

GAY PAPER OF NORTH TEXAS

COMMUNITY NEWS

Number 10 • July 1975



We've
Got
What You
Want!

Your State Representatives (?)
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“QUOTABLES”

to be nobody but yourself
in a world which is doing
its best day and night to
make you everybody else
means to fight the hardest
battle which any
human being can
fight and never
stop fighting.

e.e. cummings

DALLAS TO HOST MCC GENERAL CONFERENCE

2,000 Expected To Hear Noble & Pittenger

(Dallas) Dr. Norman Pittenger and Rep. Elaine Noble are scheduled guest speakers at the Sixth Annual General Conference of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches meeting in Dallas July 29-August 3.

Rep. Noble, elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives last year as an openly gay woman, will speak at 1:30 p.m., Saturday, August 2, in the Grand Ballroom of the Adolphus Hotel, conference headquarters. A 1966 graduate of Boston University, Noble also holds masters degrees from Emerson College and Harvard University and is a member of the American Association of University Professors and the Massachusetts Governor's Commission on the Status of Women.

Dr. Pittenger, renowned theologian and author of 54 books including *A Time for Consent* and *Christian Words to a Homosexual*, will address the Sunday evening worship session at 7:30 in the Grand Ballroom. Dr. Pittenger, on the faculty of New York's General Theological Seminary for 33 years, is senior resident and member of the faculty of Divinity at King's College Cambridge University in Great Britain.

The first four days of the conference will be devoted to committee and board meetings and reports.

More than 2,000 persons, representing the church's 87 congregations in the United States and several other countries, are expected to attend. All sessions are scheduled for the Adolphus Hotel in downtown Dallas.

Austin Bans Discrimination

(Austin) Austin became the first city in Texas to protect gay people against job discrimination when Austin's City Council passed a comprehensive equal employment ordinance July 10. All city employees and private employees (where 15 or more people are employed) are protected from job discrimination on the basis of age, sex, race, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, or physical handicap. State or federal employees are not covered by the ordinance.

The local ordinance is expected to speed up resolution of complaints.

Race, religion, national origin and sex are also covered by federal legislation, but EEOC has a tremendous backlog of cases. The Austin Human Relations Commission which drafted the law will handle the complaints. Violation of the ordinance will carry a maximum penalty of \$200 fine.

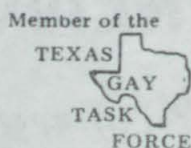
Janna Zumbrun of Austin Lesbian Organization was one of those who testified for the bill, and she got a favorable reception from both the Council and the audience. A similar ordinance was introduced last January but was defeated by a different council. Zumbrun reported that there was little opposition this time; only two people testified against the bill, and the council unanimously voted in favor of it.

AURA

Fort Worth's only Gay Organization

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at 7:30 p.m. at 5536 Jacksboro Hwy.
(T.J.'s Back Door)

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or write AURA, P.O. Box 7318
Fort Worth, TX 76111



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\$ 5,000
\$ 4,000
\$ 3,000
\$ 2,000
\$ 1,000

BUILDING FUND

Fort Worth MCC Launches Building Fund Drive

(Ft. Worth) Rev. Ron Anderson, pastor of Agape Metropolitan Community Church, has announced a campaign to assure eventual purchase of property to house the church and related community activities. More than a thousand dollars has already been raised for the church's building fund, which has a goal of \$15,000.

According to Rev. Anderson, the church, which currently leases facilities from the First Unitarian Church at 2800 Purington, has long recognized the need to have full-time facilities in order to better serve the community. Any property purchased by the group would also have space available for a complete community center with services which might encompass a clinic, alcoholics group, theatre, youth group and coffee house, as well as office space for other area groups, assured Rev. Anderson. Donations to the fund (marked for "Bldg. Fund") may be sent to the church at P.O. Box 7029, Fort Worth, TX 76111. In addition, Rev. Anderson has urged full community participation in various fund-raising activities which the church plans in the near future.

PARTY TO HIGHLIGHT COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

FREE BLOODY MARYS highlight a party being hosted Thursday, July 24, at 2800 Purington by AURA, local gay organization, in cooperation with Agape MCC.

Purpose of the party is to encourage participation in the group's community blood drive. "The party is admittedly a gimmick," acknowledged Steve Poyner,

TGTF SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED

(San Antonio) The following Texas Gay Task Force meeting schedule has been announced by the groups' coordinating council:

August 9-10, Houston, council meets;
September 27-28, Dallas, council;
December 6-7, Fort Worth, council and
House of Delegates;
March 27-28, Corpus Christi, council;
June 18-20, Houston, Texas Gay Conference III.

Additionally, TGTF Newsletters are scheduled for publication in July, October, January and April.

Council and House of Delegate meetings are open to all members of TGTF. Information concerning the Texas Gay Task Force can be obtained by writing TGTF, P.O. Box 7318, Fort Worth, TX 76111.

coordinator of the drive, "designed to reassure people that giving a pint of blood really is a simple procedure. People can actually spend a few minutes giving and then go partying."

A goal of 50 pints has been set for the drive. The blood, which will be drawn on location by professional technicians from John Peter Smith Hospital, will go into a permanent account at the hospital's blood bank until needed by members of the Gay Community (requested through AURA). Transfers may also be made to other parts of the country in the event of a gay tragedy such as the Upstairs Lounge fire which occurred in New Orleans two years ago.

Poyner urges all women and men who can to "give a pint of life" on the 24th and then join in the partying. "Saving a life really is something to party about," he stressed.

Admission to the party is the donation of one pint of blood - or a \$2.50 donation to the group's "jail release assistance" program. Further information is available from AURA at (817) 338-0128 or MCC at 534-9406. Persons who cannot make the party may donate directly to the account at JPS Hospital by telling the blood clerk to designate the donation for the "AURA Pool."

OOPS!

Our apologies to Wayne Ribble, who should have received credit for the photographs accompanying last month's feature on "Daddy's Girls."

COMMUNITY NEWS



ALLEN REID, editor

Assisted by: Richard van Cleve, Randy Beital, Ken Cyr, Wayne Ribble, Moody Wells, Sue Harris, Kay Wilson, Lee Gaylord and others.

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COMMUNITY NEWS, P.O. Box 7367, Fort Worth, TX 76111. (817) 338-0128

TGC II

Ten Resolutions Passed by Texas Gay Conference II

National Gay Unity Urged for Bicentennial

(San Antonio) "We hope that we gay women and men shall be taking our rightful, indeed dutiful role in connection with the Bicentennial. The country belongs to us, too, and we shall not endure another year of the repression, oppression and exploitation that we have suffered during our first 200 years, when liberty, justice and equality have been for 'them,' not for us.

"We mutually salute the notion of massive Gay Pride Week celebrations for June, 1976."

In a resolution ending with these two paragraphs, the Texas Gay Conference II expressed its desire for a nationally-coordinated observance of Gay Pride 1976 in observance of the Bicentennial.

The resolution was one of ten resolutions passed by participants in the conference held June 20-22 at the San Antonio Country and the International Theatre at HemisFair in San Antonio.

More than 150 Texans attended this second annual statewide conference which heralds the beginning of Gay Pride Week. The Texas Gay Task Force, which now sponsors the event, was formed at the first TGC held last year in Fort Worth.

Participants from San Antonio, Fort Worth, Houston, Dallas, Corpus Christi, Denton, Austin and across Texas heard

Morris Kight of the Los Angeles Gay Community Services Center and Carolyn Innes, founder of the Gay Nurses Alliance, address the group on matters relating to the Gay experience and the Gay Movement. In addition, conferees participated in a broad range of workshop sessions with topics ranging from those of interest to professional Gays to those of interest to Gay professionals.

Texas Gay Conference III will be hosted next year, June 18-20, by the Houston Gay Community.

Other resolutions adopted at the conference dealt with national gay communication, the Texas Homosexual Conduct law, sexism, Gay teachers, Gay ministers and police harassment.

National Gay Communication

A resolution was passed calling on the National Gay Task Force to reexamine its role as a self-defined "national clearing house for information relevant to Gay People," stating: "To the knowledge of the participants of the Texas Gay Conference II, the National Gay Task Force has not served that function in a consistent, systematic and reliable manner . . ." The resolution further seeks to elicit reasons for this supposed failure from the NGTF and determine if the Task Force

plans to assume this role in the future. The resolution also praises NGTF for the work it has done and urges TGTF members who have not already done so to join NGTF.

Sexism

The problem of sexism was examined and a resolution passed instructing the TGTF Coordinating Council to "appoint a committee to explore, educate and set guidelines for the gay residents of Texas to facilitate consciousness in an attempt to attain human equality for all people...."

Texas Homosexual Conduct Law

Rep. Craig Washington of Houston came in for praise for his continuing support of Gay People and in particular for his effort to remove homosexual conduct from the state penal code. Rep. Joe Spurlock of Fort Worth was censured for his lack of concern for his Gay constituents and his efforts to retain the criminality of homosexual conduct.

Police Harassment

The Conference censured and condemned the actions of members of the Fort Worth Police Department at the first Texas Gay Conference last year in Fort Worth. It also urged support for Ken Cyr and AURA in their efforts to improve the

(Continued on Page 12)



FREE BEER and Gay skits highlighted the first annual North Texas Gay Pride picnic held last month at Queen's Point on Garza-Little Elm Reservoir north of Dallas. Skits were per-



formed by a group billing themselves as "Two Dykes and a Queen." More than 50 persons enjoyed the entertainment and the booze.

MOTION TO TABLE SPURLOCK AMENDMENT TO COMMITTEE AMENDMENT 1 TO SB 127

| NAME | Y | N | P | NAME | Y | N | P | NAME | Y | N | P | NAME | Y | N | P |
|-------------|---|---|---|------------|---|---|---|--------------|---|---|---|------------|---|---|---|
| Mr. Speaker | | | | Edwards | | | | Lary | | | | Ribak | | | |
| Adams | | | | Evans | | | | Leuhoff | | | | Rucker | | | |
| Agnich | | | | Ezzell | | | | Leland | | | | Salem | | | |
| Allen | | | | Finney | | | | Lewis | | | | Scheffer | | | |
| Allred | | | | Florence | | | | McAlister | | | | Semos | | | |
| Atkinson | | | | Fox | | | | McBee | | | | Sherman | | | X |
| Bailey | | | | Garcia, A. | | | | McDonald, F. | | | | Short | | | |
| Baker | | | | Garcia, M. | | | | McDonald, T. | | | | Simpson | | | |
| Barnett | | | | Gaston | | | | Madia | | | | Slack | | | |
| Bigham | | | | Geiger | | | | Maloney | | | | Sty | | | |
| Bird | | | | Gilley | | | | Mankins | | | | Smith | | | |
| Blake | | | | Grant | | | | Martin | | | | Spurlock | | | |
| Blythe | | | | Green, F. | | | | Massey | | | | Stubbeman | | | |
| Bock | | | | Green, R. | | | | Mattox | | | | Sullivan | | | |
| Boone | | | | Hale | | | | Mayes | | | | Sutton | | | |
| Brown | | | | Hall, A. | | | | Miller | | | | Tanner | | | |
| Bryant | | | | Hall, W. | | | X | Montoya | | | | Tarbox | | | |
| Bynum | | | | Hanna | | | | Morano | | | | Temple | | | |
| Caldwell | | | | Harris | | | | Munson | | | X | Thompson | | | |
| Canales | | | | Hartung | | | | Nabers | | | | Torres | | | |
| Caraway | | | | Head | | | | Newton | | | | Truan | | | |
| Cartledge | | | | Hearty | | | | Nichols | | | | Uher | | | |
| Cartwright | | | | Henderson | | | | Nowlin | | | | Vale | | | |
| Cates | | | | Hendricks | | | | Nugent | | | | Vaughan | | | |
| Chevez | | | | Hernandez | | | | O'Kelly | | | | Vick | | | |
| Clark, B. | | | | Hillard | | | | Olson | | | | Von Dohlen | | | |
| Clark, J. | | | | Howenbach | | | | Parker, C. | | | | Washington | | | |
| Close | | | | Hollowell | | | | Parker, W. | | | | Waters | | | |
| Coleman | | | | Hubenak | | | | Pantony | | | | Watson | | | |
| Coody | | | | Hudson | | | | Paveto | | | | Weddington | | | |
| Craddock | | | | Hutchison | | | | Polumbo | | | | Whitehead | | | |
| Devis | | | | Johnson | | | | Powers | | | | Whitmore | | | |
| Deloo | | | | Jones, G. | | | | Prasnal | | | X | Wating | | | |
| Denson | | | | Jones, L. | | | | Preston | | | | Willis | | | |
| Denton | | | | Kastan | | | | Ragsdale | | | | Wilson | | | |
| Donaldson | | | | Konoth | | | | Rains | | | X | Wyatt | | | |
| Dramberger | | | | Kubiak | | | | Reyes | | | | | | | |
| Earle | | | | Laney | | | | Reynolds | | | | | | | |

ADOPTION OF SPURLOCK AMENDMENT TO COMMITTEE AMENDMENT 1 TO SB 127

| NAME | Y | N | P | NAME | Y | N | P | NAME | Y | N | P | NAME | Y | N | P |
|-------------|---|---|---|------------|---|---|---|--------------|---|---|---|------------|---|---|---|
| Mr. Speaker | | | | Edwards | | | | Lary | | | | Ribak | | | |
| Adams | | | | Evans | | | | Leuhoff | | | | Rucker | | | |
| Agnich | | | | Ezzell | | | | Leland | | | | Salem | | | |
| Allen | | | | Finney | | | | Lewis | | | | Scheffer | | | |
| Allred | | | | Florence | | | | McAlister | | | | Semos | | | |
| Atkinson | | | | Fox | | | | McBee | | | | Sherman | | | X |
| Bailey | | | | Garcia, A. | | | | McDonald, F. | | | | Short | | | |
| Baker | | | | Garcia, M. | | | | McDonald, T. | | | | Simpson | | | |
| Barnett | | | | Gaston | | | | Madia | | | | Slack | | | |
| Bigham | | | | Geiger | | | | Maloney | | | | Sty | | | |
| Bird | | | | Gilley | | | | Mankins | | | | Smith | | | |
| Blake | | | | Grant | | | | Martin | | | | Spurlock | | | |
| Blythe | | | | Green, F. | | | | Massey | | | | Stubbeman | | | |
| Bock | | | | Green, R. | | | | Mattox | | | | Sullivan | | | |
| Boone | | | | Hale | | | | Mayes | | | | Sutton | | | |
| Brown | | | | Hall, A. | | | | Miller | | | | Tanner | | | |
| Bryant | | | | Hall, W. | | | X | Montoya | | | | Tarbox | | | |
| Bynum | | | | Hanna | | | | Morano | | | | Temple | | | |
| Caldwell | | | | Harris | | | | Munson | | | X | Thompson | | | |
| Canales | | | | Hartung | | | | Nabers | | | | Torres | | | |
| Caraway | | | | Head | | | | Newton | | | | Truan | | | |
| Cartledge | | | | Hearty | | | | Nichols | | | | Uher | | | |
| Cartwright | | | | Henderson | | | | Nowlin | | | | Vale | | | |
| Cates | | | | Hendricks | | | | Nugent | | | | Vaughan | | | |
| Chevez | | | | Hernandez | | | | O'Kelly | | | | Vick | | | |
| Clark, B. | | | | Hillard | | | | Olson | | | | Von Dohlen | | | |
| Clark, J. | | | | Howenbach | | | | Parker, C. | | | | Washington | | | |
| Close | | | | Hollowell | | | | Parker, W. | | | | Waters | | | |
| Coleman | | | | Hubenak | | | | Pantony | | | | Watson | | | |
| Coody | | | | Hudson | | | | Paveto | | | | Weddington | | | |
| Craddock | | | | Hutchison | | | | Polumbo | | | | Whitehead | | | |
| Devis | | | | Johnson | | | | Powers | | | | Whitmore | | | |
| Deloo | | | | Jones, G. | | | | Prasnal | | | X | Wating | | | |
| Denson | | | | Jones, L. | | | | Preston | | | | Willis | | | |
| Denton | | | | Kastan | | | | Ragsdale | | | | Wilson | | | |
| Donaldson | | | | Konoth | | | | Rains | | | X | Wyatt | | | |
| Dramberger | | | | Kubiak | | | | Reyes | | | | | | | |
| Earle | | | | Laney | | | | Reynolds | | | | | | | |

THIS IS HOW YOUR REPRESENTATIVE VOTED on your rights as a gay person. In the top chart, a check or dot in the "Y" column is pro-gay, and a check or dot in the "N" column is anti-gay. "Y" indicates "yea," while "N" indicates "nay." The "X's" indicate those members who had excused absences. In the lower chart, a check or dot in the "N" column is pro-gay, while a mark in the "Y" column is anti-gay. Was your representative representing your best interests?

NO D/FW REPRESENTATIVE SUPPORTS GAY CONCERNS

No matter where you live in Dallas or Fort Worth, you can be sure that the Legislator who is supposed to represent you in Austin failed to represent your interests as a gay person during the session which ended last month.

As reported earlier in *Community News*, the issue of whether the private homosexual acts of consenting adults should be criminal was brought before the Texas House of Representatives for the first time in history when that body debated and voted on the Committee Amendments to S.B.127. Thanks to Rep. Craig Washington of Houston, who called for a record vote on the issue, we now have a printed record of how every legislator in Texas voted on this important issue. (See tabulation at left)

The record for the Fort Worth-Dallas delegation is pretty dismal. Other than Rep. Mattox of Dallas and Rep. Sherman of Fort Worth, who were absent at the time of the vote, every member of the Fort Worth-Dallas delegation voted to retain the criminal sanction against the private homosexual acts of consenting adults. A worse record could hardly be imagined, for even those legislators whose districts have a sizable gay population, such as Rep. Samuel Hudson of the Oak Lawn area of Dallas, voted against gay people. Particularly disappointing were the votes of Rep. Chris Miller of Fort Worth and Rep. Paul Ragsdale of Dallas who voted against the gay people of their districts in spite of their earlier promises of support.

This type of political double-crossing together with the lack of support gay people received from all the "closet" liberals in the D/FW delegation points up rather clearly that gay people will get absolutely nowhere if we continue to sit back and hope that the politicians will help us out of the kindness of their hearts. Between now and the 1976 elections, gay people need to start letting their Legislators know that we exist, that we are watching them, and that we can vote, too, if we expect a better result the next time we go to Austin.

— Randy Beitel



PROMOTE EQUAL PEOPLE

WATCHING THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE

By Randy Beitel

Unlike previous years when the debate on the criminalization of the private homosexual acts of consenting adults was relegated to the obscurity of sub-committee hearings, this year the debate took place on the floor of the House, right out there in public where any and all could see and hear, anyone, that is, who was still awake and in the House Gallery at 2:00 in the morning on May 29.

The debate began rather mundanely, with Rep. Craig Washington of Houston, the sponsor of the bill to repeal the consensual sodomy statute, explaining the various non-controversial provisions of the omnibus penal code revision bill in which the gay rights clause had been hidden by the Criminal Jurisprudence Committee. But shortly after Washington began, he was interrupted and asked whether this bill would repeal the law against homosexual conduct — and the debate was on.

Laughter, Catcalls from House

As soon as the word "homosexual" was mentioned, the House broke out in a rash of laughter, mutterings and catcalls, a mood which was to characterize the debate and which often necessitated the Speaker's gaveling the unruly House members to order so the debate could continue.

During the confusion, Rep. Spurlock of Fort Worth introduced his anti-gay amendment to Rep. Washington's bill, an amendment which provided for the gutting of the gay section of S.B. 127. Thus the real debate continued, centered around the Spurlock Amendment, the pro-gays fighting the amendment, the anti-gays pushing the amendment.

Rep. Gaston of Dallas broke into Rep. Washington's presentation, asking whether it was true that "only homosexuals are against the amendment," thus implying that any Legislators who voted in favor of repealing the consensual sodomy statute must be gay themselves.

Infuriated at this cheap rhetorical sham, Rep. Washington responded forcefully, "You can persecute people, Mr. Gaston, because you don't understand them, Mr. Gaston; you can laugh about it, but that doesn't make it right . . . Article 21.06 only allows for the persecution of some

people that in my opinion have just as much right to live their life the way they want to as much as you do. And I don't think this is right."

Not Politically Wise

Realizing that many of the Legislators would vote against the sodomy law repeal simply because of political expediency, Rep. Washington noted that "I know you're going to defeat the amendment . . . because its politically wise to do so. But that doesn't make it right."

With a breastplate of righteousness, Rep. Salem of Corpus Christi responded with a virtual admission of homophobia: "Mr. Washington, let me advise you that as far as I'm concerned, it's not (a matter of being) politically wise with me — I just don't like it (homosexuality) worth a damn!"

Rep. Washington replied, "Well, you're entitled to that opinion, but I don't see how that gives you the right — I might not like the suit you have on worth a damn, but that doesn't give me the right to take it off of you."

After some further attempts by Rep. Salem to obfuscate the issue, Rep. Washington cut him off by saying, "You can stand up there and demagogue till hell freezes over . . . You can verbally abuse me if you want . . . but I put the amendment (to repeal Section 21.06) up here because I believe it is right for these (gay) people and I have as much right to my beliefs as you do to yours."

And so went the debate until 2:40 in the morning, with the gay people losing on two votes, 112 to 16 and 117 to 14.

Effort Is Its Own Reward

Looking back on all the time we spent in Austin, getting a bill introduced, testifying at the committee hearings in April, contacting Legislators and finally the House debate in the last few days of the session, my feelings are best described by a comment which Rep. Leland of Houston made to Rep. Craig Washington as the House was voting down the bill: "Effort is its own reward, Craig." How true, for win, lose or draw, it was a tremendously exhilarating experience to be openly gay, confronting the homophobia of the Texas Legislature, asserting that we as gay people have some rights that we are going to claim whether they like it or not. Thus are the rewards of a gay activist. While we did not succeed in repealing the consensual sodomy statute, we did succeed in making the Legislature aware of our presence as persons with serious arguments and claims — and we assured them that we would be back next session, and we will.

GAYS NOW OK IN NEW MEXICO

(Santa Fe, NM) New Mexico became the tenth state to eliminate penalties for sexual acts between consenting adults in private, effective July 1, when Governor Jerry Apodaca signed a bill repealing the penalties for sodomy. The bill, a comprehensive reform of the state's rape laws, had earlier passed the State Senate by a vote of 41-1 and the State House by 53-0 with almost no debate.

Other states which have legalized sexual acts of consenting adults in private are: California, Oregon, Hawaii, Illinois, Colorado, Ohio, Delaware, Connecticut and North Dakota.

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Cruising the News

HOUSTON COMES OUT

(Houston) Representatives of this city's Gay Community held a news conference this month. Their purpose was to inform the public that they will no longer accept being second class citizens.

Ray Hill, long-time Houston gay activist and one of the organizers of the new Gay Political Caucus, said questionnaires will be sent to all candidates in the November city election in an attempt to get them to take stands on gay issues. The group will be working for:

- Repeal of the state law that makes homosexual acts between consenting adults a crime;
- State Legislation outlawing job discrimination against homosexuals . . . as well as removal of the local ban on hiring gays as police officers;
- Federal legislation giving partners in gay unions the right to file joint income tax returns;
- Inclusion of the homosexual perspective in sex education classes in public schools.

Another of the spokespersons, Pokey Anderson of N.O.W.'s Sexuality and Lesbianism Task Force, stressed that women in the group will also be working on reforms that affect them as Lesbians such as child custody battles.

The caucus will also work toward changing the public's image of homosexuals through full usage of the mass media.

Other Gay leaders appearing at the press conference included Jerry Miller and the Rev. Bob Falls, pastor of Houston's Metropolitan Community Church, where the conference was held.

Response to the announcement was generally felt to be good, as the event was given objective coverage by both major newspapers as well as other media.

Support for the new Gay Political Caucus from the Gay Community is expected to be good. Organizers include representatives of both liberal and conservative elements as well as women's groups and religious groups.

LEGGETT LOSES REINSTATEMENT TRY

(San Antonio) Rev. Gene Leggett lost another round last month in his four-year battle to regain his credentials as a minister of the United Methodist Church. The Southwest Texas Annual Conference overwhelmingly rejected a petition by Leggett's home church, St. Stephen's in San Antonio, to allow him to perform ministerial functions such as celebration of holy communion, baptism and marriage within the boundaries of that church.

Leggett was stripped of his credentials by the Conference in 1971 after he openly acknowledged his own gayness and his ministry to gay people.

Bishop Eugene O. Slater stated at a press conference following the June 2-5 conference: "We do not condone the practice of homosexuality, and consider this practice incompatible with Christian teaching. We could not appoint a self-avowed homosexual to be pastor at any United Methodist Church."

San Antonio newspapers gave considerable coverage to Leggett's struggle, as did two of the three local television stations.

as the lesbians had done. Janna Zumbrun of ALO (to whom a big hand and a bouquet of roses and sunflowers are more than due) said that since the rain held off until after the march, she knows that God is a lesbian. When the rain finally did get heavy, the rally moved onto the Capitol porch, where music continued well into the afternoon.

Channels 7 and 36 gave us good coverage on the Saturday night news, and *The Texan* printed a short article Monday. The *Austin American Statesman*, however, saw fit to ignore the march entirely.

One of the many good things about the parade was the attendance of gay people from all over the state and some local "non-lesbian" women. One of the bad things was the presence of photographers whom no one had ever seen before or since. For an event organized in two weeks' time, the Christopher Street Day Parade was an incredible triumph.

(Reprinted from *Pointblank Times*)



AUSTIN GAY PRIDE MARCH

By Nina Wouk

(Austin) On Saturday, June 28, Austin experienced its first legal gay pride march, which was organized and led by lesbians. One hundred people, mostly women, marched up Congress Avenue to the Capitol, chanting "Gay is twice as good as straight" and similar sentiments. One older woman joined us from among the small crowd watching; a Chicana with two children gave us a high-sign. The police escort behaved itself admirably; not once were we ordered to disperse. More people joined us at the Capitol, where some of us sat on the steps for awhile, making music for ourselves and the TV newspeople. The KTVV sound woman admired our "smash phallic imperialism" sign, while we sang "I'm gonna grow up to be a dyke" and "you people who don't like me better leave me alone." Then we reassembled on the lawn to listen to women's music and various speakers, including ones from Corpus Christi, San Antonio and Fort Worth. Art Addison of GPA told the other gay men more or less to get organized,



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Organizations

Agape Metropolitan Community Church, P.O. Box 7029, Ft. Worth, TX 76111, Services at 2800 Purington, office (817) 534-9406

AURA (Awareness, Unity & Research Association), P.O. Box 7318, Ft. Worth, TX 76111, (817) 338-0128, meetings every other Monday evening, 7:30, at 5536 Jacksboro Hwy. (T.J.'s Back Door)

Daughters of Bilitis, Dallas, (214) 241-4118, meetings first & third Fridays

Dignity, P.O. Box 70, Euless, TX 76039, (metro) 469-6669, meetings first & third Friday evenings (includes Mass)

G.O.O.D. (Gay Organization of Dallas), P.O. Box 9928, Dallas, TX 75214, (214) 748-9880, meetings second & fourth Fridays

Metropolitan Community Church of Dallas, 3834 Ross Ave., Dallas, TX 75204, (214) 826-0291



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DATING & COURTSHIP

By Rip Corley

The other day in the encounter group I conduct we were discussing the problem of weak, frequent, short-lived relationships that bear a variety of names (marriage, union, lovers, spouses, whatever) and all too frequently have one thing in common — their brevity.

One of the group members said the greatest problem in establishing a relationship is the inability to get to know someone in whom you might be interested: "We have no dating or courtship period," he said. "It's hello, hop in bed, and good-bye; or if the bed hop was good enough, stay together until the luster is gone and then good-bye."

This criticism is all to valid. The date as it stands now rarely lends itself to getting to know what the other individual is really like as a person on a day-to-day basis. At most it involves perhaps a show or dinner or the bars and dancing and then bed. While sex is an important part of any relationship, it has taken on an undue importance in some segments of the gay community. Many of the relationships are based on sexual compatibility as opposed to interpersonal compatibility. I would not be naive enough to recommend abstaining from sex until commitment is made; I would, however, like to entertain the idea that putting off a sexual encounter until some of the other facets of a person are known may lead to a more enduring relationship.

Now changing our *modus operandi* is not without risk. That "Mr. Right" may just slip by if we don't play the game of sex when we first meet; but, if he is "Mr. Right," he probably will be around for more of an introduction — even if we don't hop into the sack the first night.

There is also the problem of how to act in a dating situation. For many this

will be the first time in a new world of having chosen not to get sexually involved at the onset. Take a situation, if you will, where you meet a guy in the bar. You talk and seem to be compatible. As the evening progresses, you both realize a mutual compatibility. The hour grows late, but you are still engrossed in one another and do not wish to break this up just now. You go out for coffee and then to the more private atmosphere of his apartment to continue to get to know one another still better. There one turns to the other for a little kiss to relate part of the gratuity in getting to know this individual. In most situations, this is the sexual turning point, for one kiss leads to another and so on. This is where it gets more difficult to terminate the evening with only a night cap, good conversation, and a goodnight kiss. Most of us are not programmed in this fashion, and such a situation would be extremely anxiety provoking . . . but it doesn't have to be the end of the encounter. During the night cap conversation, explore one another's interest in meeting again, perhaps the following day for a show or dinner. Talking about the nice points of having met promotes a continuing interest. And provided the evening goes this way, a goodnight kiss should have more meaning than in the past.

As this relationship progresses and there are some feelings invested in the other person, hopefully mutually, the question arises about when more intimate contact is in order and whether this indicates that solidarity has entered the relationship. The answer to the first part lies with the two people themselves. There is no timetable for a sexual encounter in a relationship. Probably when it feels natural is the best timing. As for solidarity, if the sexual encounter is looked upon as a further

means of communication and not the zenith of the relationship, then the likelihood is enhanced of being able to identify solidarity.

During this period it may be best to date more than one individual. The one who is most compatible will gravitate in your direction. When this occurs, it is time to consider more serious dating. At this time sexual play may become more important and meaningful to the relationship but by no means should it become the overbearing part. This is the time really to get to know one another.

During this more serious dating period there probably will be a muting of the roles commonly assumed early in a relationship and each person will slip into who he really is on a day-to-day basis. Few of us are the same person to old friends that we were when we were new friends, simply because we tend to make more concessions and put our best foot forward to foster the primary relationship. This is not necessarily dishonest but is merely a social courtesy due any person we meet.

It is also during this time that some problems will emerge. We must recognize that when two people get together and intend a long-term situation, there will be some adjusting on both sides due to the fact that there are two very distinct and different individuals involved. If these adjustments are extremely difficult now, the likelihood of them being even more so in an espoused relationship is great.

If everything is working out favorably, it is probably time to plan for a period of courtship, during which both of you will be getting comfortable with the idea of a long-term relationship.

Regardless of the outcome of the dating period, however, a good deal of growth and mutual respect for the other person (and other people) is sure to result from the experience.

RC



"Just a general description will do, Mr. Martin."

(Editor's Note: This column addresses itself to the sexual promiscuity of the gay male and is not intended to overlook our women readers — it's just a fact that promiscuity is much more prevalent among males. Opinions expressed in this and other columns and bylined articles are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of this paper or of its other staff members.)

Civil Service Board Denies Discrimination Against Gay Dallas City Employee

(Dallas) The Dallas Civil Service Board has rejected claims of Steve Childers, a leader in the local Metropolitan Community Church, that he was passed over for promotion because of his activities in the church and as a gay activist.

The hearing before the Civil Service Board was the latest development in the battle for equal employment rights that Childers began late in 1974. At that time he scored high on a civil service exam for promotion but was not even interviewed for the position. When he applied for a position in the property room of the Dallas police department (for which he was qualified by civil service classification), a senior officer reportedly told him it was against the code of conduct to hire a homosexual.

At the hearing Police Sgt. H.J. Wages told the board that the code of conduct requires all employees to uphold the state penal code. Since the penal code makes homosexual activities illegal, Wages contended, it would be impossible for Childers to adhere to the code.

Also appearing at the hearing was John Stacha of the water utilities department who denied that Childers was passed over for promotion because of his sexual preference. He explained that the employee

selected for the post in question made an even higher score on the test than did Childers, who, he said, will still be eligible to apply again whenever another job opens up.

Childers charged that the refusal of the police department to accept him amounted to religious discrimination since his participation in gay activities are all in relation to his work in Metropolitan Community Church.

The hearing before the civil service board came after a maze of appeals and hearings before other city officials.

After the boards' decision that there was insufficient evidence of discrimination, Childers said, "The city government has many gays among its staff member," although most do not publicly acknowledge it. "Everywhere around the country laws are being changed in a movement to guarantee equal employment opportunities for gay people."

Although Childers is unsure at this time what his next step will be, he stressed that he considers the matter too important to let it drop.

Both major Dallas newspapers, as well as two television stations, reported on Childers' battle following the hearing.



DALLAS & FORT WORTH ministers of Metropolitan Community Churches got together in Fort Worth last month at the South Central District Conference of MCC. Left to right: Rev. David Carden, assistant pastor, Fort Worth; Rev. Ron Anderson, Ft. Worth pastor; and Rev. Jim Harris, pastor of the Dallas church.

G.O.O.D. GETS A FACE-LIFT

By Lee Gaylord

(Dallas) After a good deal of time and effort, the membership of the Gay Organization of Dallas unanimously approved a new constitution and statement of principles on June 20. The changes made were felt necessary for the future growth of the organization.

New officers were also elected at that meeting and are: president, Larry Lingle; vice president, Darryl Brown; secretary, Lee Gaylord; and treasurer, Randy Moreau. Additional information about G.O.O.D. may be obtained by calling the organization at (214) 748-9880.

ed, "They will work with state agencies and private groups to further define the problem and make recommendations for further action. State departments and agencies are instructed to fully cooperate with them in the effort to end this type of discrimination."

Pennsylvania Governor Recognizes Gay Rights

(Philadelphia) Governor Milton J. Shapp of Pennsylvania has issued the first state executive order giving equal rights to Gay People. The order read, in part, "I am committing this administration to work towards ending discrimination against persons solely because of their affectional or sexual preference." The order further set up an apparatus to implement the governor's order. Two state government employees were instructed to review and monitor the progress. The order instruct-

COURT SAYS MCC OK

(San Francisco) The U.S. District Court here has ruled that the California state prison ban on Metropolitan Community Church services is unconstitutional and ordered that the ban be lifted unless the California Department of Corrections can prove that the church services constitute a "clear and present danger" to the

"good order" of the prisons.

The court held that MCC is a bonafide church, that it does not teach or preach homosexuality or sexuality of any kind, and that the ban violates constitutional guarantees of freedom of religion.

The two-year-old suit was originally brought by Rev. Joseph Gilbert of Sacramento and Rev. Tere Roderick.

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Now I'm Thirty . . .

Now I'm thirty.
I've been a faggot all my life.

It was in grade school I became aware
"Don't play with that; it might come
off in your hand!"

Maybe if Billy plays with it, it won't come
off in his hands. I love Billy.

Yes, it must have been grade school.
Too bad Billy died!

Now I'm thirty.

Junior high and then high school. Teenage
boy play, experimenting. We all did it.
And then girls.

Jim got married.

Now I'm thirty.

You've got to fight it boy. You can be like
the rest. I just have to give myself a little
more time--
time--
time--

Now I'm thirty.

I'm glad to see you have accepted yourself for
what you really are. It took you long enough and
you sure put up a fight but it's over now and you've
adjusted nicely and--but--

Now I'm thirty.

I met some faggots tonight. Real live flesh and blood
faggots just like me. I guess it's the first time I ever
met a real faggot before. You know, they're human when
you see one up close. But, you see for me it's too late--

Now I'm thirty.

It's lonely in a closet and the hinges become rusty from
years of despair and after tears the door can't open and
your closet becomes your crypt.

Thirty is enough--

is enough--

is enough . . .

— Anonymous

Literary Gays

"DO IT!" Puzzle by Arlo

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | N | E | I | V | I | V | H | A | L | L |
| U | O | N | O | S | N | I | K | C | I | D |
| A | G | E | N | E | T | D | R | D | X | O |
| E | N | D | I | C | K | E | N | I | A | N |
| T | R | U | G | C | T | P | D | V | N | A |
| C | A | A | R | S | U | U | H | I | H | M |
| O | B | C | E | A | A | D | E | D | G | T |
| C | Y | R | B | P | U | T | E | A | M | I |
| H | O | M | S | P | S | H | A | L | T | H |
| F | O | R | N | H | A | E | D | L | I | W |
| T | E | O | I | O | D | D | K | V | H | P |
| L | T | T | G | M | I | C | I | A | W | P |
| A | S | E | N | E | G | V | A | V | H | A |
| H | P | B | A | R | N | E | Y | A | H | S |

The hidden words listed below appear forward, backward, up, down or diagonally in the puzzle. Find each of the hidden words and box it in as shown.

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Auden (W.H.) | Homer |
| Barney (Natalie) | LeDuc (Violette) |
| Cocteau (Jean) | Sappho |
| Dickinson (Emily) | Shakespeare (Wm.) |
| Forster (E.M.) | Stein (Gertrude) |
| Genet (Jean) | Vidal (Gore) |
| Gide (Andre) | Vivien (Renee) |
| Ginsberg (Allen) | Wilde (Oscar) |
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Texas Gay Conference II (Continued from Page 3)

police situation in Fort Worth.

Gay Teachers

Support for Jim Eggeling was expressed in a resolution concerning his battle against the Harlandale Independent School District, which fired him after discovering his Gayness.

Gay Ministers

The Conference joined in support of the Rev. Gene Leggett in his struggle to be reinstated as a minister of the United Methodist Church.

Leadership

Resolutions of appreciation were also passed for Gene Leggett for his work on the Conference and Ken Cyr for his work with TGTF.

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