

CONNECTIONS

MARCH 1980

AUSTIN TEXAS

VOL. 2 NO. 3



Gordon Stone/Examiner

s.f. cops sued

COPS SMASH WINDOWS FURNITURE AND HEADS IN GAY BAR RAID

'WHITE NIGHT' RIOT SUITS FILED

The first group of damage suits stemming from the disturbances that followed the May 21 verdict in the Dan White murder case have been filed in San Francisco Superior Court.

The suits, which range from assault, battery, intentional infliction of emotional distress to negligence, have been filed against the city and county of San Francisco, the Police Department, former Police Chief Charles Gain, Mayor Dainne Feinstein, former District Attorney Joseph Freitas, and a number of unnamed police officers.

More than 20 plaintiffs are seeking \$1 million each in damages from each defendant. In addition, the plaintiffs are expected to seek medical expenses, general damages, and damages from alleged loss of civil rights.

Among the cases are suits emanating from what has come to be known as the Elephant Walk Incident. After midnight on the morning of May 22, police stormed into the Elephant Walk, a gay bar, and destroyed property and beat several patrons.

Attorney Ann Menasche said that no criminal charges resulting from the White Night riots are pending against any of the plaintiffs in these damage suits.

NEW YORK SODOMY LAW UNCONSTITUTIONAL

NEW YORK--(IGNA)--The New York Penal Law prohibiting private sexual conduct between consenting adults who are not married to each other has been declared unconstitutional by a New York appellate court.

On January 24, the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of the State of New York unanimously declared the New York sodomy law unconstitutional in the case of People v. Ronald Onofre, Case No. 914/1979. Onofre, 35, had been convicted of sodomy when his 17-year-old partner accused him of using force. The partner later recanted his story and admitted that the sexual acts were committed voluntarily. But Judge Ormand N. Gale refused to throw out the sodomy charge when the other charges were dropped, even though the sex took place in the privacy of Onofre's home.

The five justices of the Appellate Division stated that "personal sexual conduct is a fundamental right, protected by the right to privacy because of the transcendental importance of sex to the human condition, the intimacy of the conduct, and its relationship to a person's right to control his or her own body. The right is broad enough to include sexual acts between nonmarried persons and intimate consensual homosexual conduct." Therefore, the Court held that Section 130.38 of the Penal Law "is an unconstitutional exercise of State power insofar as it prohibits voluntary sexual conduct between adults in private."

(continued on page 9)

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CONNECTIONS is dedicated to providing a forum for the lesbian/gay community of Austin and Texas. Publication of the name or photograph of any person or organization is not to be taken as any indication of the sexual orientation of that person or organization.

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WRITE FOR RIGHTS

Their names are so pious: "The Moral Majority," "One Nation Under God" and "The Christian Voice." Their claims are so pretentious: "We have the monopoly on morality, religion and the family. We have the sole power to decide what is right and decent in American life." Their actions are so dangerous: with the full support of the New Right, they are preparing to spend millions of dollars spreading visious distortions of the truth. Their goal is so frightening: total supression of homosexuals in our culture.

The anti-gay forces have already introduced House Resolution 166, which would eternally ban any gay civil rights legislation. They are currently mounting a letter-writing campaign against H.Rs 2074, which would amend the existing civil rights law to prohibit discrimination based on "affectional preference or sexual orientation" in employment, housing and the military.

Several years ago, an anti-gay amendment to a bill passed overwhelmingly in the House. Fortunately, it didn't pass the Senate. It passed because the Representative perceived (due to constituent letters) that public opinion supported such an anti-gay vote.

Texas is one of the key areas in the coming struggl- for lesbian/gay rights and we have been targeted for special attention from the "Moral Majority" section of "Christian Voice."

Our congresspeople will be key votes in any upcoming legislation. The anti-gay forces are ready to flood their offices with hundreds of letters. We must fight back with letters of our own. Write your representatives and urge them to support H.R. 2074 and oppose the anti-gay House Concurrent Resolution 166. YOUR LETTER WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE! Politicians make many of their decisions by counting letters. They must make the right decisions this time.

Here are the names and addresses of Austin's representatives in Congress: The Honorable J.J. Pickle, 242 Cannon House Office Bldg., Washington, DC, 20515; The Honorable John Tower, 142 Russell Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC, 20510; and The Honorable Lloyd Bentsen, 240 Russell Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC, 20510.

Please send copies of your letters and your representatives' response to TGTF, PO BOX 39406, San Antonio, TX 78239. ---JIM OLINGER

GCS BENEFIT AT THE AUSTIN COUNTRY MARCH SIXTEENTH

THE place to be in Austin on Sunday, March 16 will be the Benefit for Gay Community Services at the Austin Country.

Tragedy Ann, Miss Gay Austin, will be Mistress of Ceremonies. Special guest stars are Sabrina, Austin's Entertainer of the Year, and Miss Riki, former Miss Gay Austin. The Blandscrew Sisters will make a special guest appearance.

Austin businesses have contributed many items for auction. Come bid for vintage clothing for men and women from Henry's Memrys, a mask and cape from Bo's Fun Shop, slaves, and surprise items. Thank you, everyone.

Special thanks to the Austin Country for donating their facilities and FREE BEER from 9 to 10pm.

The show runs from 10:30pm to 12:00am on Sunday, March 16. The cover charge is only \$2.00 and the entire proceeds from the door goes to G.C.S. Come help Austin's oldest gay organization and have a wonderful time doing it.

See you at the Country on March 16.

Advertisement for GAY COMMUNITY SERVICES HOTLINE 477-6699, featuring the word "Questions?" surrounded by question marks.

AUSTIN GAY RADIO BEGINS MARCH 2

"A Different Drummer," a new gay-oriented radio program, will debut in Austin on Sunday, March 2, at noon, on radio station KUT-FM, 90.7 MHz. This half-hour weekly program is being produced by the Austin Gay Radio Collective, a project of Gay Community Services. It is the first Austin radio program to be produced by and for the lesbian/gay community.

According to series producer Carr Strong, the purposes and aims of "A Different Drummer" are to provide a means of communication to the lesbian/gay community; to provide an educational service about gays to the non-gay community; to promote cooperation, communication and participation between gay organizations in Austin; and to provide an outlet for the creativity of the Austin gay community. To accomplish these objectives, the Gay Radio Collective is actively seeking the participation of all lesbian and gay organizations in the area. Strong said, "As the collective grows, we hope that its membership will consist of both individuals and representatives from lesbian and gay organizations. The collective will work closely with all of the groups, in order to stay abreast of local gay events and to help publicize activities."

A "radio-magazine" style format has been adopted for "A Different Drummer," which provides segments for news, news analysis, coming events, and special features. About half of each week's program is devoted to a feature segment, which consists of interviews, commentaries, lectures, poetry, music, or anything else of interest to Austin lesbians and gays.

The premiere program of March 2 has a feature segment titled "We are Everywhere - Part I." It is a series of "person-in-the-street" interviews with Austin citizens, both gay and non-gay, which seeks to answer the question, "What has been the effect on the general public of the increasing visibility and outspokenness of lesbians and gay men?" Other programs in March include: March 9, "Human Rights for Gays," a lecture by Sarah Scott relating the human rights struggles of racial minorities to the gay rights struggle; March 16, "Gay Community Services of Austin," which begins a series of studies of Austin gay organizations; March 23, "The Cabaret Case," a discussion of Austin's first court test of gay rights, featuring Matthew Coles of the Gay Rights Advocates of San Francisco; and March 30, "Gay Themes in Opera - Part I," a discourse by Steve Thomas, with musical examples.

Features in upcoming months will include such diverse topics as the relationships of gay couples, lesbian feminism, child pornography, gay poetry, coming out, the gay press, and gay role models.

In discussing the future of the Gay Radio Collective, Strong said, "We need help from the lesbian and gay community. A great deal of work remains to be done and a great deal of talent and energy is needed to do it. Anyone interested in working on the radio project will be welcomed. Although on-air voices and interviewers are still needed, a person does not have to appear on the air. We have many behind-the-scenes tasks to do as well, such as writing, collecting information, editing tapes, publicity, and even helping with the music. Or, assistance in covering operating expenses would be appreciated, too." Persons wishing to participate should call Carr Strong at 441-4231, or call Gay Community Services between 6:00 pm and 10:00 pm at 477-6699.



24 HR. GAY HOTLINE FOR AUSTIN

In the near future, Metropolitan Community Church of Austin, with the cooperation of Gay Community Services, will be providing a 24-hour hotline for lesbians and gay men.

The hotline program is conceived as a new MCCA outreach to the Austin community. It will serve a very real need, according to Phil, who originally thought of the program. He told CONNECTIONS that MCCA already receives many emergency calls, especially "between 2am and 4am, after the bars close and people get lonely." He says, "We want people to be able to have a human response to their call (rather than the answering machine used when G.C.S. is closed) any time of the day or night."

Calls to the hotline, which uses MCCA's current number, will initially be answered by the Church's answering service. They will ask the caller for a

MCCA will offer essentially the same services as GCS - peer counseling, referrals to gay businesses, organizations and professionals (such as doctors and lawyers), and generally providing "just an ear to talk to." Plans are being made for a psychologist to train counselors from both groups in crisis counseling, such as suicide prevention. MCCA will also offer extensive religious counseling during office hours.

phone number (even a phone booth) where he or she can be reached. The answering service will then contact one of the hotline volunteers, who will return the call.

During G.C.S. office hours, 6pm to 10pm nightly, the answering service will refer callers to G.C.S. At all other times, the MCCA volunteers will be contacted.

by Ron Moss

Human Rights Advocates

P.O. Box 39406
San Antonio, Texas 78239
512/655-3724



YES! I believe in a professional approach to legislative advocacy for gay civil rights in Texas.

PLEASE INCLUDE MY NAME ON THE LEGISLATIVE ALERT LIST.

Name _____
Address _____
City/State _____ Zip _____

Gay Nurses' Alliance



Larry Palmer

JERRY PATRICK (L) and JIM OLINGER
at Private Cellar STD screening

The Texas Nurses Association state convention will be held in McAllen, Texas, March 19 to the 21st. Anyone interested in participating in this convention please

contact Larry Palmer or the National Coordinator, Phyllis McClusky, PO Box 1015, Brownsville, Texas, 78520. Gay nurses participating in this convention will give us the opportunity to be heard. Our special health care needs and concerns can be presented.

The Gay Nurses' Alliance of Austin is trying to promote ideas which have been instituted for several months in Austin, throughout the state of Texas. With the cooperation of the Austin/Travis County Health Department, members of GNA conduct STD (Sexual Transmitted Diseases) Health Awareness Clinics at alternating gay establishments every week. The Health Dept. Provides the equipment and the testing, and GNA members volunteer the time to conduct these clinics. Free blood testing for Syphilis is the only available STD test offered so far. Future plans are to expand the testing to Hepatitis Virus B and serum testing for G.C. GNA has received a tremendously favorable response from gay organizations and gay establishment owners, as well as the Austin gay community. Since Nov. 17th, over 300 individuals have been tested. The volunteers enjoy meeting people and offering a valuable service to a community that GNA cares about.

For more information, please contact:
GNA West or Larry Palmer, RN
PO BOX 1015 8222 North Lamar
Brownsville, TX 78520 #66A
Austin, TX 78753

Phone 512/837-4425

GAY FILMS SOUGHT

San Francisco--(IGNA)--Frameline, a non-profit gay film collective, is seeking entries for its spring Gay Film Festival. Films accepted will be screened during Gay Pride Week in June, 1980.

The Film Festival has been established by Frameline as a non-competitive showcase for movies by and about gay people.

For applications or more information, write Frameline, 330 Grove St., San Francisco, CA 94114.

Entries will not be limited in length or format.

GAY BUSINESS COUNCIL FORMED

A New York-based council composed of the majority of gay and lesbian business associations was formed last November. The stated purpose of the National Association of Business Councils is to support, assist, inform, and educate gay and gay-oriented business associations to gain increased respectability for their businesses. This is the only non-political organization of its kind representing gay and lesbian professionals, executives, and business owners from across the nation.

Within one month after NABC's creation, its president, H. Gerald Schiff, presented a 51,000 signature petition to President Carter, asking for a ban on discrimination in hiring policies of gays in the federal government system. Also, in an address to White House representatives, Schiff asked that gays be officially recognized as a minority in order to qualify for various federal programs, such as funding through the Small Business Administration, which provides loans of up to \$500,000 for starting businesses.

Business owners interested in joining NABC should contact NABC, P.O. Box 744, Chelsea Station, New York NY 10011

AUSTIN LAMBDA ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS CENTER OPENS

Austin Lambda AA Center has opened at 1403 East Sixth Street. The grand opening for the center will be Saturday, March 8, 1980, from 3 to 10pm.

The Lambda AA Center is a nonprofit corporation organized for the purpose of providing a meeting place for gay groups of Alcoholics Anonymous. The expenses for the center are met by the tax-deductible contributions of members.

The schedule for the grand opening March 8 includes open house from 3 to 6pm, a covered dish dinner at 6pm, and a guest speaker, Wiley H. of Houston, at 8pm. Persons wishing a place to stay March 8 or needing other information may contact Wayne Schultz, 1616 West 6th #205, Austin 78703, 512/472-7904, or Ray Mullen, 231 Bull Creek #231, Austin 78731, 512/453-8437 or 512/451-8239.

The center has been open each evening from 6:30 to 10:30pm since Feb. 10. The weekly schedule of activities at Austin Lambda AA Center is as follows: Monday, 8pm, open discussion meeting; Tuesday, 8pm, closed big book study meeting; Wednesday, 6:30pm, women together meeting. (Non-gay friends and others are welcome at the center on Wednesdays.) Friday, 8pm, open discussion meeting; and second Saturday of the month, 6:30pm, covered dish dinner.

The telephone number at Lambda AA is 472-0336.

AUSTIN'S ENTERTAINMENT CENTER



The
Private
Cellar

709 east 6th
Austin



CARRIE BORETZ

LAVENDER MONEY \$\$\$

NYC--(IGNA)--How do you get large businesses to advertise in gay publications? Usually they don't want to.

That is the problem of Joseph Di Sabato, the man behind the Rivendell Marketing Company (666 6th Ave., NYC 10010; 212-2426863). But Di Sabato is convinced that eventually non-gay businesses from cigarette manufacturers to film distributors to record companies will tap a market that they have always ignored out of prejudice and ignorance.

Di Sabato does not expect manufacturers to change their policies overnight, partially because advertising budgets are set up a year in advance. But he does believe that pressure can be applied to make businesses spend money in gay markets since gays are a significant segment of the buying public.

Currently Rivendell Marketing is soliciting advertising for some 75 gay publications with a combined stated press run of 1.5 million copies (and a pass-along rate of up to four times that number.) Di Sabato feels that a company may choose to ignore any individual publication, but it cannot ignore the total represented here.

To aid advertising money to find its way into gay publications (to change history as well as watch it occur), Di Sabato recommends:

1. Publications should consider covering local and national business news as it relates to the gay community.
2. Publications should run stories about gay businesses.
3. Publications should run stories about companies that seek gay business.
4. Publications should run stories about businesses that refuse to advertise in the gay media.

Such information will let readers know what is going on in the business world and whether their money is being spent with people who support the gay community or who decline to go after gay business.

It remains to be seen how successful this lavender money trend will be.

(Joe Di Sabato is CONNECTIONS' national advertising representative!)

CLUB DALLAS SUES POLICE

DALLAS--(IGNA)--In what may be an historic turning of the tables, Club Dallas, a gay health club, has filed a \$200,000 damage suit against the Dallas Police Department, charging that the vice squad is harassing its customers by making repeated, unlawful arrests.

The suit claims that police have arrested 39 members of the Club Dallas to drive the owner, J.W. Campbell and Associates of Texas, Inc., out of business. It also alleges that 30 persons were arrested for public lewdness at the private club, where prospective members are advised it caters only to homosexuals.

The federal suit further challenges the state's lewdness law, because its definition of a public place is "unconstitutionally vague."

Defendants named in the suit include Dallas Police Chief Glen King, Police Captain Donald Milliken, and Dallas County District Attorney Henry Wade.

ANTI-GAY LOBBY COMING TO TEXAS

The Moral Majority recently divulged a plan to expand the anti-gay movement outside Washington, DC. They claim Texas will be one of the "first areas they will set up shop." Texas is likely to be targeted because we rank among the top three states most active in our fight for equality. For example, the Human Rights Advocates lobby is one of the most organized and well supported lobbies in the country.

The Moral Majority is the latest anti-gay lobby to join Christian Voice, begun almost a year ago. Its director is the Rev. Jerry Falwell. The lobby stated in a December report that "it is commonly known that some militant homosexuals will use their position as teachers to recruit and convince others--an activity which will use their

which will be indirect opposition to the moral beliefs of many parents. If this bill (referring to the gay civil rights bill, HR 2074) is passed, it will set a precedent for our society. Imagine giving child molesters and rapists special preference in the law because they, too, have a bizarre sexual preference."

The self-proclaimed "pro-family, pro-country, anti-gay" group is investigating the use of a Gallup poll to update the "true members in the gay community." The group says it doubts that 10% is an accurate count of the gay population (the 10% figure is based on the Kinsey report).

The newly formed lobby called on its readership of 90,000 (mostly pastors, who are expected to pass the message on their congregations) to write Congress.

Steve Endean, Gay Rights National Lobby lobbyist warns the national lesbian gay community of "the chilling effect their actions may have on our progress." He says, "They may very well encourage anti-gay amendments to be added to non-related bills on the floor of both the U.S. House and Senate."

2828 RIO GRANDE/AUSTIN
478 0224
ENTRANCE IN REAR

MAN BUYS HUGE AD TO CONDEMN
JERRY BROWN AND GAYS

LA--(IGNA)--A Christian fundamentalist has paid \$4000 for a full-page ad in the Los Angeles Herald-Examiner to say that Governor Jerry Brown is wrong to support gay rights. Vergil Grove used the headline: "No, No, Mr. Brown! God's Answer to Gays is Nay, Nay!" plus reproductions of recent news stories that show Brown's appointment of a gay judge and his pro-gay political stand.

In a letter that is part of the full-page ad, Grove tells the governor that he is "headed straight into hell unless you allow God's grace to save your poor needy soul..."

He warned Brown that "over 50 million Christian people in America of all faiths" would not "allow such a person as you to become their commander-in-chief, to be their leader when your own life is one of confusion!"

He also said that people have begun to call for Brown's ouster from office. "Surely you can see the handwriting on the wall by now, even now at this date, there are many thousands of signatures in for your recall."

Grove cites the Bible, of course, and adds that it "has the answer to every person's need and problem no matter how great or small."

The letter, besides quoting the Biblical passages that call for the death of homosexuals, is full of basic grammatical and punctuation errors.

In addition, the credit for the ad is taken by a man "Who Believes in Christ, the First Amendment, and Purity in Government."

UT HOLDS "COMING OUT" PROGRAM
by David Potter

The Counseling-Psychological Services Center at UT offered a two-week series on Transitions: The Challenge of Change. The series focused on coping with changes in many areas of life such as the change of sexual roles, changing religious values, coping with divorce, and the changes one undergoes in "coming out of the closet."

Dr. Michael Menefee, a UT staff psychologist, and Lee Nicoloff, an internist at the C-PSC led the program called "Coming Out: Out of the Closet into the World" on Monday, February 18, 1980. The program addressed what it means to come out and how to deal with it.

The program leaders started by relating their own experiences of coming out. Ms. Nicoloff identified four stages that she feels most gays go through when confronting their sexuality. They are: Stage One: Am I or am I not Gay? Often the best way to deal with this stage is to develop stronger friendships with both sexes. Through this, a person can begin to see if his or her emotional and physical desires definitely fall toward those of the same sex or not. Stage Two: I am gay, and I'm scared and ashamed. After acknowledging one's own homosexuality, it's usually best to discuss one's feelings with someone else. The GCS Hotline (477-6699) and the UT Telephone Counseling and Referral Service (476-7073) are always there to answer questions or to discuss feelings. Also, a supportive, trusted friend or mentor can be very comforting when dealing with fears of "homosexual panic or anxiety." Stage Three: I'm gay--Wanna make something of it? At this stage, it's best to try and relax--don't be so defensive or offensive. Keeping cool can help you reach the final stage more easily. Stage Four: I'm OK, you're OK. In this stage, it becomes easy to accept oneself and therefore, develop confidence in dealing with others.

Dr. Menefee emphasized that no one should become smug about being out. "Coming out never stops. It's an ongoing process that we have to deal with constantly since the process of coming out is learning to ascend the most taboo difference in our society."

GAYS FAULT TEXTBOOK DELETIONS

Dallas--(IGNA)--The Dallas Gay Political Caucus attacked the Texas State Board of Education recently for voting to delete references to homosexuality in a health textbook approved for use in Texas public schools.

The Caucus charged that the panel that made the decision "sacrificed sound education for political security." They added: "We recognize there exist segments in our communities which would prefer that our children be kept in darkness about human sexuality. It is unfortunate that these extremist groups have pressured the committee on this point."

The committee decided to remove two sentences from Health and Safety for You. They are: "Recently, though, there has been a great deal of discussion and study among doctors and psychiatrists about homosexuality. Some now believe that homosexuality is not a mental disorder but is another, less common kind of sexuality."

Other references describing the subject were left intact. Those basically reflect a more traditional view of homosexuality as a malady.

Mary Ann Leveridge, chairwoman of the textbook committee, is quoted in the Dallas Morning News as saying, "We have no objections to the subject of the book, just that paragraph." She feels there is insufficient evidence to support the statements in the book.

TWO POLICEMEN SUSPENDED

San Francisco--(IGNA)--Two San Francisco police officers who were involved in a brawl in a lesbian bar last March were each ordered suspended for 90 days without pay by the Police Commission.

Daniel Marr, 30, and Michael Kelly, 25, were found guilty of attacking the owner of a bar, Peg's Place.

The members of the Police Commission split 3-to-1 on whether the men should be fired or only suspended. Commissioner Jane Murphy was the only one to cast a vote for firing Marr and Kelly. She said, "The kind of action these men took shows a contempt for their fellow human beings."

Stephen Bley, attorney for the two officers, said he disagreed with the commission's verdict, even though many feel that 90 days is a light sentence, and said that "both have been greatly wronged."

Bley added that the officers committed no "outward discrimination against gays, but...an indiscretion. An indiscretion is not such a big deal. Police officers are people, too, and they make mistakes!"

According to The San Francisco Chronicle, 90 days suspensions are the maximum the Commission can impose short of termination.



"No, Senator, I told you day care center!"

GAY INMATES WANT OFFICIAL RECOGNITION

MONROE, WA--(IGNA)--The newly formed Sexual Minority Prisoners' Caucus held its first formal seminar Jan. 31 at the Washington State reformatory. The main goal of the Caucus is to gain official sanction from the prison administration.

"It's primarily a straight world in here, just like it is on the outside," said the group's director, Charles "Sandy" Ackert, a transsexual. "There's harassment and there's ridicule and there's really very little programming designed for our particular needs."

As in the outside world, straights inside the prison often look down on homosexuals. The prejudices that exist in society are often magnified by the forced closeness inside the institution.

"Gays are called 'punks' and 'faggots,' says Ackert. Physical intimidation and violence sometimes occur against them.

The purpose of the caucus would be to provide a support group for gays in the prison, just as other prison clubs provide support for ethnic minorities.

Walter Hyden, associate superintendent for treatment, said that the administration is not trying to stifle the new organization, but has to cope with the fact that the only floor available for office space is full and the budget for supplies is already overburdened.

"You have to appreciate the fact that we're running a prison here," Hyden said. "This is a facility with all kinds of built-in restrictions."

Hyden said that the fact that the caucus held a seminar demonstrates that the administration is not opposed to the organization. Ackert, however, said his group had made some of its accomplishments in spite of, not because of, the administration.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA'S MR. ANITA BRYANT

DAVIS, CA--(IGNA)--Davis, California, a small liberal college town fifteen miles southwest of Sacramento, has its own version of Anita Bryant. Jim Stevens, self-proclaimed libertarian and a lawyer in Sacramento, has spearheaded the effort to rescind the city council's ban on discrimination against homosexuals. Stevens, a member of the Davis city council, has succeeded in having the ban removed and has also obtained a promise from the council not to consider it again for two years.

Council members supporting gay rights balked at giving continued support because of Stevens' threat to make an election issue.

In a radio interview, Stevens expressed his opinion that "we each have the choice of who to associate with. Just like someone wouldn't be forced to hire a person who smells, no one should be forced to hire a homosexual against his wishes."

Local gay activists have since prepared an initiative that would force the city council to consider the issue immediately, not two years from now. The passage of the initiative would be a blow to Stevens' opposition to the ordinance and a clear go-ahead to the city council.

Mayor Tom Tomasi endorsed the initiative by becoming the first of 3500 signers required to place it on this June's ballot.

Nearby Sacramento is also supposed to bring a gay rights ordinance before the city council. Stevens has said he will do anything he and his fellow "libertarians and Bible people" can do to prevent either ordinance from ever going into effect.

MINISTER URGES CHRISTIANS TO FIGHT GAYS AS A COUNTER-RELIGION

The Rev. Chuch McIlhenny says God's word is clear--"it's time for Christians to come out of the closet and stand up against the sin of homosexuality."

"homosexuality is sin; it's rebellion against Go's word," says this pastor of the First Orthodox Presbyterian Church in San Francisco.

The Rev. McIlhenny is taking his message on the road in order to raise funds to pay legal fees arising from McIlhenny's attempt to fire his gay organist.

The story behind the legal dispute, which the minister calls the clearest case of state-church conflict in American history, is this:

On April 11, 1978 a San Francisco ordinance prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation became law. Theat same month McIlhenny hired Kevin Walker as his church organist after Walker convinced the pastor that he was a practicing, born-again Christian.

Five months later, rumors surfaced that Walker was gay. When the minister queried him, Walker freely admitted that he was gay. He said that he was living with a lover, and believed in Jesus Christ as his savior. The pastor said, "He gave me his interpretation (of the Gospel) and I gave him the right interpretation."

Walker refused to admit any sin in his life-style and was fired.

Gay Rights Advocates has taken on the case, because it is a clear case of discrimination against gays. According to the Rev. McIlhenny, however, "We're not just picking on homosexuals; we happen to be under attack by homosexuals. The issue isn't gay rights' it's Christian rights," he says.

Walker is not seeking his job back, but he is asking about \$1400 in damages and legal fees. The Rev is on the road speaking to various Christian churches in order to raise money to fight the law suit.

McIlhenny says that as a Christian he has no choice but to follow God's word. To follow the San Francisco law, his church would have to break what the members see as God's higher law. And that is something the congregation will never do, he vows.

The minister further said, "Homosexuality is a total world and life view. They're worshipping the creature, not the creator. This is a case of two religions fighting one another. There's a war going on--a spiritual battle. "We don't want to kill (homosexuals); we want them to come to Jesus Christ. Somewhere along the line, a Christian is going to have to take a stand."

GAYS AND AGING

Fresno--(IGNA)--The California Commission on Aging met here recently and listened to testimony from a lesbian in her sixties. She informed the commissioners that there are more than 300,000 older gays and lesbians in California and they suffer hardships beyond those associated with the state's aging population in general.

Some of the special problems of homosexuals are these:

1. Lesbians and gay men who enter rest homes are discriminated against. They are often segregated because the staff feels threatened.
2. Elderly homosexuals are often forgotten by younger people.

To help the Commission deal better with the issue of aging gays, the Commission has appointed Ivy Bottini, a woman active in the gay movement in Los Angeles.

FIRED GAY TEACHER DENIED REHIRING

Seattle--(IGNA)--The former Tacoma High School teacher who was dismissed in 1972 for being homosexual has reapplied for -- and has been denied -- a job with the school district.

James M. Gaylord, who taught social studies for 12 years in Tacoma, applied for work as a junior/senior librarian, social studies or resource teacher.

As quoted in the *Seattle Times*, Peter Judge, the head of the American Civil Liberties Union, said, "There's no question in my mind he's been denied because he's a homosexual, and that seems to me unreasonable."

The ACLU is analyzing the school district's decision and may file another lawsuit to retest the Tacoma School Board's court-backed decision that homosexuals are "immoral."

The state-court ruling was left undisturbed by the United States Supreme Court in 1977.

Gaylord himself has written to the school district saying, "I have examined this fall's minutes of the board of directors and note that both junior high school social studies teachers newly hired by the district... and several of the new resource teachers... clearly have educational preparation and teaching experience far inferior to my own."

Willie Stewart of Personnel answered Gaylord as follows: "The district does not respond to an applicant's request for reasons why some person other than the applicant was hired for a position." Thus anti-gay employers are answerable only to themselves.

Since his dismissal, Gaylord has been working part time as a combination business agent and clerk for the Tacoma Federation of Teachers, earning less than half what he was paid as a teacher.

Gaylord has never been convicted of anything and that he is the one who brought suit, not the other way around. When the board members who fired Gaylord were asked their feelings about rehiring him, they made the following remarks: "I have not changed my position one bit. I wouldn't want him at all or anyone like him (because of) what he was convicted for," said Frank Gillian.

David R. Tuell answered that he has to be concerned with the potential for a harmful educational situation posed by a gay teacher in contact with "young people."

Jim Boze said he would vote the same way.

"It's the price they have to pay for being different."

"The ACLU considers the Gaylord decision an abomination," said Roger Winters, office administrator.

WE'RE OK, YOU'RE NOT--NO GAY FAMILIES

Tulsa--(IGNA)--A family is parents or a parent and children, not homosexual couples nor unmarried cohabitating heterosexual pairs. At least, that was the prevailing opinion at the Oklahoma Conference on the Family, held in December in Stillwater.

Participants included home extension and church groups, social workers, psychologists, educators, grandmothers, nuns, and Pro-Family devotees who brought their infants to the sessions.

A number of professionals, however, expressed concern that the Pro-Family stance does not meet the needs of Oklahoma families that do not fit the traditional mold.

Other highlights of this conservative conference were:

"There's no word sweeter than 'mother' and the nurturing of children is the most important career."

"The place for sex education is in the home."

"Divorces are too easy to get."

Men, take heart from one item:

"Men should be considered in child custody cases."

WHAT CAUSES ANTI-GAY VIOLENCE?

BOSTON--(IGNA)--Violence against gays usually takes one of two forms--attacks by groups of young men or sexual pickups where guilt is involved.

The psychological thread that runs through bashers is called homophobia, a fear and hatred of homosexuals, and some say, of the basher's own homosexuality.

According to a story in *The Boston Globe*, the average

"average" gay basher in Boston is a white male between the ages of 18 and 24.

Most often when blacks attack gays, according to Police Lt. William J. Bratton, the primary motive is robbery. "I can't remember a time when blacks might have assaulted gays simply because they are gay," he said.

The largest number of gay bashers are just picking fights with people they consider odd, defenseless, or unlikely to seek retribution.

Gay bashers run in groups, work fast, and use hit-and-run tactics--either jumping from the shadows or wheeling in front of gays, jumping out of their cars and throwing a few punches and maybe bottles, then escaping before descriptions can be obtained.

"These are frustrated kids who are poor students and who are drinking a lot and doing drugs," says Cliff Bair, a gay man who has been harassed twice by street toughs. His characterization fits generally the description offered by police and psychologists.

"They'll be sitting around and someone will say, 'What's there to do tonight?' and someone else will say, 'Let's go beat up some queers.'"

Gay bashers, psychologist Dr. John Money of Johns Hopkins University says, usually feel they can operate with impunity "because the social climate out there says that homosexuality is a form of degeneracy. The gay basher says, 'I'm on the side of righteousness.' He feels very morally justified."

The other main kind of queer-basher is the hustler, or his customer, who lashes out after engaging in sex.

Although the sex between a customer and a hustler is by mutual consent, Dr. Money says that one of the two may feel guilt and revulsion at the situation, blame the other, and strike out against his partner.

The hustler often does not like to think of himself as gay, says Brian Miller, a Los Angeles gay counselor. "The receiving of money is the neutralizer of guilt. He can say, 'I do it for money.'"

The response of the hustler to his revulsion is often more brutal than that of a gang. A five-year study of gay murder victims by Miller and Laud Humphreys of Pitzer College shows that two-thirds of the 162 victims studied were killed by hustlers, one-third by gangs.

The study also shows that "contrary to a lot of rumor and implications, we found almost no occurrences where gay lovers were involved in that kind of violence against each other."

"Unlike in heterosexual marriages, there are no social sanctions holding them together. No law, no children, no church, no in-laws," Humphreys said. As a result, breaking up a relationship is not as likely to be acrimonious.

**GCS BENEFIT AT
THE AUSTIN COUNTRY
MARCH SIXTEENTH**

WOMEN IN PRISON

(IGNA) The Oregon Women's Correctional Center has a set of 14 rules. One of the most controversial forbids sexual activity. Gayle Smith, an inmate, is quoted in the Oregon Statesman-Journal this way: "There's just a few lesbians in here, but they act like all of us are lesbians. Two people can't be even in the same bedroom together. You can't even visit your friend's room."

Inmate Theresa King added, "They really magnify a lot of little stuff. If somebody's having a problem, I've learned the best thing to do is to go over and give them a hug, give them some support. But over here, you can't even touch somebody, let alone hold their hand or put your arm around them. That's homosexual activity."

Female Superintendent Lee Gierloff said, "I've seen a lot of touching, a lot of hugging, and the staff does not deal with it as sexual activity. It depends on who is doing the touching and who is doing the hugging"

She added: "There are some who have been known to engage in homosexual activity. They're probably going to be watched more closely, and they may feel harrassed and picked on."

While inmates generally rate Gierloff's treatment as fair, many said that other staff members are too rigid. The prisoners believe that the staff relates to them on a parent-child level instead of on an adult basis.

Sgt. Richard Holder of the staff acknowledged that the inmates have a valid point, but he said that when control was looser, "the staff felt like they were just being servants and they didn't have the control they needed."

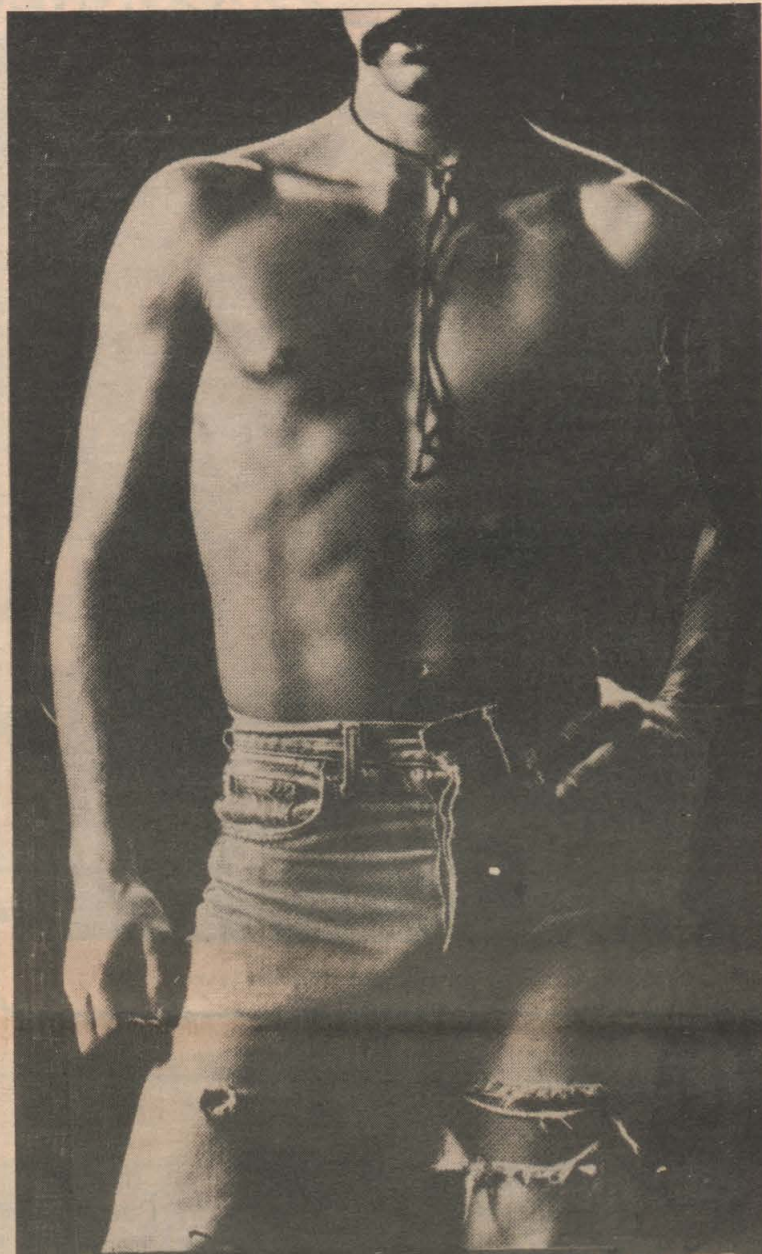
Pat Tuthill, the education coordinator, said that 40 women are involved in the prison's educational and vocational programs. She said, "The philosophy of the institution is that the programs are there. But they are voluntary." She also said: "The women who come here have very traditional ideas of what women should do. We have to pull teeth to get anyone to go over to the Oregon State Coorectional Institution for courses."

NY SODOMY LAW UNCONSTITUTIONAL
continued from page 1

It is doubtful that the State Attorney General will appeal this ruling because of his public stand that sodomy law is that the sodomy law is an unconstitutional infringement on the right to privacy. Attorney General Abrams stated last year at a conference at New York University on "Law and the Fight for Lesbian and Gay Rights," that it was his belief the New York sodomy law was unconstitutional.

Thomas F. Coleman, co-chairperson fothe National Committee for Sexual Civil Liberties, stated, "This decision has great significance. The New York Legislature has sinsistently refused to decriminalize private sex between consenting adults, so legislative reform has not been promising. If the case is appealed, New York's highest appellate court, the New York Court of Appeals, is likely to uphold this decision declaring the law unconstitutional. Finally, this decision shows a trend on the part of state appellate courts to strictly scrutinize the constitutionality of statutes regulating private sex. The Iowa and New Jersey Supreme Courts have reached similar conclusions. This growing judicial recognition of the right to sexual privacy can be used as precedent in states where other litigation of a similar nature is pending, such as Pennsylvania and Oklahoma."

The main brief submitted to the Appellate Division was written by Ms. Margot Karle, attorney for Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund in New York. Mr. William H. Gardener of Buffalo, New York submitted a Friend of the Court brief on behalf of the National Committee for Sexual Civil Liberties.



\$1.00 BAR
DRINKS
ALL NIGHT
EVERY
NIGHT

FREE BEER
SUN 9-10 PM
TUE 10-11 PM
WED 10-11 PM
THUR 10 PM

ROAD SHOW
WITH MISS RIKI,
TRAGEDY ANN,
SABRINA PLUS
GUEST

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Austin 478-6806

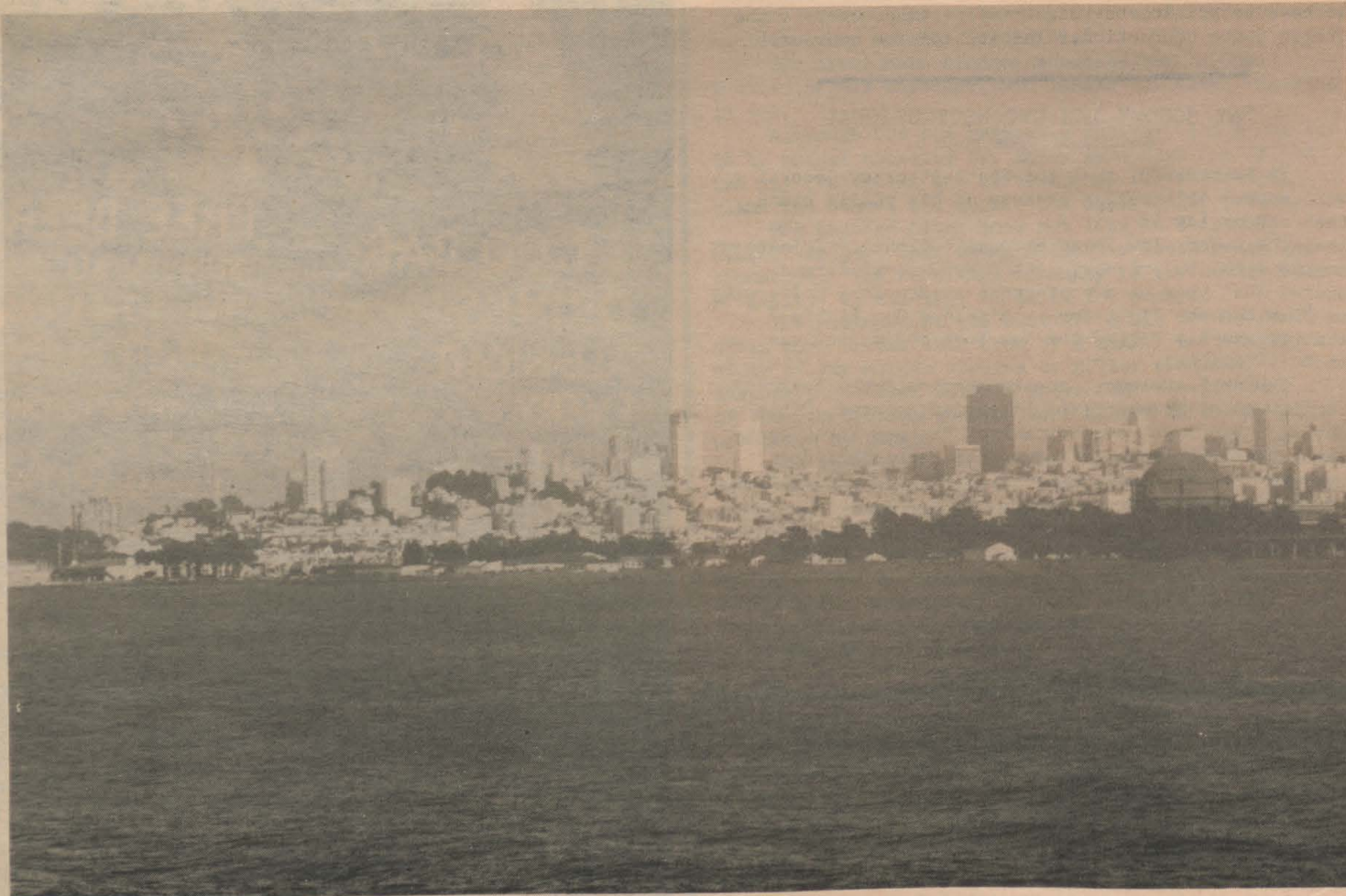
AUSTIN
COUNTRY



Jim Olinger

JULIE MAXWELL, manager of the Hollywood

PHOTO-NOTES



Robert Welsch



Kelly Finke



Jim Olinger

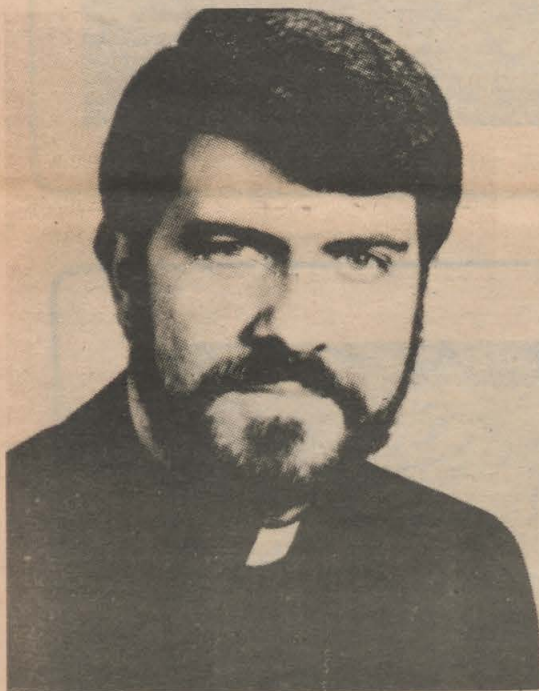
PHIL (L) and WARREN SIKES at MCCA

WHAT'S A M.C.C.?

Metropolitan Community Church hasn't been around very long, compared to the established "main-line" churches, such as Catholic, Baptist, Pentecostal, Episcopal, Methodist, etc. MCC is just a little over ten years old and growing rapidly, while many of the other churches are losing members. Most gay people think they know why MCC came into existence, but few know when and how.

Rev. Troy Perry, the founder of Metropolitan Community Church, is well known as a minister and as an outspoken advocate of human rights. When Proposition 6, the Briggs Amendment, became a threat in California several years ago, he fasted to help raise \$1,000,000. He also participated in a whirlwind speaking tour to raise money to fight that same legislation. He was in good company. The group included Leonard Matlovich, David Kopay, and Del Martin.

Rev. Perry began his life in the gay community the same way many of us have. Because he was homosexual, he was kicked out of his church, his license as a minister was revoked, he was divorced by his wife and forbidden to see his children again. He came out in the gay community in California, fell in and out of love, attempted suicide, survived it, and started putting his life in order. Through it all, Rev. Perry never stopped believing in God, but he was not sure just what the Bible really had to say about homosexuality. In his study of the Bible and his search for



answers, he began to understand that there was a valid ministry for him in the gay community because he realized that God loved him, and all homosexuals.

At about the same time, a friend of his named Carlos was arrested in a gay bar. His "crime" was buying a beer. The experience left Carlos feeling that nobody really cared about homosexuals, God least of all. This convinced Troy Perry the gay community needed a church with a special outreach. The name of the church illustrates this outreach - Metropolitan from its birth in the urban area of Los Angeles, and Community from the "gay community" and the church community - a place where there would be a feeling of family and love.

The first ad¹ MCC appeared in The Advocate. The first service

The first ad for MCC appeared in The Advocate. The first service was Oct. 6, 1968, in Troy's own living room. Twelve people attended.

It could have stopped there, but it didn't. The church in L.A. grew - other congregations were established in San Diego, San Francisco, Chicago, Phoenix,

... There are now MCCs in all 50 states, and in Canada, England, Australia, New Zealand, and Africa. Outreach plans for the '80's include Western Europe, the Hispanic Americas, and Nigeria.

The church began as a "temporary measure" until the other denominations had their "consciousness" sufficiently raised, and began to accept gay people into their former churches. Today, that "temporary church" is world-wide, with over 151 congregations, and 172 clergy members. It is a thriving, growing institution, accepting everyone, gay and straight, from every church background, and from no church background.

MCC is a little like every church we've ever been a part of, and radically different at the same time. The difference is practicing what we preach - and believe. Today, we have a Washington, D.C. field office on Christian Social Action. Other commissions and task forces within the church include Institutional Prison Ministry, the Task Force on Race Relations, the Task Force on Men, the Task Force on Women, and Innovative Ministries (alcoholics, handicapped people). These task forces and commissions reflect the sincerity and concern expressed in MCC and unity among people within the church, and without. Other churches are working toward some of these same goals, but the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches is dedicated to meeting all the needs of our people in the gay community and establishing a basis for understanding with members of the "straight" community.

Our commitment to human rights was expressed most recently in MCC's participation in the March on Washington in October, 1979. Rev. Perry spoke at the rally following the March. He continues to work for human rights, and plans to lead a 168-mile march from Jacksonville, Florida, to Tallahassee, Florida, in dual support of gay rights and MCC Tallahassee, which has recently been under fire from a local church and its minister, Rev. Gerald Sutek.

In reaching out to the community, MCC seeks to bring all people to God, through Christ. God is Love - and this love was never meant to be exclusive. God excludes no one - people do that. This is our mission and our witness.

What MCC has come to mean to many of our members and friends can be summed up in the words of a young man at a Sunday night service, "I didn't know very much about the church, and I was scared to come, but it feels like I've finally come home to my family."

- Dianne Draper
Exhorter (student minister)
MCC Austin



DIANNE DRAPER (R) and WAYDE FREY
at MCCA Petluck Supper

Jim Olinger

GCS BENEFIT AT
THE AUSTIN COUNTRY
MARCH SIXTEENTH



Marcia Ewell/Daily Texan

DISCO QUEEN TURNS EVANGELIST

by Hektor

An impromptu religious debate broke out in front of the Texas Union Building on Monday, Feb 4, as evangelist Cindy Lasseter preached from the Bible while students questioned her beliefs.

"You people are headed for hell," the self-professed "ex-disco queen" told many members of the crowd. She included "queers," "whores and whore-mongers," "sissies," "adulterers," and sorority women in her list of the damned. Lasseter said the majority of the world is going to hell, and "it's the law of God that compels me to come out here. There's nothing I'd rather do than be out here preaching."

When a woman asked what was wrong with her making love with her boyfriend, Lasseter replied, "The Bible says it's wrong, you little harlot. You sorority girls are all going to hell with your fancy clothes and whoring with men." She also accused women of falling in love with "men" because they are looking for Jesus and Fulfillment.

Lasseter distributed pamphlets about "jews," athiests and homosexuals and why they will "burn in the fires of Hell." She claims homosexuals are made through a long period of "sinful" activities. Before anyone becomes a homosexual, Lasseter claims, he or she masturbates. This creat feelings of emptiness, so the sinner begins experimenting with anybody available. This only creates more emptiness. In search of fullfillment, a person is led to seek more sensations, leading to sado-masochism and, eventually homosexuality. (What a crock of shit!)

UNITED METHODIST GAY STRUGGLE COMING

by Troy Stokes

Every four years the United Methodist Church gets together in a national meeting to have a huge, hysterical disagreement on the subject of homosexuality. This meeting is called the General Conference, which sets church law for the next four years. The focal point of contention when the conference opens on April 15th in Indianapolis will be a paragraph in the United Methodist "Book of Discipline" (church law), which states "Homosexuals no less than heterosexuals are persons of sacred worth....Further we insist that all persons are entitled to have their human and civil rights ensured, though we do not condone the practice of homosexuality and consider this practice incompatible with Christian teaching."

Gay activists and our supporters argue that the last phrase is mean-spirited and untrue and should be deleted. The Board of Church and Society has already called for the deletion of this phrase.

However, most observers do not hold out much hope for softening this language. Conservative, "charismatic" Methodists from the "Good News Caucus" will attempt to pass legislation which would have the effect of specifically barring the ordination of openly homosexual people as ministers. The politics of the Methodist Church is such that there are very few places where a person can be openly gay and remain a pastor. Paul Abels of Washington Square United Methodist Church is one of those few.

Under the current rules, if a pastor has the local support, the United Methodist Church as a national body

has no right to remove him (or her) from office. Church liberals oppose this conservative drive because they want to avoid further stigmatization of homosexuals and because they don't want to get back into the business of policing the private lives of pastors. Lots of middle class Methodists think it would be too much like the Baptists, and therefore tacky, to say whether or not it was all right for the pastor to smoke, drink, be divorced, etc.

Since the gay issue first surfaced in 1972 the Good News movement, based in Wilmore, Kentucky, has grown considerably. Experienced church watchers are not sure about the strength of this conservative group and are therefore unwilling to predict whether or not they will be able to specifically bar gays and lesbians from the ordained ministry.

My own view is that the United Methodist Church will stick on dead center. The Church is moderate and unlikely to embrace any position which could be called extreme. Most Methodists are really confused about the issue of homosexuality. Many of them are aware that lesbians and gays are not treated fairly. At the same time, they are embarrassed about most sexual matters and unwilling to address them honestly. It's interesting that, since 1972, the Church has been attempting to aid gays. For example, the Board of Discipleship has produced a resource packet to promote understanding between gays and their families. It has not, during the same time frame, produced any educational material which attempts to aid homosexuals in putting their homosexuality behind them.

Those interested in following these developments may call the United Methodist Information Center after April 15 at 800-251-8140.

CRUISING



Jim Olinger

Austin Lambda member CHERESE CAMPO (R) leaflets "Cruising"

AUSTIN ORGANIZATIONS LEAFLET "CRUISING"

Members of the Austin Lesbian/Gay Political Caucus and Austin Lambda Cultural Center have been leafleting the audiences of "Cruising."

The leaflet, which is titled "Is 'Cruising' Unfair to Gays?" urges viewers to keep an open mind. It states "We feel that, presented with the facts, you will accept that gays are people with the same kind of hopes, dreams, assets, and flaws as the rest of the members of our society. Since this may be your only exposure to movies which claim to represent gay lifestyles, we feel you should know that these fictional characters are no more representative of gays and lesbians than the Hell's Angels are representative of heterosexual society." It urges seeing "Word is Out," a Lesbian/Gay documentary, for a realistic view of homosexual life.

Scotty Scott, ALGPC Political Action Chair, told CONNECTIONS that Austin Lambda and ALGPC began considering responses to "Cruising" when controversy first broke out in New York. "We decided the most important thing was to bring positive images of gays to the public," she said.

Scott contacted Dick Chick of Presidio Theaters, the company which booked "Cruising." He explained they are required by contract to take all films their distributor offers, although the length of the run depends on audience response. He agreed to book "Word is Out" into Dobie Mall for the week starting Feb. 22.

"We wanted to do something more imaginative than a boycott or protest." Scott continued, "It's really good to have something positive to offer, like 'Word is Out.'" The organizations were planning to present "Word is Out" themselves, but they could only show it for one night. Running it at Dobie for a week will let us reach many more people."

Seven members of ALGPC and Austin Lambda, including Scott, Steve Thomas, Janna Zumbrun, Michael Fernandes, and Cherese Campo, attended the first showing of the film before making the final decision to hand out leaflets. They concluded that "Cruising" was unfair to lesbians and gays. The movie implies that homosexuality is catching and that homosexuals can easily turn into homicidal maniacs. This message is subtle, but it is there, despite the disclaimer that accompanies the film.

Scott says the leafleting will continue on weekends as long as "Cruising" plays in Austin.

CRUISING

--Ron Moss

There was a long line outside the Village 4 ticket window on Saturday, Feb. 16, the day after "Cruising" opened. There was plenty of time to read the flyers Austin Lesbian/Gay Political Caucus and Austin Lambda Cultural Center people were distributing. When I finally got inside, the only seats left were way down in front.

"Cruising" begins with a written disclaimer: "This film is not intended to be an indictment of homosexuality. It depicts only a certain tiny segment of gay culture." That's certainly kind of director William Friedkin. Since many gays are afraid of the S&M people, too, he'll just take a cheap shot at them. Several characters say "this is not common to gay culture." Whether they mean S&M or brutal murders isn't clear.

The disclaimer is correct. "Cruising" doesn't really depict gay society at all. It projects only a heterosexual's distorted view of homosexual life. I could almost feel the stereotypes reaching through the screen to strangle my freedom and individuality as a proud American Gay. I won't describe any of the scenes, but there are bloodily detailed and stomach-turning.

The scenes weren't as bad as the giggles, laughter, and jeering remarks from some (presumably straight) members of the audiences. I felt misunderstood, insulted, offended, and totally degraded. When I started feeling sick to my stomach, I got up and went into the bathroom.

One of the straight men from the audience was standing at the urinal. He couldn't stop staring at my long hair, earrings, boots, brown leather jacket, dangling keys, and oversized wallet on a chain. I could see him frantically trying to remember what an olive green handkerchief meant. I just smiled at him, which made him even more nervous. While going out, I stuck my head back around the corner and leered at him. He freaked. He was locking himself into a toilet stall when I left.

I do not recommend "Cruising" for anyone with a weak stomach. In fact, the only reason I would suggest going to see it is to find out how bad it is. We can't fight something like this by turning our heads and ignoring it.

"WINDOWS" - THE LESBIAN "CRUISING"

Because of widespread rumors that the movie "Windows" portrays lesbians in the same derogatory vein that "Cruising" does gay men, a special screening of the film was attended by two members of the Responsive Gay Collective, an organization formed in New York to protest "Cruising."

The rumors were mild compared to the reality. This picture is not only damaging to lesbians, but it also continues the stereotype of women controlled and dominated by men.

This aberration of humanity opens with a graphic disgusting rape of the straight woman, Emily (Talia Shire) that was choreographed and paid for by the lesbian, Andrea (Elizabeth Ashley) who is in "love" with her. Throughout the film Andrea proves her "love" by committing a total of three murders including that of Emily's cat (which is placed in Emily's freezer for her to discover.)

There is no "redeeming social value" to this garbage. The film portrays lesbians as demented and capable of any act of degradation and violence in their struggle to allow feelings of love for another woman to surface.

The portrayal of Emily suggests that women are dependent on men for their well-being and that straight women are easy prey for lesbians and men alike.

"Windows" deserves to be protested along with "Cruising." Hollywood's bigotry does not distinguish between lesbians and gay men - we can't afford to, either.

THE MOVIE "CRUISING" OPENS

NY/San Francisco--(IGNA)--The hotly debated film about homosexual murders opened in New York, but the subsequent press conference with its director caused the most fireworks.

Director William Friedkin, speaking in the Manhattan I, an upper East Side cinema, stood his ground before an array of microphones and TV cameras. He said: "What I saw in my research and what I portrayed on the screen, I don't consider negative. There is probably less murder per capita in these gay bars than there is in many other aspects of lifeIt is about specific characters and not a general situation."

Friedkin went on to say, "You may think that the way I see it is distorted, wrong. You may feel that it's going to cause violence. I don't."

Gay activist Arthur Bell at this point left his seat and walked down the theater aisle to confront Friedkin.

"I condemn you for makin this film," Bell said. "It is trashy and hateful. It can do nothing but harm a lot of people."

"The movies have always treated homosexuals as wooden Indians. You have done it again. I condemn you. You are the worm of worms. Your movie is a piece of garbage and should be put in the garbage can and thrown in the Hudson River."

Friedkin replied, "I'm very disappointed to hear that, because Arthur Bell's columns were very influential in the research I did." He then proceeded to read a 1977 Village Voice article that Bell had written about gay martyrs along the New York waterfront.

A member of the National Gay Task Force, Tom Burrows, later said, "I'm aware of the free-speech argument. But censorship already exists in subtle ways. We never see the good side of gay life. We're not denying anyone the right to make a film, but we would like people to know there is another side."

Meanwhile, in San Francisco the movie opened at the St. Francis Theater on Feb. 15th at 11 A.M. A crowd of about 50 people gathered outside the theater, although no formal pickets appeared. Several gay men got into a loud argument with a man with a white beard, who told them that he'd like to see them in the same situation as the victims in the film--with their "cocks cut off and stuffed in (their) mouths."

The police, who were guarding the movie house, escorted the white-bearded man away from the theater.

The management of the theater put up a hand-lettered sign in the box office, saying that all patrons would be subject to a "voluntary" search. Those offering the film to the public expected disturbances and wished to prevent any from happening by checking customers for rotten eggs, tomatoes, or other items.



CRUISING

By Jim Olinger

In 1970, William Friedkin directed "The Boys in the Band," which depicted homosexuals as clever neurotics whose sole pleasure was shredding each other emotionally. That same year, Gerald Walker completed "Cruising," a novel which described all homosexuals as potential psychotic killers or their willing victims. Eighteen publishers turned it down before Walker found one who would print it.

Shortly afterwards, producer Jerry Weintraub read "Cruising," liked it, and began pestering Friedkin to write and direct a screen version. It took eight years, but Friedkin finally accepted the assignment and went to New York to do research. He claims his representation of the New York S&M scene is authentic in every way and says "the participants in this world show enormous courage and freedom of choice."

Friedkin denies that "Cruising" is a statement for or against homosexuality. He describes Walker's novel as "a marvelous murder mystery with a terrific story." I read "Cruising" after seeing the film. It's a fairly suspenseful imitation of several "police decoy" stories of the period. But straights shouldn't try to write about gay psychology. The result is always a disgusting mixture of old heterosexual stereotypes and Sunday Supplement psychology. Walker would have us believe that all homosexuals hate ourselves and are unconsciously seeking punishment.

It appears that the original shooting script, as reported in the Village Voice, followed the novel very closely. Rookie policeman John Lynch, played by Al Pacino, goes under cover to trap a psychotic killer who is stalking the gay community. His assignment forces him to confront his own latent homosexuality and he ends up turning killer himself. Friedkin's major change was to set the film in "a small segment of gay society" the New York S&M scene.

All hell broke loose when the top secret script was leaked, and financiers and star Al Pacino began putting pressure on Friedkin. The script was rewritten and additional scenes were filmed. A heterosexual relationship is added for Pacino. The killer's motivation becomes guilt over his father's death. John Lynch wounds the killer and offers him a deal ("Lead guilty to killing five gays and we'll give you eighteen years. Otherwise, you'll get twenty years for attacking a cop."), rather than killing him and taking his place. Friedkin was cutting and recutting until the last possible second, but the end result is a murky, confusing film which is still derogatory toward gays.

This is shown most clearly when Lynch's neighbor, who Lynch had been very attracted to, is brutally slain. In the novel, it is unquestionable that Lynch killed him in a spasm of guilt and/or rage after they had sex. In the movie, the identity of the killer is ambiguous, but the evidence most strongly indicates it was his insanely jealous, knife-wielding roommate. These two are neither S&M practitioners nor drag queens, the "small segment of the gay community" that "Cruising" said it would dump on in the disclaimer that opened the film. They are "normal" gay people, a clear implication that any of us could turn crazed killer at the drop of a bead.

I really don't think William Friedkin intends to make an anti-gay movie. But, with his arrogant assumption that he, a straight, understands the gay personality better than we do ourselves, he has made one. I think he finally realized this himself, and made the film into a mush trying to fix it. You could feel sorry for the corner he painted himself into. I choose to remain pissed.



...sifam ni eyalg "gnitator" ss gcol ee abno



BENEATH ARGENT LINEN

Beneath argent linen
 Strewn with scarlet rose,
 Lips in painted part embrace
 The monument erect.
 All flame all ash
 Both sin and sacrosanct
 In breathless blush
 The heated river flows. . .
 Ritual abandoned
 The chalice now adored.

Jim Green

FACT

IF YOU FEEL COMFORTABLE AS A
 SQUARE...FINE...
 IT'S JUST THAT I'M MORE
 ON THE OVAL SIDE...

HEKTOR

IN MEMORY OF HARVEY MILK

by Larry Palmer

One fasted,
 One prayed,
 One spoke,
 Many marched,
 Many more didn't care,
 A few more said it's not fair.

One choked,
 One stayed,
 One lasted,
 Once gay, he is dead today.

Once my neighbor,
 Once my voice,
 Once my candidate,
 Always my friend,
 With my heart in his hand,
 What is this master plan?

He was everybody's friend.
 He now lies in state,
 Without choice.
 Love and labor,
 He was my neighbor.

Metropolitan Community
Church

PASTOR: Rev. Candace Naisbitt

SUNDAY SERVICES: 12 Noon and 7:30 PM
 WEDNESDAY PRAYER AND COMMUNION SERVICE: 7:30 PM
 BIBLE STUDY: Tuesday 7:30 PM

COUNSELLING: Monday-Thursday by appointment, 1pm-6pm.

RAP GROUP: Tuesday
 7:30pm (until March 11 - then 9pm)

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Tuesdays 7:30pm (beginning
 March 11) What the Bible says about the Second Coming

MEMBERSHIP CLASSES: Sundays 10am

POTLUCK SUPPER March 15, 7:30pm

COME JOIN US FOR WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP

614 E. 6th ST., AUSTIN, TEXAS
 (512) 477-7747

CALENDAR

CONNECTIONS Calendar - March 1980

- Sun Mar 2 12 noon - 12:30pm, "We are Everywhere - Part I," gay radio program, KUT-FM
- Mon Mar 3 11am - 1pm, "Hepatitis B and How It Affects the Gay Community," lecture by Dr. Barry Hafkin, virologist with Tx Dept. of Health, at 1100 West 49th Street, Room T-507 (state health dept. bldg.) Lecture for GCS counselors, Gay Nurses Alliance members, and people in the state health dept.
6:30 - 8pm, Austin Lambda Cultural Collective meeting. Open to visitors.
- Tue Mar 4 7:30pm, Women Take Back the Night meeting at Austin Lambda Cultural
- Wed Mar 5 9pm, concert by Helen Hooke, formerly of Deadly Nightshade, at the Hollywood. \$2.50 at the door. With Lynn Keller on bass and Cherry Wolfarth on drums.
- Thu Mar 6 10:30pm, showtime featuring Leloni at the Austin Country
- Fri Mar 7 Austin Lambda Cultural Center open house
- Sat Mar 8 3 - 10pm, grand opening of Austin Lambda Alcoholics Anonymous Center
- Sun Mar 9 10am, Austin Lambda Cultural coordinators meeting
12 noon - 12:30pm, "Human Rights for Gays," gay radio program, KUT-FM
7pm, lesbian pot-luck supper, 606 Pressler. All lesbians welcome.
- Thu Mar 13 10:30pm, showtime featuring Champagne from Houston at the Austin Country
- Sat Mar 15 7:30pm, potluck supper at Metropolitan Community Church of Austin
- Sun Mar 16 10am, Austin Lambda Cultural staff training meeting
12 noon - 12:30pm, "Gay Community Services of Austin," gay radio program, KUT-FM

- 9pm - midnight, BENEFIT for G.C. S. at the Austin Country. \$2.00 at the door. FREE BEER 9 - 10pm. Entertainment by Tragedy Ann, Miss Riki, Sabrina, and the Blandscrew Sisters. 10:30pm - midnight. Slave auction. Clothing from Henry's Memrys and mask and cape from Bo's Fun Shop to be auctioned off.
- Mon Mar 17 6:30 - 8pm, Austin Lambda Cultural Collective meeting. Open to visitors.
- Tue Mar 18 7:30pm, women's theatre meeting, 1704 Kerr (south Austin). All interested women welcome.
8pm, first meeting of Austin Lambda Cultural lesbian and gay parents support group
- Wed Mar 19 8pm, Gay Community Services general business meeting
- Thu Mar 20 10:30pm, showtime featuring Bette Sheba at the Austin Country
- Sat Mar 22 10am, Austin Lambda Cultural speakers bureau training workshop. Public Library.
- Sun Mar 23 12 noon - 12:30pm, "The Cabaret Case" featuring Matthew Coles of Gay Rights Advocates of San Francisco, gay radio program, KUT-FM
7pm, Spring Equinox Celebration at Zilker Clubhouse. BENEFIT for Austin Lambda Cultural and ALGPC. Music by Jubilation. Cash food-and-beverage bar. Donation requested at the door.
- Tue Mar 25 Possible second meeting of Austin Lambda Cultural lesbian and gay parents support group
- Thu Mar 27 10:30pm, Oldie Goldie Special Show with special guests at the Austin Country
- Sat Mar 29 7pm, gay men's pot-luck supper, Canyon Rim. Meet at Austin Lambda Cultural by 6:30pm.
- Sun Mar 30 10am, Austin Lambda Cultural coordinators meeting
12 noon - 12:30pm, "Gay Themes in Opera - Part I," gay radio program, KUT-FM
9pm, concert by Cherry Wolfarth, solo vibraphone, and Diane Goss, singer-songwriter-guitarist, at the Hollywood. \$1.50 at the door.

WEEKLY EVENTS

- Sunday 9:45am, Affirmation Sunday school class, University United Methodist Church
12 noon, A Different Drummer, 30-minute gay radio program, KUT-FM, 90.7 MHz, produced by Carr Strong and the Austin Gay Radio Collective, a project of Gay Community Services
12 noon and 7:30pm, worship services at Metropolitan Community Church of Austin
1pm, liturgical service, Holy Trinity Church of Austin
8pm, Dignity liturgy. Call 477-6699 (GCS) for weekly location.
- Monday 8pm, Austin Lambda AA open discussion meeting
8 - 10pm, Austin Lambda Cultural gay men's awareness group. \$1 donation asked from non-sponsors.
- Tuesday 7:30pm, Bible study, MCCA
9pm, rap group on various topics, MCCA
- Wednesday 6:30pm, Austin Lambda AA women together meeting. (Non-gay friends and others welcome at Austin Lambda AA Center and at meetings on Wednesdays)
- Thursday 7:30pm, prayer and communion service, MCCA
8 - 10pm, Austin Lambda Cultural lesbian awareness group. \$1 donation asked from non-sponsors.
- Friday 8pm, Gay Community Services rap group, University Y Auditorium
8pm, CCAA bowling, Brunswick Capitol Bowling Center, 5700 Grover
8pm, Austin Lambda AA open discussion meeting
- Saturday (second Saturday only) 6:30pm, Austin Lambda AA covered dish dinner

AUSTIN ORGANIZATIONS

- Austin Lambda AA Center 1403 East Sixth
6:30 - 10:30pm nightly 472-0336
- Austin Lambda Cultural Center 1304 West Lynn
7 - 10pm nightly 478-8653
- Austin Lesbian Gay Political Caucus P.O. Box 822
Austin, Texas 78767
- Gay Community Services 2330 Guadalupe
6 - 10pm nightly 477-6699
- Holy Trinity Church of Austin 1606 South Congress
. 447-7359
- Metropolitan Community Church 614 East Sixth
. 447-7747

GCS BENEFIT AT THE AUSTIN COUNTRY MARCH SIXTEENTH

ADVERTISERS

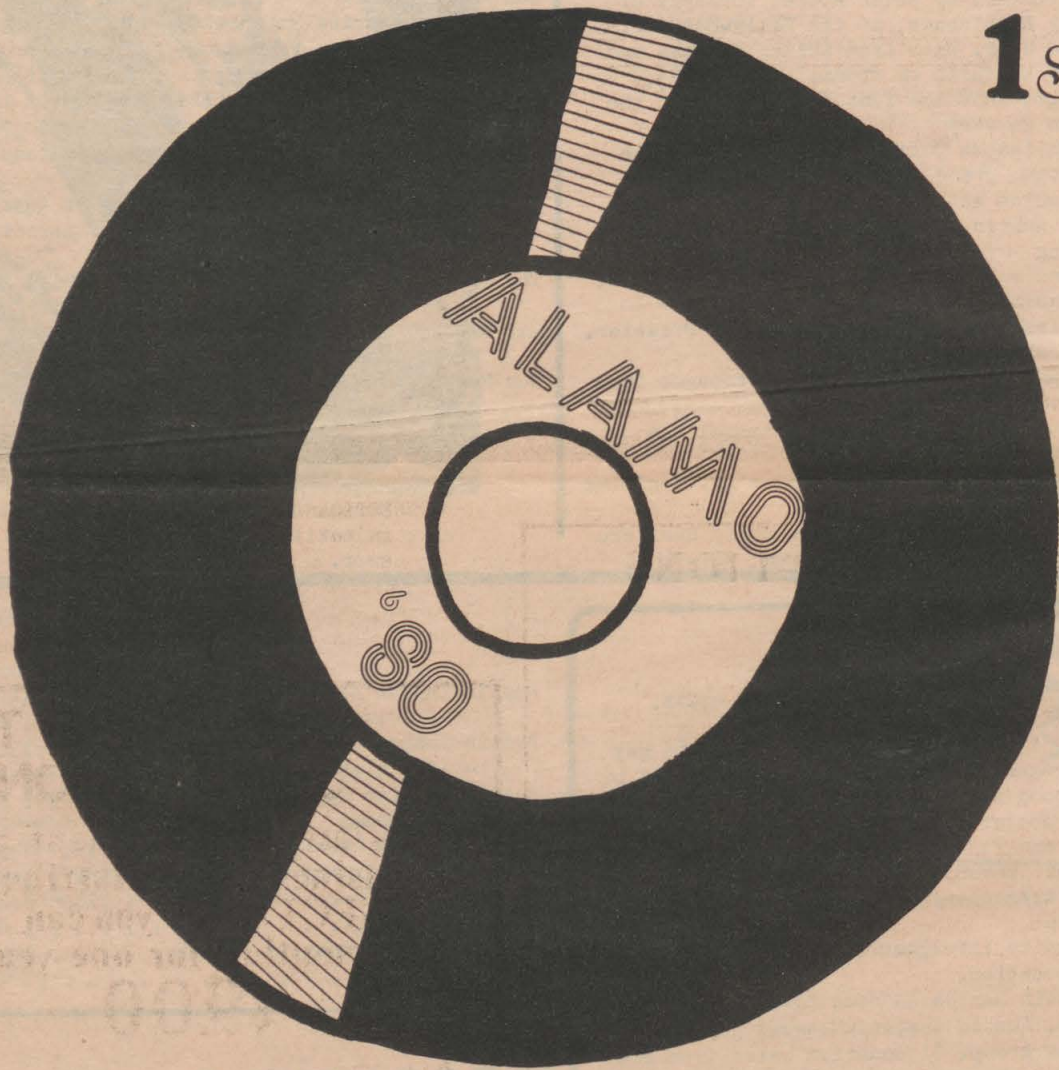
Tell them you saw it in Connections.

- Austin Country 705 Red River . . 478-6806
- Alamo 80 (location to be announced) . . .
- Metropolitan Community Church of Austin
. 614 East 6th . . 477-7747
- New Apartment Lounge . . . 2828 Rio Grande . . 478-0224
- Private Cellar 709 East 6th . . 477-0387

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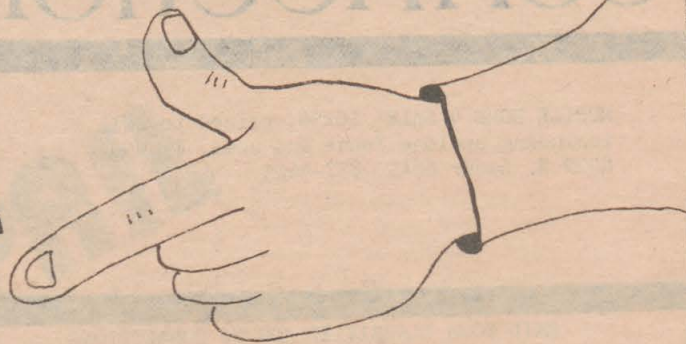
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