

TEXAS GAY CONFERENCE

JUNE 21-23, 1974
FORT WORTH, TEXAS

An Experience in Understanding and Learning
A Call to Unity and Action

FEATURING NATIONAL GAY LEADERS



TOGETHER WE CAN



Sponsored by the FW/D Metroplex Gay Council

TEXAS GAY CONFERENCE
P.O. Box 7318
Fort Worth, TX 76111

REGISTRATION FEE

Registration Fee for the Conference is \$10/person or \$15/couple. We believe that the benefits you will receive from your experiences at the Texas Gay Conference are worth this amount. We hope you will agree. It is not anticipated that registration fees will fully cover costs of the Conference; already sponsoring organizations have held several fund raising events to help finance this worthwhile venture. Any money remaining after the Conference will be committed to the 1975 Texas Gay Conference which will be held in some other Texas city next year.

GAY ORGANIZATIONS CAUCUS

An opportunity will be presented during the course of the Conference for representatives of Gay Organizations in Texas to convene. Hopefully, a result of this meeting will be the acceleration of cooperation and communication between Gay groups. If you plan to represent an organization, please indicate this on your registration form.

SPONSORSHIP

The 1974 Texas Gay Conference is sponsored by the Fort Worth/Dallas Metroplex Gay Council. The Council was formed late last year when it became obvious to the leadership of FW/D area Gay Organizations that more could be accomplished for Gay People if there were more unity and more communication between the groups and among individuals. Member organizations of the Council exchange information and ideas, hold joint fund raising functions and social events and may issue joint statements and take coordinated actions whenever unified effort is necessary.

Membership of the Gay Council currently includes these six organizations:

- AURA (Awareness, Unity & Research Association), Fort Worth
- Circle of Friends, Dallas
- Daughters of Bilitis, Dallas Chapter
- Daughters of Bilitis, Fort Worth Chapter
- Friends of Jesus, Fort Worth
- Acting Pastor of MCC-Dallas (non-voting delegate)

Other organizations are invited to join as they are organized and recognized.

Mail to: TEXAS GAY CONFERENCE, P.O. Box 7318, Fort Worth, TX 76111

Please register me for the TEXAS GAY CONFERENCE to be held in Fort Worth June 21-23, 1974. Enclosed is a check or money order for

--- \$10 for 1 person

--- \$15 for a couple

(Make check payable to Texas Gay Conference.)

NAME _____

TELEPHONE _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

Name of any Gay Organization of which you are a member _____

Office held? _____

_____ Please try to secure free housing for me (us). _____ Please send information on nearby motels/hotels.

_____ I would like to attend, but am financially unable to pay the registration fee. Please let me know if I can secure one of the "scholarship registrations" being provided by other interested persons.

Together We Can

Please fill out reverse side.

PURPOSE



The Texas Gay Conference is designed as a forum for Gay People and their friends to learn together through sharing their ideas and experiences.

If we as Gay People are to assume our rightful place as equal, responsible citizens of this nation, we must first develop our knowledge and understanding of ourselves, including our strengths and our weaknesses, our differences and our similarities. We must examine our culture and our heritage, and we must accept the reality of our ethnic identity.

We must develop our unity — and the first step in this direction is the opening of communication among us, the acceptance of each for the other, and the open, honest, free exchange of ideas.

This conference will not be dominated by any school of thought or political persuasion. It will be neither radical nor conservative — but both viewpoints, and all those between, are welcomed.

All people who are interested in the well-being of Gay People are urged to attend — both Gays and non-gays, men and women, from young to old, individuals and groups, all races, and from all economic and social stations in life. (If you wish, your anonymity will be protected.)

Let us come together to understand and to learn, to experience unity and possibly to discover a brighter future for us all. **Together we can.**

PROGRAM

A loosely structured program is planned which can easily be adapted to meet the needs and wishes of the Conference participants. Three featured speakers will highlight the Conference:

Ms. Barbara Gittings, coordinator of the Task Force on Gay Liberation of the American Library Association.

Dr. Franklin Kameny, founder of the Mattachine Society of Washington, D.C.

Rev. Freda Smith, pastor of Metropolitan Community Church of Sacramento, California.

A major portion of the Conference will be devoted to informal discussion workshops/idea exchanges. Although each workshop will have a qualified leader, that person will be there as a coordinator and resource person, with the bulk of the activity ex-

pected to evolve from the open exchange of ideas among the workshop participants.

Workshop leaders include both Gay and non-gay women and men who are qualified and experienced in their respective fields — psychology, the media, government, the Gay Movement, law, etc.

Entertainment: Featured entertainment for the Conference will be the widely acclaimed musical review, "Gay Tears and Laughter," presented by the MCC Thespians of Dallas.

Additionally there will be a social function (dance/party), a reception, a luncheon (optional) and a Sunday worship service (also optional).

On Sunday there will be a Memorial Service for all our Brothers and Sisters who have suffered tragedy at the hands of a homophobic world.

Literature and other Gay Movement materials will be available throughout the Conference (both free and for sale).

REGISTRATION

Following receipt of your registration, you will be sent confirmation and further information concerning final Conference arrangements. Should you register too late (or otherwise fail to receive confirmation) you may call either of these 24-hour numbers upon your arrival in Fort Worth: 838-2095 or 838-9564.

HOUSING

Free Housing is available on a "first-come, first serve" basis for those pre-registrants who desire it. (Please indicate on registration form.) If your housing request is filled, you will receive a confirmation in advance (if time allows). If you desire free housing, it is suggested that you supply your own sheets, pillow and blanket, as well as all personal items.

TRANSPORTATION

If you fly, Surtran buses run regularly from D/FW Regional Airport to downtown Fort Worth (\$2.50 fare). Greyhound, Continental Trailways and Amtrak terminals are also in downtown Fort Worth. For transportation from downtown Fort Worth to the Conference site, please call 838-2095 or 838-9564 upon arrival in the city.

PROPOSED WORKSHOPS

AND IDEA EXCHANGE SESSIONS

(Please check the workshops you would most like to attend — up to ten.)

- Gay Prisoner Rights
- Dealing with Public Officials
- Gay People and the Law
- The Dynamics of Feminism
- Gay Relationships
- Transexualism
- Transvestism
- Religion and the Homosexual
- Human Awareness
- Gay Literature
- Gay Pride and Culture
- Gay People and Mental Health
- Crisis of Coming Out
- Getting the Most from the Media
- Starting a Gay Organization
- Problems of Gay Organizations and how to Solve them
- Politics of Confrontation
- Growing Older as a Gay Concern
- Gay Parents and Child Custody

I would like to suggest additional workshops in these areas:

I would like to suggest _____
as a leader for the _____
workshop. He/she may be contacted at _____

(Please use additional sheet of paper for more suggestions)

MEMO TO WORKSHOP LEADERS:

The purpose of the workshops is to share and exchange ideas, learning from one another. The leader of each workshop was chosen because she or he had knowledge or experience in the area to be discussed.

Because of the limited time available for the Conference, the workshops are on a tight schedule -- only one hour each. Following are some suggestions proposed by the Conference Committee which you might consider in conducting your workshop:

- 1) Limit your "solo presentation" to an introduction to the subject being discussed. Get the other participants involved in the discussion as soon as possible, with you acting as moderator and resource person.
- 2) Because the time is limited, begin the workshop on time, whether everyone is settled into the room or not. As soon as serious business begins, everyone should settle down rapidly.
- 3) As moderator, you have it within your power to direct the discussion. Try to prevent one person or small group of persons from monopolizing the meeting. Everyone should be allowed the opportunity to express her/his ideas and opinions without feeling intimidated by the knowledge, experience or forcefulness (real or imagined) of others.
- 4) If time runs out before the subject is covered to the satisfaction of the participants, you may at your discretion encourage them to form later informal discussion groups, preferably at times that do not conflict with scheduled Conference events (i.e., during the lunch break, dinner break or before the Conference convenes on Sunday afternoon.) (No Conference events may take place on Sunday morning because of regularly scheduled worship services at the building, which is the home of Community of Hope Lutheran Church.) Should your group elect to continue their discussion into the next workshop period, it will be necessary for them to move it to another location. Space for workshops is at a premium, but there is lots of room outdoors, at the ends of the hallways, etc., for unscheduled discussion groups.

Thank you very much for your helping us make a success of the first
TEXAS GAY CONFERENCE.

TOGETHER WE CAN.

GAY ORGANIZATIONS OF TEXAS

List of organizations which voted to meet in San Antonio, August 3, to set up the structure of the new statewide Gay organization:

AGAPE METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH, (817) 626-1767
P. O. Box 4589
Fort Worth, TX 76106

AURA (Awareness, Unity and Research Association), (817) 8382095
P. O. Box 7318
Fort Worth, TX 76111

CAVALRY GRACE CHURCH
c/o David Ross Hesbett
1117 S. Adams Apt. 2
Fort Worth, TX 76104

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS
3834 Ross Ave.
Dallas, TX 75204

COMPANIONS OF ST. FRANCIS
c/o Gay Community Center
San Antonio Free Clinic
1136 W. Woodlawn
San Antonio, TX 78201

Delegate: Donna
(Please send correct address to P. O. Box 7318
Fort Worth 76111 so we can notify others.)

DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS, (214) 742-1947
Delegate: Peggy Nichols
2870 Dowdy Ferry
Box 322
Dallas, TX 75217

FRIENDS OF JESUS, (817) 838-9564
P. O. Box 7367
Fort Worth, TX 76111
Delegate: Charles Gillis

GAY AWARENESS, (806) 747-4713
c/o Steve Burgess
P. O. Box 4002
Tech Station
Lubbock, TX 79409

GAY COMMUNITY CENTER at
San Antonio Free Clinic, (512) 732-4661
136 W. Woodlawn.
San Antonio, TX 78201
Director: Carmine Botto

GAY METHODIST CAUCUS
c/o Gay Community Center at
San Antonio Free Clinic
1136 W. Woodlawn
San Antonio, TX 78201

(Please send correct address to P. O. Box 7318
Fort Worth 76111 so we can notify others)

GAY PEOPLE OF AUSTIN, (512) 478-8058
c/o John Watson
1408 C West 9th
Austin, TX 78703
Representative: Joseph R. Justice

GAY PEOPLE OF AUSTIN ON CAMPUS
c/o Gary Cadwallader
Rt. 8 Box 284
Austin, TX 78703
Representative: Gary Cadwallader

HOUSE OF THE COVENANT
c/o Gay Community Center at
San Antonio Free Clinic
1136 W. Woodlawn
San Antonio, TX 78201

(Please send correct address to P O. Box 7318
Fort Worth 76111 so we can notify others)

INTEGRITY/HOUSTON
P. O. Box 16041
Houston, TX 77022
Delegate: Hugh Crell
(713) 453-6101

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF DALLAS, (214) 826-0291
3834 Ross Ave.
Dallas, TX 75204

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF HOUSTON, (713) 522-4446
2020 Waugh Dr.
Houston, TX 77006
Represented by: Colin Kennedy
1418 Richmond #1032
Houston, TX
(713) 528-0711

TEXAS UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST GAYS
c/o 1204 West Ave.
Austin, TX 78703
Contact: Bob Cooper

Organizations which were not represented at the Texas Gay Conference's Caucus
of Gay Organizations:

THE BROTHERHOOD
P. O. Box 6649
San Antonio, TX 78209

DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS
P. O. Box 1564
Fort Worth, TX 76101

Gays protest FW license check

A group of gay activists, who held a conference in Fort Worth over the weekend, today said it is upset over a list of license numbers police recorded from cars parked at the meeting.

The state-wide meeting was held Saturday and yesterday at Community of Hope Lutheran Church, 4300 Miller.

According to Ken Cyr, director of Awareness, Unity and Research Assn. (AURA), a Fort Worth-based gay group, the purpose of the convention was to unify gay people throughout Texas.

He said members of AURA met with police officials prior to the conference and were assured that police would not interfere with the meeting.

"We were told by Deputy

Police Chief H. F. Hopkins that there would be no hassles," Cyr said.

"At first when we saw officers taking down license numbers we thought they were doing it just to scare some of our people. The I learned that the numbers were sent to the vice and intelligence department of the Police Dept," he added.

Chief Hopkins said that he had met with representatives of AURA prior to the conference and that he had made certain promises.

"I told them there would be no harassment," said Hopkins, who added that he was unaware until today the license numbers had been taken.

Capt. O. E. Hogue, head of the vice and intelligence division, said license numbers are often taken at large gatherings of people and that the gay conference was not singled out.

"It's not unusual," Hopkins said.

"We have taken license numbers at ball games before," he added.

Cyr said he is not satisfied with police reasons for taking the numbers.

He said police harassment of gays has not improved since AURA began talks with police officials about two months ago.

"We're willing to go about achieving our rights in a peaceful manner, but we have got to have some results," Cyr said.

Police Actions Held Legal In License Plate Listings

Police action in gathering lists of license plate numbers at the recent Texas Gay Conference here is not illegal, Dist Atty. Tim Curry said Wednesday.

The DA said it is routine for police to jot down and check license numbers.

The police, he said, use the procedure to keep tabs on certain groups.

Several organizations have protested the taking of license numbers by police at last weekend's conference.

Two American Civil Liberties Union board members and attorneys, Don Gladden and Marvin Collins, said they felt the incident was deplorable.

Both added they had no immediate plans for litigation based on the one incident.

Gladden said any suit would have to show several instances where the same action occurred and where the police action had a "chilling effect" on people's right to assemble.

Collins said if the "police have evidence of some type of

crime being committed, then it is not illegal, but if they don't have any evidence and are just doing it to make people feel they are being watched and generally feel they are in trouble, then pos-

sibly it is an abridgement of their constitutional rights."

Both lawyers said they agreed with Pablo Calderon, president of the Fort Worth ACLU chapter, who said the police were "acting in derog-

ation of the rights guaranteed by the First Amendment."

Collins said the next ACLU board meeting is scheduled in early July and that he expects the matter to come up for discussion at that time.

Gay groups give list of demands to police

Members of area homosexual organizations today presented a list of demands to the Fort Worth Police Dept. following last weekend's Texas Gay Conference, during which officers took down license plate numbers of persons attending.

The demands, issued by the Gay Metroplex Council during a press conference, include "an end to harassment," official reprimand of all officers involved, destruction of all copies of the list of license numbers, issuance of new license plates to persons on the list and formation of a liaison committee of Police Dept. leaders and gay persons to prevent future injustices.

Also demanded were education conducted by the gay community "to deal with their (policemen's) stereotyped attitudes toward gays" and the formation of a review board to examine "conduct of officers who offend the gay community" and to determine if gays' civil rights have been violated in non-felony arrests.

"We will oppose any further abridgement of our civil rights," said Ken Cyr, director of AURA (Awareness, Unity and Research Assn.), a Fort Worth gay organization.

Should the police fail to meet the above demands, AURA is considering several actions: Publicly demonstrating in front of the police station, seeking an injunction against further harassment

and "appealing to the public sense of justice," he added.

Several other groups, including Daughters of Bilitis (a lesbian organization), NOW (National Organization of Women), Women for Change and the Fort Worth American Civil Liberties Union also protested the police action asking that the right to peaceful assembly and the right of privacy not be infringed.

Gays Upset Over License Plate Copying

A representative of a Fort Worth homosexual group said today he is "extremely upset with the police" over actions taken during the first Texas Gay Conference here last weekend, and legal action may be taken.

Police copied down 36 license numbers on automobiles parked outside the St. Stephen Church College Community Services at 4301 Miller Saturday after an agreement that conference participants would not be harassed.

* * *

"I FEEL betrayed that the police have done this," said Ken Cyr, director of AU (Awareness Unity and Research Association).

He said an injunction will be sought against police unless a signed agreement guaranteeing no harassment can be made.

Cyr said he had talked with Deputy Chief H.F. Hopkins before the conference and

was assured "there would be no problem.

"We were under the understanding that the police would leave us alone for the conference," he said.

Hopkins said officers "were in their rights" to take license numbers.

"We had an agreement that we would not arrest anybody if no one violated the law," Hopkins said. "We did not have an agreement that officers would not take down license numbers."

He said he told representatives of the gay group before the conference that they were to call him "if they had any trouble and felt they were being harassed."

* * *

HE SAID no one called.

Capt. C.E. Hogue, in charge of vice control and intelligence, said it is standard operating procedure to take down license numbers at lounges and other night spots to see if cars belong to wanted persons.

FORT WORTH-DALLAS NEWS CONFERENCE

4301 MILLER, FORT WORTH 10:00 AM JUNE 26

TOPIC: POLICE HARASSMENT OF GAYS-THREAT TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

THE NEWS CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT THE COMMUNITY OF HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH, 4301 MILLER, FORT WORTH, TO INFORM THE MEDIA OF OBJECTIONS TO THE FORT WORTH POLICE HARASSMENT OF THE TEXAS GAY CONFERENCE HELD LAST WEEK BY THE RECORDING OF VEHICLE LICENSE PLATES OF AUTOMOBILES PARKED AROUND THE CHURCH.

ALL GAY AREA GROUPS WILL BE REPRESENTED AND MAKE STATEMENTS INCLUDING STATEMENTS FROM THE MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS OF THE STATEWIDE GAY ORGANIZATION ESTABLISHED AT THE CONFERENCE. ALSO REPRESENTED WILL BE HETEROSEXUAL ORGANIZATIONS WHO STRONGLY OPPOSE THE TACTICS AND PROCEDURES USED BY THE POLICE DEPARTMENT. A LIST OF DEMANDS WILL BE PRESENTED THAT, IF NOT MET BY THE FORT WORTH POLICE DEPARTMENT COULD RESULT IN THE FOLLOWING:

1. PUBLIC DEMONSTRATION IN FRONT OF THE FORT WORTH POLICE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HETEROSEXUALS AND HOMOSEXUALS BOTH MEN AND WOMEN.
2. DISCUSSING RECOURSE BY LEGAL ACTIONS WITH OUR LAWYERS.
3. APPEALING TO THE PUBLIC SENSE OF JUSTICE THROUGH THE NEWS MEDIA.



AWARENESS, UNITY AND RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

Ken Cyr, Director
(817) 838-2095

P.O. Box 7318
Fort Worth, Texas 76111

August 25, 1974

T. S. Walls
Chief of Police
Fort Worth Police Department
1000 Throckmorton
Fort Worth, TX 76102

Dear Chief Walls,

As you know AURA has been silent for the past few weeks concerning the copying of license plate numbers at the Texas Gay Conference on June 22. We have been silent for several reasons:

1. Awaiting the decision of the newly formed, statewide, Texas Gay Task Force which has had this matter under consideration and is consulting with legal authorities throughout the state.
2. Prolonged discussions with AURA's legal advisors and interested organizations.
3. Waiting to see if police activity concerning the Gay Community has decreased.

In light of current circumstances we cannot remain silent any longer.

I read with great interest an article entitled "FW Police Not 'Big Brother'" in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram the evening of August 23, 1974. I was greatly impressed by your quote in reference to the police activity at the gay conference: "It was a stupid thing to do. Those license numbers were destroyed without even checking them out." I was impressed that you acknowledged that this sort of procedure was a mistake. Yet, in the evening of the very day this article appeared, we had witnesses observe a police officer recording license plate numbers at a local gay establishment.

It was also stated in the article that: "Walls said to the best of his knowledge, there has never been any police information files compiled on local citizens or organizations." Yet we have reason to believe that local gay organizations and gay citizens have been under surveillance. And what is the purpose of this surveillance other than to maintain information files on Gay People?

The entire Star-Telegram article was contradictory to police statements made to the press during the Texas Gay Conference matter. The most obvious is in an article in the Fort Worth Press of Monday, June 24, 1974, wherein Capt. C. E. Hogue said that license

No one can make you feel inferior without your consent

— Eleanor Roosevelt

numbers are often taken at large gatherings of people, and "We have taken license numbers at ball games before."

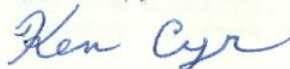
As you have realized, the surveillance and recording of license plate numbers of Gay Citizens is an improper investigative procedure, and according to our legal advisors was probably illegal due to the fact that there was probably no basis for a search warrant. These sort of procedures constitute an invasion of privacy and could cause the individual police officers involved and the City of Fort Worth to be liable for damages if any of the individuals decide to file suit (which is not improbable). Dissemination of this information to the press or others, which occurred during the Texas Gay Conference incident, is definitely improper. Such overt activity by policemen is also an abridgement of our First Amendment rights to peaceful assembly.

Because of this, and due to the fact that police activity against the Gay Community has not decreased, I would like to request that you send me an official letter elaborating on your statement in the August 23 Star-Telegram article that police procedures against the Gay Community is improper and assuring me that the Texas Gay Conference license number list was destroyed and was not disseminated to any individuals or organizations. I would also like your assurances that the Fort Worth Police Department does not maintain information files on Gay Organizations or Gay Citizens, and also you agreement that this letter from you may be released by me to various media and Gay Organizations throughout the state.

Cooperation between the Gay Community and the Police Department is essential. I feel that a public apology from you to the participants of the Texas Gay Conference would help us restore faith in the Fort Worth Police Department. A police department which has the trust of all segments of the community would be able to operate much more effectively. In today's "Big Brother atmosphere" there is nothing but dissension and turmoil.

I hope to be hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,



Ken Cyr

KC/ar

cc: The Honorable Mayor R. M. Stovall
Deputy Chief H. F. Hopkins
Captain C. E. Hogue
Texas Gay Task Force Communications Committee
News Media



AWARENESS, UNITY AND RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

Ken Cyr, Director
(817) 838-2095

P.O. Box 7318
Fort Worth, Texas 76111

August 26, 1974

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Attached is a letter to Fort Worth Police Chief T. S. Walls from Ken Cyr, director of AURA (Awareness, Unity & Research Association), a Fort Worth Gay organization, reflecting the current position of this organization in regard to police surveillance of non-criminal activity, particularly in regard to the June 22, 1974, incident at the Texas Gay Conference whereat Fort Worth police officers spent several hours taking license numbers and keeping the Community of Hope Lutheran Church under surveillance.

We were like a "voice crying in the wilderness" with our protests of these "Big Brother" spying techniques.

Now, with the shocking disclosure of the Department of Public Safety intelligence maneuvers, others (even churches) are experiencing what we have been up against for some time -- harassment, intimidation, surveillance, secret reports, etc. We believe that such uncontrolled and unnecessary police activity poses a serious threat not just to Gay citizens and Gay organizations, but to all citizens and all other legitimate organizations, and seriously endangers the Constitutional rights to peacefully assemble and to speak freely.

Martin Luther King once said, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." We believe it.

DOES THE FORT WORTH POLICE DEPARTMENT USE "BIG BROTHER" TACTICS?

No, according to Chief Walls (quoted in the Star-Telegram, August 23, 1974, attached), who assures us that the Fort Worth police do not stoop to such inane, legally suspect and wasteful procedures.

Captain C. E. Hogue, head of vice and intelligence, however, assured us (Fort Worth Press, June 24, 1974, attached) that license numbers are often taken at large gatherings of people and that they have even "taken license numbers at ball games before."

And an article in the Star-Telegram (June 27, 1974, attached) reporting an interview with District Attorney Tim Curry stated, "The police, he said, use the procedure to keep tabs on certain groups."

There you have it.

WHO ARE WE SUPPOSED TO BELIEVE? DO THEY . . . OR DON'T THEY?

(Reference: Ken Cyr at above address and telephone)

No one can make you feel inferior without your consent

— Eleanor Roosevelt

PRESS RELEASE

From: Greater Fort Worth Chapter
American Civil Liberties Union

Date: June 26, 1974

The First Amendment to our Constitution guarantees "the right of the people peaceably to assemble." Any action which prohibits or discourages the exercise of this guaranteed right is contrary to the basic tenets of our Bill of Rights.

The directing of the vice squad to copy license plates and to make these names accessible to the press serves to discourage this right of assembly.

The function of our vice squad is to gather evidence on law violations. Unless they had some clear evidence of a law violation the vice squad was acting in derogation of the rights guaranteed by the First Amendment.

If the vice squad had evidence of a violation of law they would have had the right to act on such evidence. To the best of our knowledge the vice squad had no such evidence. The ACLU deploras any invasion of our First Amendment rights by the vice squad and is opposed to any action which tends to chill the effect of our rights to peaceable assembly.

LIST OF DEMANDS BY GAY METROPLEX COUNCIL

1. AN END TO HARASSMENT, ENTRAPMENT TECHNIQUES AND OTHER ILLEGAL POLICE PRACTICES FOR ALL PEOPLE.
 2. OFFICIAL REPRIMAND TO THE OFFICERS INVOLVED INCLUDING DEPUTY CHIEF HOPKINS WHO HAS PUBLICLY SUPPORTED THIS ACTION.
 3. ALL LISTS RECALLED AND DESTROYED IMMEDIATELY.
 4. THE ISSUANCE OF NEW LICENSE PLATES TO THOSE ON THE LIST, WITHOUT THE RECORDING OF THESE NUMBERS IN ANY PLACE OTHER CITIZEN'S NUMBERS ARE NOT FOUND.
 5. THE FORMATION OF A LIASON COMMITTEE COMPRISED OF LEADERS OF THE FORT WORTH POLICE DEPARTMENT AND THE GAY COMMUNITY TO WORK TOGETHER TO PREVENT INJUSTICES AGAINST THE GAY COMMUNITY IN THE FUTURE.
 6. REGULAR EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES CONDUCTED BY THE GAY COMMUNITY FOR NEW AND VETERAN OFFICERS TO DEAL WITH THEIR STEREOTYPED ATTITUDES TOWARD GAYS.
 7. THE FORMATION OF A REVIEW BOARD TO:
 - a. EXAMINE THE REPORTED CONDUCT OF OFFICERS WHO OFFEND THE GAY COMMUNITY WITH THE CONSIDERATION OF DISCIPLINARY ACTION OR REASSIGNMENT.
 - b. TO REVIEW ANY NON-FELONY ARRESTS INVOLVING GAYS TO DETERMINE IF THEIR CIVIL RIGHTS HAVE BEEN VIOLATED.
- THIS BOARD SHALL CONSIST EQUALLY OF STRAIGHTS AND GAYS.

AWARENESS, UNITY AND RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

AURA

Ken Cyr, Director
(817) 838-2095

P.O. Box 7318
Fort Worth, Texas 76111

POLICE HARASSMENT OF GAYS THREAT TO GENERAL PUBLIC

The discovery by AURA that officers of the Fort Worth Police Department made lists of license plate numbers of cars parked at the site of the Texas Gay Conference, June 22, and listed names of the Conference leaders is believed by AURA not only to be an example of harassment of Gay People, but also an injustice to all the people of Fort Worth. The list being made available to the news media, a mistake which Police officials have apologized to AURA officers for, also points out a breakdown of communication within the vice and intelligence department which could, if not corrected, be a threat to all the people of Fort Worth. The fact that the lists had been filed in the Police Department was brought to AURA's attention early Monday morning, June 24, and reported that day in the Fort Worth Press in an article titled "Gays protest FW license check" and in the evening Star-Telegram the same day in an article titled "Gays Upset Over License Plate Copying."

Why must the Police make such lists? The Police claim that it was enforcing the laws of Texas. And that the end result of the Conference was in violation of the law. The end result of the Conference was not in violation of the law! The purpose of the Conference was for individuals to come together to discuss the plight of the homosexual, and to try to improve the status of Gay People both socially and legally. It was a time of serious study, of lectures and workshops. Are we to assume that any discussion of homosexuality is in violation of the law? If so, Police would not have enough men or time to record all the license numbers of all the sociologists, psychologist, psychiatrists and others, not to mention their students, in Fort Worth. The end result of the Conference was to seek to change the status of the homosexual socially and to seek changes in laws governing homosexuals. This is a fundamental right protected by our U.S. Constitution.

Police officials have apologized to AURA officers for the news media finding the list and say it was a mistake by the vice and intelligence department. How many more such mistakes occur? And what, if anything, is being done to prevent them? AURA believes that such inefficiency should not occur within the vice and intelligence department, and that all officers responsible should be reprimanded.

There are several other questions which come to mind. What has happened to the list? How do they intend to use it? If it was not harassment, why was it made so obvious, including Police parking in the Conference parking lot and entering the Conference site, activity which covered a period of time of about three hours?

To insure the safety of the community of Fort Worth, AURA believes that the Police should publically answer these questions; that the Police should promise publically, and enforce it, that they will not harass Gay People (or any other groups of people) either publically or in private; that they will destroy any similar lists now in the files of the Police Department; that they will publically apologize to the community of Fort Worth for wasting their tax money; and that they will issue a directive, and enforce it, instructing their police officers not to use derogatory terms against Gay People. (A list of objectionable terms will be

No one can make you feel inferior without your consent

— Eleanor Roosevelt

more . . .

STATEMENT by KEN CYR, Director of AURA (continued . . . page 2)

compiled by a committee of the Fort Worth/Dallas Metroplex Gay Council.)

Should the Police not agree to these requests, we will consider taking legal recourse against the Police Department, consider publically demonstrating outside the Police Station, and take any other actions felt necessary to insure our safety as citizens of Fort Worth.

MGMFTWC FTW
2-049578E176 06/25/74
ICS IPMBNGZ CSP
5124786968 MGM TDBN AUSTIN TX 100 08-25 1023P EDT
ZIP 76111

 Mailgram



KEN CYR
2178 DALFORD
FORT WORTH TX 76111

WE THE MEMBERS OF GAY PEOPLES OF AUSTIN SUPPORT THE STANCE OF THE TEXAS GAY CONFERENCE IN OPPOSING THE TACTICS OF THE FORT WORTH POLICE DEPARTMENT OF THE WEEKEND OF JUNE 21-23 WE DEPLORE THE WASTE OF PUBLIC FUNDS FOR THE USE OF INTIMIDATION AND INVASION OF PRIVATE CITIZENS WE QUESTION THE ABILITIES OF SUCH OFFICERS AND THEIR SUPERIORS TO SERVE AS PUBLIC SERVANTS AND DEMAND AN INVESTIGATION BE MADE
GAY PEOPLES OF AUSTIN

2228 EDT


western union

Telegram

FWB080(1525)(1-027795A176)PD 06/25/74 1523

ICS IPMHSTA HOU
01172 HOUSTON TX 53 06-25 215P CDT
PMS KEN CYR DLY PD
2178 DALFORD 833-2095
FORTWORTH TX 76101

I/H IS INCENSED BY THE DISPICABLE ACTS OF HARRASMENT AND INTIMIDATION BY FWPD SUCH ACTIVITY IS PRECISELY WHY THE TGC WAS SO NECESSARY. THESE SAME POLICE CRY IN THEIR BEER ABOUT THE EROSION OF PUBLIC RESPECT THEY HAVE SUFFERED IN RECENT YEARS. HYPOCRISY INCARNATE.

I/H FULLY SUPPORTS AURA AND THE TGC
DALE CARTER INTEGRITY/HOUSTON

NNNN