

# COMMUNITY NEWS

SERVING THE GAY  
COMMUNITY

Fort Worth/Dallas

October 1974

Vol. I, No. 3

*Coalition of State's Organizations*

## TEXAS GAY TASK FORCE FORMS

Delegates from 23 organizations from throughout Texas met August 2 at the Gay Community Center in San Antonio and gave birth to bright new hopes for Gay People in Texas — the Texas Gay Task Force.

The organizational meeting had been called by a resolution adopted June 22 during the Texas Gay Conference in Fort Worth by a caucus of representatives of 18 Texas Gay Organizations.

The resolution, introduced by AURA and seconded by Integrity/Houston, stated:

"Because there is no statewide Gay organization in Texas, and there is a serious lack of communication between the existing organizations, AURA proposes that a coalition of the state Gay organizations be established as soon as possible at a statewide meeting of delegates to be held at a time and place to be determined by this Caucus."

### Statement of Purposes

After two days of constant and sometimes grueling talks, a seven-point Statement of Purposes emerged from the San Antonio meeting:

1. To Bring together the various organizations in the State of Texas interested in working for the betterment of the Gay Community and to promote and assist the individual organizations and unify them for the advancement of their common goals.
2. To establish a network of communication for member organizations.
3. To encourage and promote a topical action committee for the development of a positive self image through specific self-growth experiences.
4. To socialize, thereby creating a unified collective spirit among all Gay People.
5. To abolish laws which discriminate against Gay People and to implement beneficial legislation with adequate judicial enforcement.

6. To insure human and civil rights of all Gay People.

7. To develop a program of public education concerning the structure and realities of Gay Life.

### TGTF Structure

The structure of the Texas Gay Task Force was also established at the San Antonio Caucus. The first item of business was to make the 23 organizations present charter members. The state was then divided into four regional areas: the North-

ern Region, consisting of Dallas and Fort Worth; the Eastern Region, consisting of Houston; the Southern Region, consisting of San Antonio; and the Western Region, consisting of Austin and Lubbock.

A Coordinating Council was established to be responsible for the implementation of the Purposes. The Coordinating Council will act as the "executive" body of the TGTF and will be comprised of one woman and one man from each region. The House of Delegates will consist of one delegate from each organization and will act

as the "legislative" body of the TGTF.

The next meeting of the TGTF Council has been scheduled for October 5 in Austin.

### 1975 Texas Gay Conference

The TGTF plans an active campaign to educate the public concerning homosexuality in addition to trying to encourage the repeal of oppressive laws. The Task Force will also sponsor the 1975 Texas Gay Conference which will be held in San Antonio June 20-22.

## GAYS PROTEST ABC SHOW OF BOY-RAPE

### PSYCHIATRISTS AND TEACHERS JOIN IN PROTEST

Fort Worth — AURA has joined in the growing national protest of a *Marcus Welby, M.D.* television segment entitled "The Outrage" and has called upon the member organizations of the Texas Gay Task Force to "immediately expend as much time and energy as possible" to try and convince local ABC affiliates to black out showing of "The Outrage" in their areas.

"The Outrage" deals with the rape of a 14-year-old boy by his male science teacher and has been unanimously condemned by gay organizations and individuals across the country.

### ABC Negotiations Break Down

The gay community first learned about the program in early July when ABC sent the script to Ronald Gold in compliance with an agreement by all TV networks to submit scripts dealing with homosexuality for comment by the Gay Media Task Force of which Gold is a member. Gold ruled that the script was entirely unacceptable and should not be produced.

ABC refused to listen and the protest was on. Negotiations with ABC were held in Los Angeles and New York, and major changes were allegedly made in the script until negotiations broke down in August.

AURA joined in the protest on September 13 when AURA's director, Ken Cyr, learned from the Gay Media Action in Boston that ABC had approved an air date of October 8 for the program over the objections of its West Coast executives. Members of the ABC Broadcast Standards and Practices Division in Los Angeles voted to "scrap" the program as unfit to be broadcast. However, executives Richard Gitter and Alfred Schneider of the New York Broadcast S&P overruled the West Coast division and set the air date.

### Damaging to Gay Rights

Cyr immediately sent a letter to Mike Shapiro, general manager of ABC's affiliate station in Dallas, WFAA-TV, protesting the airing of the show and point-

ing out the division the program has caused within ABC. Cyr also pointed out that "Gay people are trying only to protect themselves from prejudices which will be reinforced after the program is seen. We are doing the same as the Black Movement did in the sixties. We do not want censorship, but some things must not be aired publicly until our rights are protected by law."

Cyr also pointed out that although he personally had not read the entire script, he had been assured by reliable sources that the program is very detrimental to the gay civil rights movement, that it plays upon the sensationalism of the Houston mass murders and may leave an impression of "go out and kill a fag" with the less intelligent members of the public. It also creates a great deal of distrust of all single teachers no matter what sexual orientation they may have. WFAA-TV contacted Cyr on September 16 and said they would contact New York to learn more information and would then meet with him to listen to gay complaints.

A national boycott of all products advertised on "The Outrage" will be launched should the program reach the air.

### Non-Gay Protests Spread

Outside of the gay organizations, sever-

*(Continued on Page Two)*

You have encountered a homosexual.  
If I have been kind to you, please be  
kind to my Gay brothers and sisters.

*Selected Texans  
may soon receive  
one of these cards  
from one of the  
secret Gays  
among them.*

### Area Gays Launch Unique Public Relations Project

Operating on the theory that even one changed attitude is an improvement, individual Gay People in Texas will soon start announcing their gayness to unsuspecting strangers in a unique way.

Many Gay People, not unlike their non-gay counterparts, often befriend strangers . . . give a hitchhiker a lift, help a stranded motorist, give directions, or help with a heavy load. Now some of these people will be made aware that they have been helped by a homosexual. At the point of departure, the stranger will be handed a small card on which is printed: "You

*have encountered a homosexual. If I have been kind to you, please be kind to my Gay brothers and sisters."*

Hopefully, this revelation coming in so unique a situation may cause some heterosexuals to reevaluate their stereotyped attitudes toward homosexuals. Only one changed attitude would be an accomplishment.

*(Editor's Note: Up to ten of these cards may be obtained free by writing to Community News, P.O. Box 7367, Fort Worth, Texas 76111.)*

## NEWS COMMENTARY

## NOW THE SHOE IS ON THE OTHER FOOT Straights Taste Harassment, etc.

Gays have been concerned for years with the abuse of police power and the invasion of privacy by representatives of various levels of government.

Our concern reached a peak June 22 during the Texas Gay Conference as Fort Worth police officers blatantly made a show of recording license numbers in an obvious attempt to frighten and intimidate participants in the Conference. Hooray for our side — no one was frightened or intimidated. Not one person left the Conference site. Rather we were angry!

We yelled loud and a few people heard us . . . but, after all, we were just a bunch of fags.

Now the shoe is on the other foot as non-gays are discovering just how menacing our officers can be.

**Item One:** Entire Dallas vice squad fired or transferred in nude photo scandal. Officers forced women arrested on prostitution charges to pose bare-breasted for

picture-taking sessions.

**Item Two:** A Fort Worth nurse was frightened and shaken by four police officers who burst into her apartment, unidentified and without warrant, but with drawn gun. It took her half an hour to calm the four down and convince them that she knew nothing of the man they were allegedly looking for. After first denying any knowledge of the affair, the Fort Worth Police Department eventually issued a half-hearted apology.

**Item Three:** A 24-year-old man was so badly beaten by police during a fruitless "no-knock" drug raid on his apartment that he had to be rushed to a hospital in poor condition and his spleen surgically removed. Two Fort Worth officers were fired and their supervisor was reprimanded and transferred. The explanation given for the officers' actions was that they had "overreacted" — although no drugs were found, the young man did not resist and he was not even arrested. Officers left

him without even an offer to help him get needed medical treatment.

**Item Four:** A decoy prostitute in Dallas was responsible for the arrests of more than 40 men before one of them had the guts to challenge the arrest in court. He argued he hadn't even had enough money to "buy a woman" and was just kidding around. He also charged the female officer with entrapment. Although the judge found him guilty as charged, it is interesting to note that a woman who has been propositioned more than 40 times "in the line of duty" has never (she testified) never been propositioned on her own time. And they expect us to believe these men weren't enticed, encouraged and entrapped. Yeah, just like unsuspecting Gays haven't been entrapped all these years by the enticement of vice officers.

**Item Five:** Federal judge orders the closing of the Gatesville State Schools for Boys citing numerous incidents of brutality and humiliation perpetuated on the

inmates by prison guards and officials.

**Item Six:** Causing the greatest uproar was the disclosure that the Department of Public Safety — now dubbed the "Department of Public Surveillance" — had routinely engaged in spying on individuals and groups who dared vary in their politics, life style or attitudes from that dictated as "right" by the in powers. Victims of the spying have included political candidates, churches, racial groups, environmentalists, peace groups and others. The DPS issued an apology, the governor ordered an investigation, citizens were outraged — but somehow we get the feeling that attitudes of those types who head organizations such as the DPS have not really changed.

Well, let the non-gays for once discover how it feels — police brutality, big brother spying, police entrapment.

Perhaps now they will be more willing to work with us to protect our freedoms and our privacy.

## DIGNITY CHAPTER FORMED FOR GAY CATHOLICS

**DIGNITY, a national organization for Gay Catholics, has established a chapter for the Metroplex area.**

The local group meets on the second and fourth Fridays of each month. Further information may be obtained by calling metro number 469-6669.

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### DIGNITY: STATEMENT OF POSITION AND PURPOSE

We believe that gay Catholics are members of Christ's mystical body, numbered among the people of God. We have an inherent dignity because God created us, Christ died for us, and the Holy Spirit sanctified us in Baptism, making us His Temple, and the channel through which the love of God might become visible. Because of this, it is our right, our privilege, and our duty to live the sacramental life of the Church, so that we might become more powerful instrument to God's love working among all people.

We believe that gays can express their sexuality in a manner that is consonant with Christ's teaching. We believe that all sexuality should be exercised in an ethically responsible and unselfish way.

As members of DIGNITY we wish to promote the cause of the gay community. To do this, we must accept our responsibility to the Church, to society, and to the individual gay Catholic.

*To the Church* — to work for the development of its sexual theology and for the acceptance of gays as full and equal members of the one Christ.

*To Society* — to work for justice and social acceptance through education and legal reform.

*To Individual Gays* — to reinforce their self-acceptance and their sense of dignity, and to aid them in becoming a more active member of the Church and society.

DIGNITY is organized to unify all gay Catholics, to develop leadership and to be an instrument through which the gay Catholic may be heard by the Church and society.

There are four areas of concern:

**Spiritual Development.** We shall strive to achieve Christian maturity through all the means at our disposal, especially the Mass, the sacraments, personal prayer and active love of neighbor.

**Education.** We wish to inform ourselves in all matters of faith as well as in all that concerns the gay community so that we

may develop the maturity of outlook needed to live fulfilling lives in which sexuality and spirituality are integrated, and to prepare us for service in the gay community.

**Social Involvement.** As Catholics and as members of society, we shall become involved in those actions that bring the love of Christ to others and provide the basis of social reform.

*Toward individuals* . . . We wish to lead a life of service to others, hoping to render visible the love of Christ and contributing our share to building a community of love.

*With gay groups* . . . We wish to work with other homophile groups for the cause of justice to the gay community and for the promotion of a sense of solidarity.

*With religious and secular groups* . . . We wish to work with them, that they may better understand gays and recognize present injustices.

**Social Events.** Activities of a social and recreational nature will be provided to promote an atmosphere where friendships can develop and mature, and where the gay's sense of acceptance and dignity may be strengthened.

*(The national office of DIGNITY is at 755 Boylston Street, Room 514, Boston, Massachusetts, 02116.)*

### WELBY PROTEST

*(Continued from Page One)*

al national organizations are also considering action to stop the ABC network program. John Spiegel, president of the American Psychiatric Association, has asked his board of directors for permission to work "with vigor" on stopping the program. Spiegel, when shown the script, immediately agreed with New York gay leaders that it would seriously damage the gay civil rights movement. The APA "gay is not sick" ruling included a strong stand on gay civil rights.

Albert Shanker, president of the American Federation of Teachers, said his organization is "mulling over" the possibility of action against ABC. The AFT, according to Bruce Voeller of the National Gay Task Force, is very concerned about the effect the program may have on all single male teachers, regardless of their sexual orientation.

Anyone wishing to work actively on the "Welby" protest is urged to contact AURA at (817) 838-2095 or write P.O. Box 7318, Fort Worth, TX 76111, or contact your local gay organization.

Concerned people are urged to call or write: Mike Shapiro, General Manager, WFAA-TV, Communications Center, Dallas, TX 75202 and protest the upcoming airing of the show. Also, letters are urgently needed to all advertisers and ad agencies that have bought time on the "Welby" show.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

Allen Reid, Editor

Staff: Arlo, Jay Alexander, Jay Allen, Ken Cyr, Sue Harris, Spigot, and Kay Wilson

Special Consultant, Wayne Ribble

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Correspondents and staff writers are needed, as well as artists, typists and other workers, if CN is to thrive and be able to effectively serve the Gay Community

LETTERS to the Editor of Community News should be signed. However, name will be withheld upon request. All letters are subject to editing to meet space requirements and to remove possibly libelous statements.

Publication of the name of any person, business or group in Community News should not be construed as any indication of the sexual preference of that person, business or group, or of their employees or members.

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Wayne Ribble, manager

# Rev. Ron Anderson Is New Pastor At Fort Worth MCC

By Ken Cyr

## FORT WORTH HAS A NEW MINISTER.

"So what?" you might say. "Fort Worth gets a new minister almost every day."

Ah, but not like this one. He has shoulder length blond hair, is very attractive, and is Gay! He's the new pastor of Agape Metropolitan Community Church, Rev. Ron Anderson.

This reporter interviewed Rev. Anderson at MCC's new office and parsonage and found him quite pleasant and sincere in his ambitions to contribute to the Community.

### Tried the Straight Route

Rev. Anderson was born and raised in Kansas City, Missouri, where he had his first sexual encounter with another guy when he was nine.

"I've always been gay," says Rev. Anderson. "I can remember watching TV shows and movies and admiring the male stars. I didn't have a name for it then, though."

At 15 he decided he would try the straight route. He dated, went steady and had his first heterosexual experience.

"I just didn't want it. I am just not attracted sexually to the female body."

Rev. Anderson acknowledged to himself that he was a homosexual and always would be.

### Lover Killed in Accident

Rev. Anderson met his first lover when he was 15, and they were together for three years until his lover was killed in an automobile accident. This was a very traumatic experience for him; yet he developed the strength to overcome it.

During this time his faith kept growing, and he felt a call to the ministry. He enrolled in Evangel College, an Assembly of God school in Missouri. At 21, as he was still preparing for the ministry, he met his second lover.

His second love relationship ended after five years when his lover was drafted; and Rev. Anderson found himself in San Diego, California, where he discovered the Gay Community.

### Nowhere Else To Go

"I had never had problems about being Gay until I found the Gay Community," he said. "Then I was hit with the phoniness, hypocrisy and materialism of much of the Gay Society, but I didn't know where else to go."

Rev. Anderson turned his back on his faith and set a course which too often unhappy Gays think will bring them happiness. He wanted nothing more than to make a lot of money and be a "sugar-daddy" to his lovers. He had two short love affairs and was becoming constantly confused.

### Discovered MCC

Then he discovered MCC. He began extensive Biblical research and concluded that what the establishment churches said about homosexuality just was not true. He knew his calling was sincere, so he joined the ministry of MCC.

"The Gay Community has so much to learn and MCC so much to offer," stated Rev. Anderson when asked about his opinion of the Gay Community.

"The Fort Worth Community seems so plastic and non-acceptant of themselves. They still believe that something is wrong with them, so they try to compensate for it with material things and with tricks."

Rev. Anderson thinks the Community needs to be more honest and sincere, and needs more self-liberating. "When you liberate yourself as a beautiful person, and start believing in yourself, then society will accept us."

### We Have Nothing To Fear

Rev. Anderson feels that MCC can be an example to the Community. "MCC offers



... promises to minister to all the people.

the love of Christ. We can be honest and sincere with each other. God loves all of us, but he down not love us for our material things; he loves us for what we truly are. At MCC we can be ourselves; we have nothing to fear."

Rev. Anderson was asked about the problems which Agape MCC has had in the past, the resignation of its first pastor and a split in the church.

"All churches have trouble at first," he said. "I think God is teaching us, helping us grow closer to Him. Agape knows the Spirit, and He is leading us. Everyone makes mistakes; it's human."

### Church Split Is Healed

"The Friends of Jesus (the split-off group) has merged with Agape, and the

former pastor is returning to us as associate pastor at the end of September. The members of Agape have realized some mistakes and were forgiven and forgave. They have been enriched by the Spirit and filled with love because of it. Our membership is growing and God's work is being done."

Rev. Anderson is truly a dynamic person, and his pastorship is a blessing for Fort Worth.

Agape MCC holds services every Sunday at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. The church office is open every day from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Counseling or information about the programs of the church may be obtained by calling Rev. Anderson at (817) 534-9406.

## WHAT'S A DOB?

### A REPORT ON THE WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION



By Rob Shivers

We define ourselves as a Lesbian/Feminist organization, but you don't have to be either to be a member, and you don't have to be a member to participate. Just being a woman is enough. Neither do you have to be an activist. There is room for you at any level of openness and involvement you wish to involve yourself. So what then does a DOB do?

First of all, we seek to create an atmosphere where "Gay is Good" and where we can enjoy sisterhood while expanding our experience and knowledge of the many facets of life. To this end we have first and third Friday meetings, usually featuring a guest speaker presenting one of a variety of interesting topics.

We also have a Speakers Bureau to provide speakers and panel members for schools and classes, churches, organizations, TV and radio shows and other groups. We consider the Speaker's Bu-

reau an important public education service. In this same vein we participate in valid research projects and interview situations.

Another important DOB outreach is GAYLINE, operating in conjunction with our Lesbian Resource/Drop-In Center. The telephone line serves the gay community and its families without regard to sex. It also provides help in locating resources, answering questions, settling problems, getting your head together or whatever your need. We also offer (for women only) peer counseling by appointment, a library and social activities. We publish a monthly newsletter, as you can see.

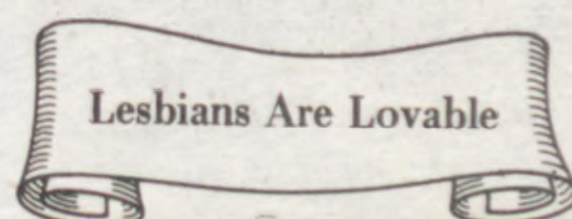
As a member of the Fort Worth/Dallas Metroplex Gay Council and the Texas Gay Task Force we keep in the mainstream of what's happening in the gay community. As a member of the Wo-

men's Coalition we keep in the mainstream of happenings that affect us as women.

We probably can't meet every woman's needs, but we try hard! We are convinced that our women are the most beautiful found anywhere (not just physically speaking) . . . But then, come and see for yourself. You're always welcome!

Daughters of Bilitis, P.O. Box 1242, Dallas, Texas, 75221. (214) 742-1947

(Reprinted with permission from The Monthly DOB'R, publication of the Daughters of Bilitis, Dallas)



If God be  
for us, who  
can be  
against us?  
Romans 8:31

### AGAPE METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

2800 Purington  
Fort Worth, Texas

Phone: 817-534-9406

Office Hours:  
Monday - Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

PASTOR  
Rev. Ron J. Anderson

three

# Who th' hell needs a Gay newspaper?

— An Honest Appraisal from the Editor of Community News —

It doesn't matter how many people *need* a Gay newspaper — unless there is a sufficient number of people who *want* a Gay newspaper. That means at least a few people who are willing to give a little of their time, energy, talent and/or money to make such a newspaper a reality.

After the first issue of *Community News* was distributed, there was nothing but praise. Everyone, it seemed, thought "our own paper" was an excellent idea.

Unfortunately, words were just about all we got. There was no money to help support such an ambitious project, and precious little in the way of donated time and effort.

Our own newspaper is a good idea. Very few of our Sisters and Brothers have any awareness of what is going on in the Gay Community or in our civil rights movement. *Community News* can continue not only to tell us what's happening as it relates to us, but it can also be a sounding board for the broad range of opinions and attitudes among Gay People themselves, and it can help prepare non-gays for the eventual acceptance of Gay People into open society.

So *Community News* is a good idea. Is it a good enough idea for you to support it?

If *CN* is to continue beyond this issue, we must quickly see some firm signs of support.

Immediately we need a part-time staff. There is no pay . . . but shared among many people, the work won't be very hard or time consuming.

We need a photographer who can take and develop pictures,

a cartoonist (just one cartoon a month isn't too much to ask, is it?), an illustrator to illustrate *CN*'s feature articles, a feature writer to research and write articles on a variety of pertinent subjects — plus as many miscellaneous staff members as we can recruit: people to distribute the paper, people to mail it out, people to help with editing, writing and layout, people to contact businesses about advertising, etc., etc., etc.

If you can help in *any* way, please drop me a note to P.O. Box 7367, Fort Worth 76111, or call me at (817) 838-2095. This means you people in Dallas, too!

Futhermore, we must have more paid subscriptions and we must have **regular advertisers**. *CN* is not intended to produce a profit, but if it is to continue it must pay for itself. We appreciate the sponsorship of AURA in publishing *CN* as a service to the Community . . . but printing and postal costs are almost prohibitive, and AURA will not be able financially to subsidize *CN* beyond this issue.

We must pay our own way . . . and that means we must have faithful, concerned advertisers who want to see *CN* succeed for the benefit of the entire Gay Community. If you have any influence with any business (Gay or not), take a copy of this paper and urge them to contact us about advertising.

We need our own paper. If you want it badly enough, we can have it. What do you say?

Allen Reid

## NOT FOR LESBIANS ONLY

By Sue Harris

Mother never told me that my prince might be a princess.

Consequently, it was hard to rationalize wanting to kiss my high school journalism teacher in the darkroom.

It was even tougher to suppress dreaming of getting married to one of our cheerleaders.

The turning point in the realization of my lesbianism came when I asked a girl I had been playing kissy-mouth with if we were gay.

She said that we had a strange and beautiful friendship. I guess she just couldn't break it to me, but I knew.

It began to dawn on me. I like men, but I love women in a warm-soft-deep emotional way.

You might know I found my princess — without the help of my mother.

At least my mother did teach me how to be tender, love and care for someone. And she also taught me how to fight with that someone so that when something is wrong I don't just cradle it in my gut.

Perhaps most important of all, Mother taught me how to forgive and make a go for the second round. I guess that's why I didn't move out after two months.

All of these things work just as well with my princess as that prince that Mom kept telling me about.

and By Kay Wilson

And my mother always told me that someday I might have mother-in-law problems.

I have them alright, but not exactly the kind she was thinking of. I guess the main problem is that Sue's mother doesn't know she is my mother-in-law.

She isn't quite sure what kind of an arrangement her daughter and I have, but whatever it is, and as long as it has no labels, it's OK.

But that doesn't mean things can't get hairy. There was the time Sue slipped and said something about my side of the bed — when there is another bed in the house.

Then there are the little things that Mrs. Harris says whenever Sue and I do something that parallels something in her relationship with her husband. "That's just like your father and I," she says. Makes me wonder if she isn't a bit more aware than we think she is.

(Whoever you are, you are welcome to look for this column in each issue of

COME AND JOIN US!

## AURA

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Membership includes subscription to *Community News* and all other publications of AURA, including the *Director's Letter*.

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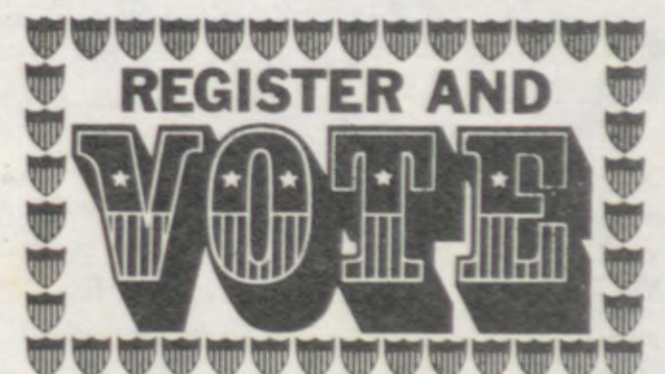
P.O. Box 7318, Fort Worth, Texas 76111

(A member organization of the FW/D Metroplex Gay Council and the Texas Gay Task Force, Northern Region)

*Community News*, because it's Not For Lesbians Only.

If it gets a bit feminine and feminist around the edges at times — it's because two lesbians are writing it.

The column will reflect a few memories, a few more thoughts and a lot of feelings. What we have to say is for everybody — Gay women, straight women and men and our Gay brothers.)



## PROFILE:

# BARBARA GITTINGS

BARBARA GITTINGS has been in the Gay Movement since 1958. A long time, isn't it? A time when homosexuality was not spoken of in polite company. A time when our society was being destroyed by puritans. You and I remember what it was like in Texas a few years ago; well, think about 1958. It took courage and more guts than most of us have today to stand up for Gay Rights in 1958. But Barbara had the courage and the guts, not to mention the intelligence, to lay a path which began the movement we now have. If our movement had had a Declaration of Independence, one of the signatures would have been: Barbara Brooks Gittings.

Ms. Gittings was born in 1932 to a very devout Catholic family. In her primary and secondary education, she did very well. She entered Northwestern and then problems began. That was the year Barbara had to come to terms with her own homosexuality.

Barbara began ignoring her courses and spent many hours in the libraries at Northwestern and in Chicago. "I went to texts on abnormal psychology, to encyclopedias, to medical books, to every book dealing with sex, as well as to whatever I could find under card catalog headings like 'sexual perversion.' I was so anxious to get to the material on homosexuality, I didn't even mind looking in categories like 'pervision' and 'abnormal.' And I half believed them anyway.

"But everything I found was so alien, so remote. It didn't give me any sense of myself or what my life and experience could be. It was mostly clinical-sounding disturbance, pathology, arrested development — and it was mostly about men."

Barbara flunked out of Northwestern at the end of her freshman year.

It was difficult for Barbara to move into the gay world she longed for. "On weekends, dressed as a boy, I'd hitch rides with truckers up Route 1 to New York City to go to the gay bars. At first I didn't know of any gay



bars in Philadelphia. I had a lot of trouble getting plugged into the gay community. I spent agonized years trying to find a comfortable social life, and the bars were the only place I had to start looking. Since I didn't like to drink anyway, I'd hold a glass of ice water and pretend it was gin on the rocks. I'd get into conversation with other women but I'd usually find we didn't really have any common interests; we just happened both to be gay. I just didn't run into any lesbians who shared my interests in books and hostel trips and baroque music. They all seemed to groove on Peggy Lee and Frank Sinatra and nothing older! It was only later, in other settings, that I found gay people I was really congenial with. In those days I felt there was no real place for me in the straight culture, but the gay bar culture wasn't the place for me either. It was a painful and confusing time in my

life."

"I wore drag because I thought that was a way to show I was gay. It's changed now, but in the early 50's there were basically two types of women in the gay bars, the so-called butch ones in short hair and plain masculine attire and the so-called femme ones in dresses and high heels and makeup. I knew high heels and makeup weren't my personal style, so I thought, well, I must be the other kind! And I dressed accordingly. What a waste of time and energy! I was really a mixed-up kid.

"The only other models, the only other images of homosexual people I had to look to were in the books, and there, too, much was made of differentiating both lesbians and male homosexuals into masculine and feminine types. This differentiating is disappearing very fast today, not only for gays but for straights, too. Nowadays people generally feel freer to look and act whatever way they feel most comfortable, and they don't so readily follow set patterns.

"It was risky as well as inappropriate for me to be in drag. One night in Philadelphia, I left a mixed bar with a male gay acquaintance, and outside there were two marines who put on brass knuckles and attacked my friend. 'We'd beat you up, too, sonny, if you weren't wearing glasses,' one told me. When they left, I took my companion to the hospital where he had thirteen stitches put in his face."

Barbara since went on to join the Gay Movement. She formed the New York chapter of the Daughters of Bilitis and was editor of *The Ladder* for several years. While editor, Barbara published such prophetic gems as "The Invisible Woman" in 1965, whose author pointed out that *the lesbian is a dangerous subversive rebelling against the deepest injustices of our social order. Her existence brings up questions so uncomfortable that most people can't even bear to admit her existence . . . To the frail male ego, the thought of a woman who has her own identity, instead of getting it from her relationship with a man, is so destructive it's unimaginable and must be ignored out of existence . . . The modern woman has yet to emerge as a human being on her own rather than as somebody's wife and mother. The lesbian is that anomaly, a free woman, legislated out of existence by 3,000 years of patriarchal culture . . .*

Bold words for that time! And Barbara is bold, and a qualified leader. She presently is on the Board of Directors of the National Gay Task Force and serves as coordinator of the American Library Association's Task Force on Gay Liberation.

## View from the Front

By Allen Reid

Anyone who thinks that Gays are not better off in this state and this country than they were ten years ago either hasn't been around very long or else has had head planted firmly in the sand. We've come a long way, Baby!

Ten years ago the mere appearance of a man in blue in or near any of the gay bars was enough to clear the entire area within a few minutes. Very few of us even entertained the thought of telling anyone "outside" about our "gaity." By and large we were a people ashamed and fearful who didn't have enough faith or pride in ourselves and our identity as Gay People to even think about doing anything serious to better our situation. We didn't believe in ourselves . . . how could we expect anyone else to believe in us?

Today, we can effectively challenge oppressive laws, we can successfully fight job discrimination, we can win the right to have custody of our children, we can know that by nature we are neither sick nor sinful. We can even run for public office and have a possibility of being taken seriously . . . and in some cases even win

the election — not as make-believe heterosexuals, but honestly as ourselves, as human beings.

In our struggle for human dignity and legal equality, we now have the support of major religious denominations, powerful women's groups, the legal profession, the American Psychiatric Association and numerous other influential groups across the nation.

And not one of you reading this column has escaped being affected by all that has transpired around you. You, who have done nothing but enjoy the "gay" side of our lifestyle, will reap the benefits for years to come of the so-called Gay Movement.

The vote by the American Psychiatric Association reversing its position on homosexuality didn't come out of the goodness of their hearts. That decision came only because a small group of dedicated (even fanatical) women and men spent years of their lives working to educate the leadership of the APA to the truth.

Sodomy laws have been stricken from

the books in state after state; cross-dressing ordinances have been dropped; equal protection laws for housing and employment and housing have been passed in city after city. Why? Not because the public and law makers have suddenly come to love us . . . but only because a few dedicated individuals and groups have spent vast sums of their own energy, time and money because they cared not only about their own situation, but about your situation and the situation of generations of Gay men and women to come.

Why have you turned your back on your Gay Brothers and Sisters and been content to idly sit, and if you take notice at all, only criticize the methods, downgrade the results, question the motives and complain about how your own "security" has been jeopardized by the openness that has been created.

Nothing changes without producing waves . . . but I would willingly lose a hundred jobs and have a thousand pseudo-friends turn their backs on me, just for a glimmer of a promise of a brighter day for us all.

That day is coming — but it could come so much sooner, so much easier, if you could somehow begin to see yourself as a part of us . . . and no longer as just someone who is visiting here for his or her own pleasure.

### MALE RAPE LAWS PASSED

*Lansing, Michigan* — Recently enacted revision of Michigan's rape law redefines rape as "sexual assault" and does not differentiate between men and women. The new law can now replace the current sodomy statute in cases of males raping males and may pave the way for eventual repeal of the sodomy law in Michigan. It is uncertain what effect, if any, the new law will have on prevention of the forcible rape of homosexuals by other prison inmates.

*Boston* — Gov. Frances Sargent has signed a bill which allows males to charge they were the victims of rape. Under the new law, males or females can charge assailants with forcible anal or oral rape. Previously rape statutes applied only to females attacked by males and forced to participate in sexual acts in the conventional "missionary" position. The Massachusetts Bar Association feels that the bill (sponsored by NOW and supported by the Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts) will lead to the repeal of the state's centuries-old sexual conduct statutes.

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT by Jay Alexander will resume next month.



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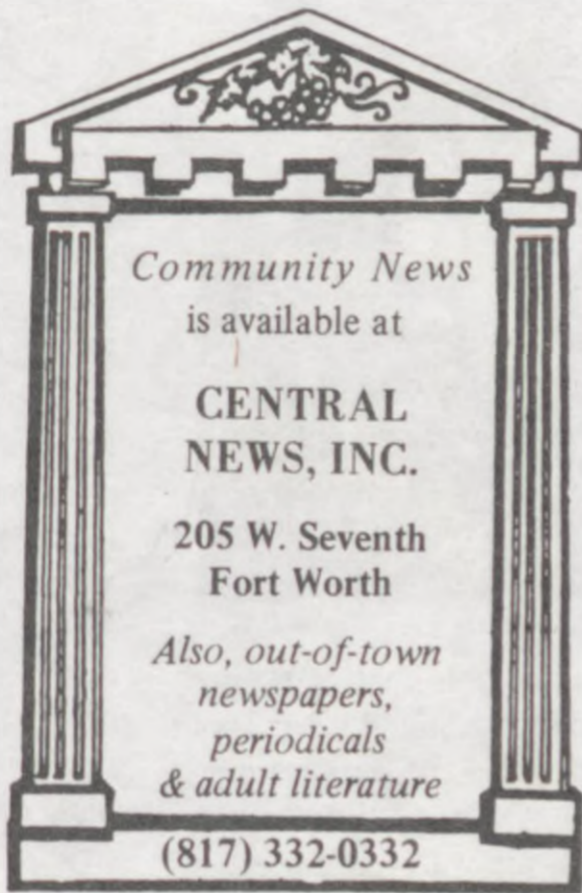
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Member Organizations:

Agape Metropolitan Community Church  
P.O. Box 4589, Ft. Worth 76106  
(817) 534-9406

AURA (Awareness, Unity & Research Association, P.O. Box 7318, Fort Worth 76111, (817) 838-2095

Circle of Friends, 3834 Ross Avenue, Dallas 75204

Daughters of Bilitis, P.O. Box 1242, Dallas 75221, (214) 742-1947

(Members of the Northern Region of the Texas Gay Task Force)



Plaster your face & figure across the Metroplex. We need people who are willing to have their picture in CN -- men and women (no nudes, yet!). Write P.O. Box 7367 Fort Worth, Texas 76111.

## LETTERS

### PRAISE FROM GAY RAIDER

Dear Brothers & Sisters:

While in New York for the Christopher Street Liberation Day Parade, I found a copy of "Community News." I was pleased to see how well the paper was put together.

It seems that it gives all the news of the community that would otherwise be put aside by the regular media. I'm glad to see the Texas community developing a gay media.

If it is possible could you please put me on your mailing list since we all can learn from each other. In return I will keep you informed on our projects that might be of interest to you.

Mark Segal  
Gay Raiders

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## YOU CAN HELP

### STOP POLICE HARASSMENT!

Gay men and women have long been victims of abuses by some homophobic members of our law enforcement agencies.

Most have not reported such abuses for (1) fear that they would not be believed, and (2) fear that they would then be the target of additional harassment for vengeance.

Today, fortunately, many law enforcement officials would like to work with us to end such abuses of authority . . . but they can't do it without our help.

In order to achieve changes in police practices and activities that are damaging to gays, we must first be able to show that such incidents do, in fact, occur with regularity.

If you feel you have been unfairly treated, harassed, discriminated against, or any of your rights violated by a law enforcement officer, please report the circumstances immediately to AURA (817) 838-2095. Then complete this form and mail it to AURA, P.O. Box 7318, Fort Worth, TX 76111.

**IMPORTANT:** Please report any activity by officials that you even suspect may be harassment, intimidation, discrimination or abuse of yourself or of another gay person. Such activity usually is illegal and is against official policy . . . but it can only be stopped if you help!

Date of Incident \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

Location \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Officer \_\_\_\_\_

Badge Number \_\_\_\_\_, or Patrol Car Number \_\_\_\_\_

What agency of law enforcement did the officer represent (Fort Worth or Dallas police, Dallas or Tarrant Co. Sheriff, DPS, FBI, etc.)?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please describe briefly what happened. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Any physical abuse?  yes  no If yes, please describe.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Any verbal abuse ("queer," "faggot," "panzy," etc.)  yes  no

If yes, please quote to the best of your knowledge the exact language used: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Were you arrested?  On what charge? \_\_\_\_\_

Your name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address or P.O. Box \_\_\_\_\_

City and Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill in the form as completely as possible. We must have your name and a way to contact you — but this information can and will be held in strictest confidence. You do not have to become personally involved in any way. Unless you wish to pursue the matter yourself, the report will be used for statistical purposes only. Thank you.

## “QUOTABLES”

*It is of great importance in a republic not only to guard the society against the oppression of its rulers, but to guard one part of the society against the injustice of the other part.*

— James Madison



## WANT ADS WANT ADS WANT ADS

THIS SPACE IS FOR YOUR AD . . . sell it, give it away, or just meet new friends.

Ads free to individuals and Gay organizations. Only 5 cents a word for businesses.

Payment must be in advance. Community News, P.O. Box 7367, Fort Worth, TX 76111.

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BOOK REVIEW BY KEN CYR

## the LIBRARY

*"THINGS WHICH GO TOGETHER NATURALLY,  
DON'T NEED TO BE TIED."*

### *I Have More Fun With You Than Anybody*

by Lige Clark and Jack Nichols

*"We examined jealousy and concluded it as a neurotic disease. Sensible people don't go around asking, 'Has anybody besides me shown an interest in you?' We saw that only misery lay ahead if we concerned ourselves with no-noes. We knew we were best fulfilled when pleasures of any sort were offered us, whether we were alone or together.*

*"When real sexual freedom exists, we found it's seldom used to excess. The ancient Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu had written: 'Things which go together naturally, don't need to be tied.' We believed him."*

This is the philosophy of the love affair extraordinaire of Elijah Clark and John Nichols, more commonly known as Lige and Jack.

Their book, *I Have More Fun With You Than Anybody*, is the story of their meeting, their separating, their reuniting, their philosophies and their advice.

The book is full of humor, even in the chapter titles, such as "Bugger Thy Congressman," "Why Isn't Uncle Sam Married?," and "Jesus Wants Us for a Sunbeam."

Lige and Jack never miss an opportunity to explain their personal philosophy. The book could have had several titles. "How to Have a Loving Relationship" could have been one of the few along with "Hypocrisy of the Current Moralities" and "Personal Liberation as Opposed to Gay Liberation."

Before reading their book, I had always pictured Lige and Jack as leaders of the Gay Movement. That was a misconception. They are leaders of Human Liberation. They express that Human Liberation can be achieved through homosexuality. In their chapter attacking masculinity, they state:

*"The intuitive homosexuality in each man can be used, if he wishes, as a device to meet the opposite sex more fully by identifying himself with her feelings. Without such a device, his empathy is limited and his contact, less fulfilling. Her joy in his body remains a vague mystery to him, and her unrestrained passion is confusing. Bisexuality can be seen, from one perspective, as a walkway between opposites; nature's way of giving us the physical equivalent of the old maxim: 'To love another, you must first love yourself.' Very simple, really."*

Not only do they attack rigid masculinity in non-gays, but also in gays.

They attack both gays and non-gays who have set up rigid beliefs, especially sexual ones. They urge people to free themselves and enjoy *all* things in life.

This is a beautiful book which might just cause you to reevaluate your own philosophy. Some readers will become indignant, some will never finish the book, some will vehemently denounce it, but a few will be enriched by the love which Lige and Jack have for each other and their friends. These are the people this book was written for.

# NEWS BRIEFS

## LAWYERS DECLARE SUPPORT FOR GAY LIBERATION

*Minneapolis* — The 4400-member National Lawyer's Guild at their annual convention August 11 in Minneapolis unanimously declared support for "the struggle of gay liberation and lesbian liberation" and promised to take "an active part in opposing gay oppression."

The resolution adopted on the closing day of the three-day convention was drafted and introduced by the organization's Gay Caucus and represented a significant reversal in the Guild's attitude since the Caucus formed four years ago.

## Methodists Challenge Church On Homosexuality Issue

*Denver* — Legislation concerning homosexuality is being formulated by the National United Methodist Council on Youth Ministry for the 1976 General Conference of the UMC.

The proposed legislation would remove language condemning homosexuality from the church's laws and would add a statement saying "sex, race, marital status or sexual orientation shall not be a bar to the ordained ministry of the United Methodist Church."

The 32-member Council last year created a stir throughout the denomination when it passed resolutions asking that homosexuality not be a bar to the ministry and declaring that "homosexuality in itself not be in any way synonymous with immorality."

Rev. William R. Johnson, only known homosexual ever ordained into the Christian ministry by a main-line denomination, spoke to the Council at its semi-annual session in Denver August 16-22.

"Gay people are in the church," he said "because we have faith in Jesus Christ. No one has the right to tell us we can't stay in the church. The Good News of Jesus Christ was given to every person."

Johnson was ordained by the United Church of Christ in 1972 and is now a staff member of the Council on Religion and the Homosexual based in San Francisco.

## L.A. GAYS ZAP POLICE CHIEF

*Los Angeles* — About 50 California Gays, led by Reverends Troy Perry and Bob Sirico of the Metropolitan Community Church and Morris Knight of the Gay Community Service Center, picketed August 17 in front of the home of L.A. Police Chief Ed Davis. The demonstration was designed to pressure Davis, who has publicly referred to homosexuals as "lepers," to initiate a liaison with the Gay Community. Davis was "on vacation" during the demonstration; and participants charged that officers assigned to the area appeared to be encouraging and assisting numerous teenaged hecklers.

## ENCYCLOPEDIA BIAS FALLS

*New York* — The Gay Activists Alliance of New York has been assured by representatives of *Encyclopedia Britannica* that future editions of the reference work will contain affirmative information on the Gay Movement and the struggle for civil rights for homosexuals.

According to Morty Manford, president of GAA, eight encyclopedia publishers have been contacted by the group. Although *Britannica* has been the only one so far to reply, it is considered a leader in the industry and other publishers hopefully will follow its example. Manford emphasized the importance of this action when he pointed out that standard reference books are often the only (or at least the most easily accessible) source of information available to a youth searching for answers about his sexual identity.

## JOB CORPS DISCRIMINATION

*San Marcos, Texas* — Eleven Gay Job Corps members at Camp Gary have filed suit in federal district court charging camp officials with trying to expel them because of their homosexual orientation. Judge Tom Gee has delayed a decision pending the results of new open hearings in the presence of consul between camp officials and the corps members.

## SEXISM ABOLISHED IN NATION'S SCHOOLS?

*Washington* — The United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare has proposed new rules aimed at prohibiting sex discrimination in the nation's schools from kindergarten through college.

The proposed regulations are designed to assure equal treatment for females in admissions, athletics, housing, financial assistance, extracurricular activities and employment.

The new rules would require coeducational physical education classes and outlaw different dormitory curfews for men and women and most single-sex scholarships. However, no attempt was made to deal with revenue producing sports, such as college football, or with the problem of sexism in the textbooks.

The public has until October 15 to comment to HEW on the proposals.

## GAY LUTHERANS UNITE

Lutherans Concerned for Gay People, a newly-formed group, will challenge the oppression of Gay People by the American Lutheran Church, the Lutheran Church in America and the Missouri Synod, which together have about 8½ million members.

The group may be contacted at P.O. Box 11592, Salt Lake City, Utah 84115.

## Lesbian Wins Seat in Massachusetts House

*Boston* — Elaine Noble, upfront lesbian/feminist, has been elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives, defeating four opponents in the September 10 Democratic Primary. (She faces no Republican opposition in the November election.)

Noble will represent the new Suffolk 6 District which included the Back Bay, Kenmore Square and Fenway areas of Boston. Sixty percent of the district's residents are women, and 73 percent of the households include only one person. There are heavy concentrations of elderly persons and Gay People and members of other minority groups.

Literature for the campaign stressed the need for a representative for all "minorities," and one "people's rights" pamphlet read: "Suffolk Six needs a representative

who will defend these minorities; who will help shape and change attitudes negative to these groups; and one who will work hard, very hard, to see that no person is abused because of race, color, age, sex, or sexual preference."

Noble is a second-term member of the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women, a member of the Massachusetts Women's Political Caucus, and was formerly a moderator for the "Gay View" radio program on station WBUR in Boston. She also is a member of the American Association of University Professors, American Civil Liberties Union, Daughters of Bilitis, National Organization for Women and the Homophile Union of Boston. A 1966 graduate of Boston University, she also holds masters degrees from Emerson College and Harvard University.

## NATIONAL HOTLINE BRIDGES GAP BETWEEN RUNAWAY YOUTH AND THEIR PARENTS

Runaway youth anywhere in the nation can relay a message home to their families by dialing a toll-free number being provided by the federal government 24 hours a day as a channel of communication between runaway youths and their parents.

The National Hotline for Runaway Youth will also try to lessen the problems of the young people by offering referrals to other sources of help, such as social services or temporary shelter.

The number is 1-800-621-4000.

*You Don't Have To Go Home . . .*

*But Let Them Know You're Okay*

## SEX BARRIER FALLS: "PLAY BALL, LITTLE WOMEN!"

A victory for the rights of women, at least the younger ones, was achieved this summer as officials of Little League Baseball, Inc., announced in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, that girls as well as boys between the ages of eight and 12 are not eligible to play on Little League teams.

According to Peter J. McGovern, board chairman of the League, the change was because of the "changing social climate in this country."

The League had fought steadfastly against any attempt to allow girls and boys to play on the same teams, although a girl's program was organized a few years ago. The League policy had come under increasingly vehement attack from women's and civil rights groups in recent months and several individuals and groups including NOW (National Organization for Women) and the American Civil Liberties Union had challenged the policy in the courts. The turn-about in the League's stance apparently came only after the New Jersey Supreme Court had ruled that girls must be allowed to play in that state.

The new policy is effective immediately throughout all the 9,100 leagues in 31 countries. Supposedly any girl who is qualified by age and who demonstrates equal ability and skill must be allowed to play. Whenever possible, disagreements are to be settled locally by impartial civil rights or human relations commissions.

## DALLAS VICE GET CAUGHT IN THE ACT

A shakeup in the Dallas vice control section has been completed by Police Chief Don Byrd following an investigation of irregularities in handling arrested prostitutes.

Five women accused vice officers of forcing them to pose for pictures while nude from the waist up during interrogation on prostitution charges.

Following the investigation, Chief Byrd fired four officers involved in the activity and also suspended, demoted and transferred the head of the vice control division. Three other supervisors were also given five to 10 day suspensions. All remaining vice officers were subsequently transferred to other departments to enable the unit to "start again with a clean house," according to one police spokesperson.

Acting commander of the vice control division, Lt. Mel Southall, told the press that in spite of the officer shortage, "we intend to enforce the law . . . we are going to enforce liquor violations, pornography laws, homosexual violations, gambling and prostitution laws."

Asst. Chief Donald Steele said that while the vice squad was not "in business as usual," they definitely were back in business.

And back in business they were . . . almost as he spoke, officers descended on Lee Park arresting numerous young men on various "homosexual violations."

