

GAY PAPER OF NORTH TEXAS

COMMUNITY NEWS

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"WHAT ARE YOU DOING to me?" Ken Cyr seems to be asking in the photo above. See page two for answer.

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“QUOTABLES”

THOSE WHO DENY freedom to others
deserve it not for themselves.

—Abraham Lincoln

Ft. Worth Gay Fights and Wins Job Discrimination Issue

(Fort Worth) Harold Wright, local gay activist, was recently reinstated to his front office job at the Fort Worth Hilton Inn after he was earlier terminated because he is gay.

Wright, a Texas Christian University student, was terminated last August 15 by Neal Hospers, general manager of the Fort Worth Hilton. Hospers learned that Wright was gay when a leading Fort Worth businessman called Hospers and complained that Wright and the businessman's 18-year-old son, also an employee at the Hilton, were engaged in a homosexual relationship. Wright and the businessman's son were then terminated.

Although Wright and the businessman's son were employed on the same shift, Wright stated that their relationship was never carried onto their jobs and did not affect their job performance.

"Any relationship we might have had was our own business as consenting adults. I tried to make a point, as everybody should, of leaving my private life out of my job and vice-versa," Wright said.

Wright, a member and past vice president of AURA (Awareness, Unity & Research Association), a Fort Worth gay civil rights organization, subsequently filed suit through AURA's attorney and also filed a complaint with the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) alleging that his termination constituted discrimination on the basis of sex (sexual preference) in violation of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

After almost a year of litigation, an out of court settlement was reached with Metro Inns Management Company (MIMCO), which owns and operates the Fort Worth Hilton Inn.

In the settlement, MIMCO agreed to reinstate Wright to his job; to pay his back wages and attorney's fees; to issue a letter to Wright apologizing for any discrimination against him on the basis of sexual preference and to stipulate in the letter that MIMCO does not discriminate against homosexual or gay persons in any way. MIMCO further agreed that it will not in the future discriminate against Wright or any other gay person because of sexual preference; that no further retaliatory action will be taken against him as long as he performs his job in a satisfactory manner and that no mention of this incident or the fact that he is gay will be contained in his personnel record or repeated to any prospective future employer. MIMCO agreed that it will treat Wright with the courtesy and respect accorded to other employees.

Wright claims that his termination is a prime example of the homophobia (fear of gay people) that is prevalent in Fort Worth and Texas.

"I was terminated not because of any poor job performance or anything related to my job, but simply because I am gay," Wright said.

Ken Cyr, director of AURA, hailed the settlement as not only a victory for Wright but for the entire Fort Worth Gay Community.

"The victory won by Harold Wright over the Hilton Inn reiterates and strengthens our position that it is legally and morally wrong to discriminate against a person simply because of that person's affectional or sexual preference," commented Cyr.

Dallas To Have Gay Radio Show

(Dallas) A Gay radio program on community-owned KCHU is now in production and is tentatively scheduled to air August 25.

KCHU at 90.9 on the FM dial should begin broadcasting Saturday, August 23. Once the station is on the air, the weekly half hour Gay broadcast will be heard every Monday evening at 7:30.

The program will be a taped montage of music, entertainment, news and commentary.

"The talk show format," according to the program's director, "has been overused. We will use instead a magazine format and at times will offer an abstract sound-collage of music and ideas.

"Because this is a Gay endeavor, we want it to be one of the most professional local shows. But that shouldn't be difficult since there's an awful lot of talent within the Dallas Gay Community."

Programs now in the planning stages include such titles as: "Women's Lib and the Lesbian," "Where the Boys Are—An In-Depth Study of the Cruise Block" and "HR-166—The Abzug Emancipation Proclamation."



FEAR OF THE NEEDLE wasn't enough to keep 21 blood donors from attending a "Count Dracula Party" July 24 at Agape Metropolitan Community Church sponsored by AURA, Fort Worth Gay organization. The "party" was part of a campaign to build a blood reserve for the Gay Community. Persons who missed the "party" but wish to donate blood may go directly to John Peter Smith Hospital Blood Bank and specify that they wish to donate to the "AURA Pool." The blood will then go into a permanent account at the JPSH Blood Bank until needed by members of the Gay Community (requested through AURA). Pictured are JPSH technician John Byrd and AURA Director Ken Cyr, one of the donors.

COMMUNITY NEWS



ALLEN REID, editor

Assisted by: Lee Gaylord, Darryl Brown, Randy Beitel, Richard van Cleve, Ken Cyr, Kay Wilson, David Lamble, Moody Wells, David Nalley, Wayne Ribble, and others.

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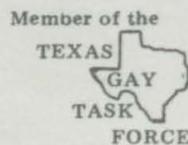
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Fort Worth

TROUBLE IN THE CRUISE BLOCKS

There's trouble in Dallas. Any of us who have ever cruised in Dallas (and who hasn't?) is surely familiar with those two blocks just off Oak Lawn known as the "Cruise Blocks." Known for years as a glorious little area where we could get some serious cruising together or where we could stop and chat with friends or camp for the passerbys, the blocks are in danger.

It seems the Dallas Police Department is getting uptight about our presence on the cruise blocks. It's not known whether the police are attempting to reassert their authority after having their hands tied by the spectacle of hundreds of open gays attending the MCC General Conference downtown recently, or whether it's just some vice cops whose masculinity is in need of some bolstering which is to blame. Nevertheless, there has been a sharp increase in the number of arrests made on the cruise blocks in the last couple of weeks. Local residents of the blocks report that the police helicopter with its search light often hovers above to assist roving squad cars in their campaign of harassment and intimidation.

In light of these developments, the question to be answered by us all is whether cruising on the blocks is worth the risk. Let's begin by taking a look at the laws which might potentially be used against us. There are two types of laws in effect, the uniform criminal laws which cover the entire state, called the Penal Code, and the City Ordinances which are peculiar to Dallas.

If one is caught *flagrante delicto* (with your pants down) getting it on (or off) with someone, say in the front seat of your parked car, one can be charged with violating Section 21.07 of the Penal Code, which carries a possible penalty of a one year jail term and a \$2,000 fine.

While first offenders are rarely sentenced to jail terms, a provision in the Penal Code requires that upon second conviction a jail term of not less than 90 days must be imposed. It should also be noted that Section 21.07 is violated by any sexual touching in public, so "just feeling his cock" is all that need be proven for a conviction; one need not be caught actually going down.

If you are in a habit of getting it off in your car, don't be lulled into a false sense of security by thinking that by the time a cop could look in your window you can disengage all contact. Perhaps you can, but you still might be charged under Penal Code Section 21.08 with Indecent Exposure if you can't get it all back in quick enough. A conviction under this statute carries no jail term but does carry a \$200 fine.

One other section of the Penal Code might be applicable to cruising the blocks. Section 42.01 criminalizes Disorderly Conduct. While this statute has ten sections which define ten sections which define types of prohibited conduct, those in point to cruising are:

(1) uses abusive, indecent, profane, or vulgar language in a public place, and the language by its very utterance tends to incite an immediate breach of the peace;

(2) makes an offensive gesture or display in a public place, and the gesture or display tends to incite an immediate breach of the peace;

(5) makes unreasonable noise in a public place or in or near a private residence that he has no right to occupy.

Subsections (1) and (2) criminalize only speech or gestures which tend to incite an immediate breach of the peace, known as "fight-

ing words."

Subsection (5) is subject to a defense that before arrest, one must be warned and given an opportunity to move on. A conviction under Section 41.01 carries no jail term but does carry a \$200 fine. It should be noted, however, that on all these offenses which don't carry a jail term, one is still taken downtown and held in jail until the time of trial or until a bail bond is set and posted.

Characteristic of this city's homophobia, Dallas has several local ordinances which could be used against us. Section 31-75 of the Dallas City Code prohibits soliciting for sodomy in a public place (which is what cruising is all about) and Section 31-78 prohibits soliciting for obscene conduct (fondling the sexual parts of another human being) in a public place. While the State of Texas has not seen fit to criminalize the act of asking someone if they care to suck cock, Dallas has, in an apparent effort to keep its hunks from being hassled by all the anxious gays. Thus, should you ask someone on the cruise blocks to engage in virtually any gay sex act, you could be charged with these offenses, which carry no jail term, but do carry a \$100 to \$200 fine.

Even if we are just walking or driving around the block, not doing anyone or even asking anyone to do it, we are still likely to end up in the clutches of those public enforcers of Dallas morality. Under Section 31-60 of the Dallas City Code, the police may arrest you when they have probable cause that you are loitering. Loitering is defined in the City Code as including "The walking about aimlessly without apparent purpose; lingering; hanging around; lagging behind; the idle spending of time; delaying; sauntering and moving slowly about, where such conduct is not due to physical defects or conditions." The City Code further states that changing one's direction of travel to avoid a police officer or an act of concealment when a

(Continued on Page 7)



FEATURED GUESTS at the 1975 General Conference of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches held in Dallas July 29 through August 3 included Rep. Elaine Noble of Massachusetts, first openly Gay person ever elected to a state office in the United States, and Dr. Norman Pittenger (right), renowned theologian, shown here

chatting with UFMCC Founder Rev. Troy Perry. An exclusive interview with Rep. Noble by Dallas journalist David Lamble will be published in next months issue of Community News. More than a thousand MCC members and friends registered for the conference which was held in the Adolphus Hotel. (Photographs by Roy Hall)

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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 Associa-
tion), P.O. Box 7318, Ft. Worth, TX 76111,
(817) 338-0128, meetings every other Mon-
day evening, 7:30, at 5536 Jacksboro Hwy.
(T.J.'s Back Door)

Dignity, P.O. Box 70, Euless, TX 76039, (me-
tro) 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,
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A Review of Laura Z. Hobson's
CONSENTING ADULT

By Scott Stebelman



Hobson, Laura Z. *Consenting Adult*. Garden City, New York: Doubleday & Company, 1975.

With the publication of *Gentleman's Agreement*, a novel exposing the ubiquity and viciousness of anti-semitism in America, Laura Z. Hobson established herself as an uncompromising opponent of prejudice. That was in 1946, when America had just defeated "fascist" Germany and the irony of our own discriminatory practices at home was inescapable. Three decades later she is still angry, still disquieted by the internecine effects of bigotry, only the bigotry she now attacks is sexual rather than religious.

Her new novel, *Consenting Adult*, is a novel of pain, of a pain so deep that none of the characters can talk about it. When 17 year old Jeff Lynn discloses his homosexuality to his family, his mother's first feelings are that of an animal "gored," wounded vicariously as she believes her son to be wounded, yet rejecting of the "it" within him. The father, a liberal publisher who abhors prejudice in the abstract, compares the son's homosexuality to "an earthquake, a hurricane, any natural catastrophe," and avoids seeing or talking to him for several months, as does the older brother, Don. Family communication, low before the disclosure, ends with it.

This lack of communication creates a literary problem for Ms. Hobson. Because none of the characters talk to one another, stasis results and what we feel, unmercifully, for nearly 200 pages, is disappointment and frustration. The point-of-view throughout is essentially that of the mother, but she is a weak character who eschews conflict. For example, whenever she questions Jeff about his welfare or his feelings, he accuses her of "digging," which ends her questions and any meaningful interaction the two might have had. She is so eager not to step on toes—her son's, her husband's, the psychoanalysts' Jeff goes to—that she remains inert and pathetic throughout most of the book. Even her marriage with Ken is lackluster: he is impotent (which illuminates, to a certain extent, his homophobia), and his earlier stroke prevents stressful situations with her.

The author wants to show growth in the mother, but because the main character is so weak it can only be done through a *deus ex machina*, a plot contrivance that essentially falls flat. Dr. Waldo, the family doctor, calls her into his

office one day and reveals that a number of psychiatrists no longer see homosexuality as a sickness; and with that utterance the mother is freed of her anxiety and can now totally accept her son and his lifestyle. The fact that it is others who decide for her how she is to perceive her son never dawns on the mother. What if psychiatrists next year vote gays sick again? Will her previous fears and suspicions return? Her failure to resolve the problem internally and decisively makes her sudden conversion questionable.

It is unfortunate that the reader never gets Jeff's side of the story, never sees how he lives his everyday life after he comes out, how he relates to other homosexuals and what fears con-

tinue to plague him. But then, as the publisher's blurb notes, this novel is "unique" because it focuses on the parents' feelings rather than the child's. Nothing is wrong with such a strategy; what dooms the novel, however, is that those feelings are never made dramatically presentable.

SUPPORT FROM WOMEN

(Corpus Christi) Among resolutions passed by delegates to the Texas Women's Political Caucus meeting in Corpus Christi July 15-17 was one calling for support of efforts to repeal laws against homosexuality on both state and national levels.

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COMING OUT

'We have a right to be here.'

(This article by Marie Kent is reprinted from the Gay Lutheran, monthly publication of Lutherans Concerned for Gay People, Box 15592, Salt Lake City, UT 84115.)

We are living in a time when people are demanding openness and honesty — in government and in human relationships. Yet for those of us who are gay to be open and honest about our sexual/affective being can mean the loss of our very survival — economic, physical and psychological. For in spite of new laws and changing moral attitudes, the risk of losing painstakingly-built careers and reputations is still great, simply because people find subtle ways of discriminating, intimidating and discrediting gays.

Yet until we who are gay can step forward and say, "We are not ashamed of who we really are," straight people will continue to believe the myths that gays are weirdos, "out there" somewhere, who do obscene things in dark alleys. And we will continue to believe these myths, and go on feeling shame and guilt, withdrawing into ourselves, thus depriving ourselves

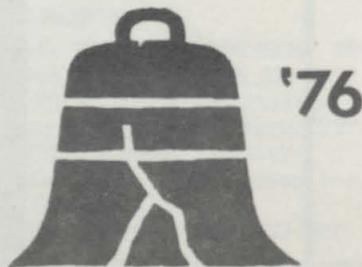
of a fulfilling and satisfying part of our being.

In my opinion, gays need to encourage and give as much strength to each other as possible, in order to overcome this *fear of being different*. For we all know who we are — not freaks, but for the most part, obedient daughters and sons, some honor students, most charitable and giving members of society, in every corner of this great land and this grand and mysterious world. Not new to the 20th century, but having existed since time immemorial. Some achieving greatness in spite of hidden pain.

We need to stand tall and declare that we are not ashamed of who we are . . . each and every one . . . a child of the universe, no less than the trees and stars. We have a *right to be here*.

For the greatest danger, as I see it, is that this *fear* of declaring "who we really are" has and can produce the very sickness straight society sees in us.

Gay Revolution



TEXAS CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION GIVES PRIORITY TO GAY RIGHTS

(Austin) According to the July issue of *Action Report*, monthly newsletter of the Texas Civil Liberties Union, decriminalization of homosexual conduct was one of twelve key issues before the Texas House of Representatives this session on which the TCLU took a stand. Unfortunately, only 16 members of the House agreed with them. (See last month's issue of *Community News* for a report on House action on S.B. 127. The TCLU position was on a motion by Rep. Craig Washington to table an amendment by Reps. Joe Spurlock and Bob Davis deleting the homosexual decriminalization section of S.B. 127. The tabling motion was defeated 112 to 16. The House then passed the Spurlock/Davis amendment 117 to 14.)



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NOT FOR LESBIANS ONLY

By Kay Wilson

I have always wanted gay neighbors, but it's not the type of thing you can ask Santa Claus for.

One day it finally happened. The retired couple from downstairs moved out and some new people moved in. One look and there was no mistaking it — they were our kind of folks. Make no mistake about it, friends.

Jubilant untold! Santa had finally delivered—a few months late, but he had done good.

I couldn't wait to tell Sue. I told all our friends. I even told Sue's mother (who — perish the thought — does not understand the relationship I have to her daughter) that I was dying to meet the two chicks from downstairs.

"Well, honey, you just bake some cookies and invite those girls up," suggested my "mother-in-law" with an innocence possessed by few half-century old women.

Cookies? Nay, nay. Never. Invite them up. What would we say? Something like, "We just figured the two lesbians from down there might like to meet the two from up here." No way.

I scouted every gay bar I went in. I gave people who half way resembled those girls the once over and sometimes the twice over. The months drug on. My goodness, are they nuns? I thought.

One night Sue and I walked into a bar that was sardine city. Needless to say, first priority was to find a table.

In scouting for a place to park our rears, I turned around and lo and behold! There were our neighbors just huggin and kissin. They seemed as pleased as we to have finally met.

They came up to our apartment for a drink that week, and we all hit it off. That's great you might think. No, that's bad, because in talking, they told us they are building a house and will be moving in a few months. Such is life.

I'll be an old woman by the time the next batch of gay neighbors moves in.

ENCORE

By Lee Gaylord

Patios are in the news this month! Both the Encore and the Bon Soir are adding on patio bars, and both promise to be in operation by September. But a patio is not all that is being added at the Bon Soir. Jerry, the bar's new manager, is changing the atmosphere to a Gay 90's theme, complete with Honkytonk piano and singalongs. To kick the whole thing off, Jerry's throwing a "new manager's party" at the bar on September 1, which sounds like it's going to be a real camp!

The Crews Inn is still the home of the "wooden nickel" (and some very hunky bartenders). Singles pool tournaments are held every Sunday at 4, and doubles tournaments are on Wednesdays at 7:30.

Drag shows are growing in popularity in Dallas. Besides the shows at the Bayou Landing, the Entre Nuit now features Cindy Birdsong and the Kopy Kay Revue on Sundays at 9. For the women, T.J.'s will be having shows in the near future, and if rumor is correct, these should be great fun.

The Olive Branch has some great specials coming up which you might want to catch. On September 13, Jan Poole will be singing at 9 p.m., and on the 18th, there will be a ping-pong tournament. Then on the 21st they will be throwing their "back-to-school bash" with free draft from 8 to 12. Finally, on the 27th, their "Bird of a Feather" Singalong will happen at 9.

For a change of pace, the Gay Organization of Dallas is planning an open air bazaar for some time in October. Watch for later details. They have also recently announced that one of their goals will be to work for a Gay Community Center in Dallas. If you are into this trip, give them a call at (214) 521-8182.

Finally, the big news this month has to do with the fate of the Old Plantation. Rumors have been around for awhile now that they will not be able to renew their lease and will be moving. Well, nobody over there will open their mouth about this whole thing, but I was

able to pick up on some rumors that may be pretty reliable. Supposedly, a new location has been selected in the Oak Lawn area and plans are being made for a bar that you will not believe. It's rumored that decorators will be coming from the East to work with close to a \$100,000 budget, and that the owners are looking at a totally new concept in sound systems that will be dynamite. The whole thing will be a multi-level affair with something like five bars (including a disco bar and a piano bar), and will retain the level of quality the Old Plantation is famous for. Anyway, these are the rumors, so keep an eye on this paper for more details in the near future.

Well, these are some of the things going on in Dallas this month, and there is enough happening to keep you off the streets, unless, of course, you're into that scene. (If you are, the Dallas police supposedly have picked up several Gays in the Oak Lawn cruise area, so watch yourself.) Have a good month.

CRUISE BLOCKS (Continued from Page 3)

police officer is spotted will constitute probable cause for arrest on a loitering charge. Thus one could be charged with loitering for driving or walking slowly around the cruise blocks, particularly if one turns and goes the other way when the squad car approaches. While this statute is currently under challenge in an appeal to the Supreme Court, it is still in effect and can be used against us. If we are busted on the cruise blocks for loitering, we could appeal to the Supreme Court, but who wants to spend several years and thousands of dollars before finally securing justice.

Another archaic City Ordinance which is only dredged up to prosecute "undesireables" is Section 31-2.1, which makes it unlawful for a group of persons, whose remaining in a street or sidewalk obstructs traffic, to refuse to move on when ordered to do so by a police officer. Thus, if an officer asks you to move on, it's move on or suffer the penalty of the ordinance, which is a maximum \$200 fine.

With all these laws swimming about in your head, the natural question is what should I do if I'm on the cruise block and I'm confronted by Tillie? Section 31-61 of the Dallas City

DRAG

By Arlo

Drag has come alive in Ft. Worth. In addition to the traditional Sunday night shows at the Back Door, there now are also shows at the 500 Club and the Warehouse. The Back Door is moving toward theme shows with a wild "Genderfuck" show scheduled and a "Fabulous Fifties" spectacular in the works. We will try to review all the Fort Worth shows in future issues.

Elsewhere, Thursday nights are going to be busy this fall. Date Night at the movies has been scheduled by Agape MCC on alternate Thursday nights with the line up reportedly including such films as Showboat, The Robe and Atlantis, the Lost Continent. First screening is set for September 4 at \$1.50/person and only \$1 for 17 and under. Also set for Sept. 4 is the first of AURA's monthly first Thursday dinners at the Back Door. A \$1 donation gets you a feast of spaghetti, salad and French bread.

Sunday, August 31, is another big day at Queen's Point on Garza-Little Elm Reservoir. The Bailey Street Warehouse is sponsoring free food and beer at the Point.

Code requires that you give your name, your address and a reasonable explanation of your activities. What is a reasonable explanation is anyone's guess, but the point is, all you have to tell them is your name, your address and some reasonable explanation. Do not run or change directions when Tillie appears on the scene; this will only give them a stronger case for arresting you. If arrested, say nothing except for your name and address, and call a lawyer.

The Community News staff is working on a pamphlet of what your rights are when you get arrested, and this will appear in a future issue. Until then, if arrested, keep quiet and call a lawyer. If you've got specific questions, write to Community News, and we will try to answer them. If you've been arrested lately for cruising, get in touch with us (we will keep your name confidential) so that other gays can benefit from what happened to you. Above all, BE CAREFUL — there's trouble in Dallas.

Club Houston



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Sunday
Buffet!



Club Dallas



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Sunday
Cookout!



2/20/76

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