. Sure, the paper is distributed free in many local businesses but if you aren't a frequent patron of those businesses or if you don't happen to get there before the free copies run out, you may miss something important.

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GAY MORMONS ORGANIZE
 - Ron Moss

Affirmation/Gay Mormons United has just undergone a leadership change in the state of Texas. The group is open to all active, inactive, and former Latter-Day Saints and friends. Meetings are held weekly in Dallas, Houston and Austin. Chapter meetings are also held once a month alternating from city to city. For further information about Affirmation, you may write P.O. Box 50952, Dallas, Texas, 75250 or contact the following branch leaders: in Dallas, call Steve at 214-528-9641; in Houston call Jerel at 713-449-2433; and in Austin call Ron at 512-443-4100.

GAY AUSTIN CLASSIFIEDS

Gay Austin reaches a very special audience which other Austin newspapers just can't match. To help you communicate with the gay community, we include a Classified section. As an additional service, you can remain anonymous and we will assign a number to your ad, notifying you of all responses. All ads must be submitted and paid for by the publication deadline which is the 15th of each month prior to publication.

Check one:

I would like to place a _____ word classified in the _____ issue of *Gay Austin*. \$3.00 for 20 words, 10 cents each additional word.

I would like to place an anonymous _____ word classified in the _____ issue of *Gay Austin*. GCS will keep my name confidential and notify me of all responses. \$4.00 for 20 words, 15 cents each additional word.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

_____ / _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ /

1 2 3 4 5

_____ / _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ /

6 7 8 9 10

_____ / _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ /

11 12 13 14 15

_____ / _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ /

16 17 18 19 20

Additional words: _____

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

Classifieds

Counseling: Michael C. Menefee, Ph.D., 2813 Rio Grande, 476-5419.

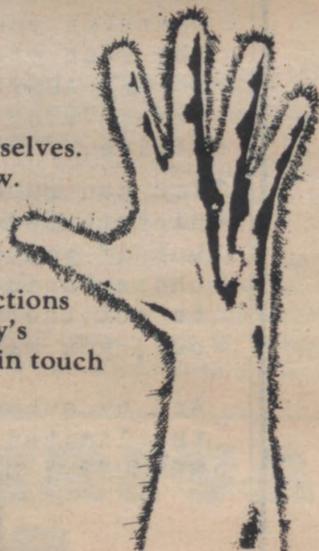
The Vital Energy

All the energy we ever need is within ourselves. The will to progress, the initiative to grow. All this and more can be discovered any Saturday at Safari.

The body, mind, and sexuality are connections to our own energy source. Safari Saturday's feature a different healing art for getting in touch with your body;

Herbal Foot Bath, Hand, Foot, Face Massage and much more.

For more information call (512) 472-6828.



2004 1/2 Guadalupe Austin, Texas 78705 (512) 472-6828

The advertisements in *Gay Austin* signify that these establishments support the work of Gay Community Services. Patronize them and let them know you appreciate their support.

THE GUIDE TO GAY AUSTIN

ADULT BOOKSTORES

All American News	2532 Guadalupe	478-0222
Stallion Bookstore	706 East 6th	477-0148

APARTMENT LOCATORS

Grace Hall's Apt. Locators	324 S. Congress	472-7201
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BARS

Austin Country	705 Red River	472-0418
Hollywood (women)	304 W. 4th	472-0018
New Apartment	2828 Rio Grande	478-0224
Private Cellar	709 East 6th	477-0387
The Tap	606 Maiden Lane	451-9114

BATHS

Club Austin Baths	308 W. 16th	476-7986
Executive Health Club	Stephen F. Austin Hotel	478-7220

BODY AWARENESS

Safari	2004 1/2 Guadalupe	472-6828
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COIN SHOP

Capital Coin Company	3004 Guadalupe	472-1676
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COUNSELING

Andrew Fono	2004 1/2 Guadalupe	472-7690
Michael Menefee, Ph.D.	2813 Rio Grande	476-5419

LEGAL SERVICES

Legal Clinic	501 W. 12th	478-9332
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RESTAURANT

Old Pecan Street Cafe	314 East 6th	478-2491
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