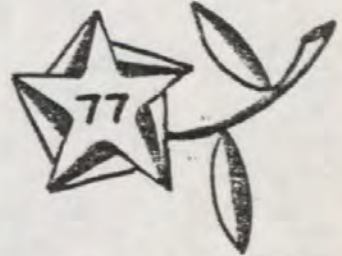


# Gay Austin



M.S.

Volume 1/ Issue 10 June 1977: Art, Calvin, Louis, Maurice, Rob, Wayde, and Woody

## HOUSTON RALLY JUNE 16

Since (s)ne couldn't be with us this year, Anita Bryant, her Save Our Children, Inc., and various fundamentalist and conservative groups have ventured to speak for God. This most unholy alliance of Baptists and Catholics has spread totally unfounded propaganda and used Bryants national reputation as an orange juice pusher and second runner-up in the 1957 Miss America Pageant to give an air of wholesomeness to their persecution of the gay community and misinterpretation of the Dade County referendum. The fruits of their efforts are now seen: the civil rights ordinances to protect gay people from discrimination have been repealed--but not without the most intense and unified fight of gay people throughout this country. We've lost the first bout, but the fight is hardly over. Gay people are coming out stronger than ever to fight this affront to 15% of Americans: Gay Americans.

Anita's forces have already promised to "go national" but they have evidently forgotten that we are already nationwide. The night of the Dade County referendum, gays in New York held a vigil in Greenwich Village. In San Francisco the number of people who came out to demonstrate their displeasure was estimated to be close to 10,000. Gays in New Orleans, Minneapolis, and other cities have all visibly expressed their anger. Over 400 gay people rallied together to protest the appearance of Anita Bryant on her crusade in Fairfax, Virginia.

In Houston, there is a demonstration planned on Thursday, June 16th to protest the actions undertaken by Bryant against the gays of this country. She is to entertain at the Texas State Bar Association meeting there. The demonstration will be in the form of a march and rally. The march will start at 7:00 pm from the Depository II bar on McGowan St. and will end with a rally at the City Hall.

Now is not the time to strike breasts, to gnash teeth, or to hang heads low in disappointment. We need to be heard and

(continued on page 4)

## SQUEEZE ANITA NIGHT A SUCCESS

Through the initiative of local bar owners, the volunteer efforts of gay service and political organizations, and the support of the public, Austin raised approximately \$1,150.00 for the support of the Dade County Coalition campaign for human rights. While the electoral efforts in Miami failed, the public response of gay Austinites has been successful in demonstrating that Austin is concerned and can unite for common goals.


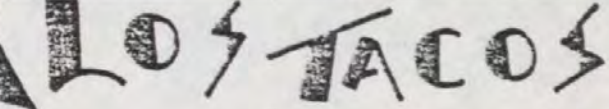


In a meeting of the owners of Pearl Street Warehouse, Austin Country, Private Cellar, and New Apartment Lounge, the managers of Hollywood, and a representative of Friends and Lovers and two gay activist organizations, an agreement was reached to sponsor a Squeeze Anita Night on May 31st where volunteers of Gay Community Services and the Gay Political Coalition (since renamed S.A.F.E.) would solicit door donations of \$1 or more for the Miami campaign. Two adult bookstores, Mr. Peepers and All-American News, plus the Club Baths of Austin also volunteered to help raise funds on the same night.

The two volunteer organizations contributed posters to publicize the event and notified local media. They also got volunteers to work at each business asking for the donations and explaining the importance of the campaign to those who were not already familiar with the issues. Support was broad based and charitable from the patrons of all the businesses. The discos, the women's bar, and low key and western bars, the bookstores, and the baths each raised between \$50-\$300 in a community effort.

The entire amount raised was mailed special delivery to Miami the next day to help with their campaign. All of the work was volunteered and publicity costs were covered by those same volunteers through additional contributions. Gay Austin thanks everyone who contributed, the workers, and the participating businesses for showing that Austin cares.

DIRECTORY  
AUSTIN GAY BUSINESSES AND SERVICES

NOTE: Gay Community Services is sponsored by the University of Texas at Austin. Gay Austin has contacted each business in the community which derives its primary support from gay clients or which welcomes gay customers. The following have pledged their financial support to Gay Community Services:

<p>222 E. 6th</p>  <p>Disco 7 days a week from 9 - 2</p> <p>AFTER HOURS til 4 on Friday and Saturday</p> <p>HAPPY HOUR 8 - 10 Hi-balls 75¢</p> <p>TEMPORARILY CLOSED FOR REMODELING LOOK FOR GRAND OPENING SOON!</p> <p>478-5661</p>	<p align="center"><b>ALL AMERICAN NEWS</b></p> <p align="center"><i>"Not the Largest, Just the Best"</i></p> <p>MAGAZINES · PAPERBACKS    MOVIE ARCADE · NOVELTIES</p> <p>Films                                      WEEKLY SPECIALS</p> <p align="center"><i>for the active man</i></p> <p>2532 Guadalupe                                      478-0222</p>
 <p>8 til 2am 304 West 4th    477-2218</p> <p align="center">Austin's Only Nightclub For Women</p>	<p align="center"><b>CLUB AUSTIN</b></p> <p align="center">308 W. 16th between Lavaca / Guadalupe</p>  <p align="center">Now open 24 hours</p> <p align="center">476-7986</p>
<p align="center"><b>AUSTIN COUNTRY</b></p> <p>705 Red River                                      472-0418</p> <p>Tuesday, Wednesday free tap beer, 10 - 11 Half price drinks and beer all night Wednesday. Buffet and beer bust 7 - 9 Sunday Shows every Thursday, \$1 during show only</p>	 <p align="center">Open 7 days a week 11am - 1am</p> <p align="center">705 West 24th</p>
<p align="center"><b>Pearl St. Warehouse</b></p> <p>1720 Lavaca                                      478-0176</p> <p>Hours: 9pm-2am (closed on Monday) Afterhours: 2am-4am Friday and Saturday</p> <p align="center">WELCOME HOME!</p>	<p align="center">CONTRIBUTION FROM A FRIEND.</p> <p align="center">WE THANK YOU!</p>
<p align="center"><b>THE NEW APARTMENT</b></p> <p>2828 Rio Grande                                      478-0224</p> <p>Open from noon til 2am daily HAPPY HOUR 5 - 9 daily, half price beer and drinks. HAPPY DAY - Sunday, half price beer and drinks</p> 	<p align="center">213 East 6th 478-0243</p> <p align="center"><i>Mr. Peepers</i></p> <p align="center">Your Full-Service Bookstore Austin's Largest Peep-Show Arcade</p> <p align="center">35 Peep Shows</p> <p align="center">25¢                                      25¢</p>
 <p align="center">1221 W. Sixth</p> <p>AFTERNOON BAR open 2pm HAPPY HOUR 2 - 7 daily and ALL DAY SUNDAY</p> <p>Beer 45¢                      Well 95¢</p> <p align="center">"NEVER A COVER CHARGE"</p> <p>477-0387</p>	<p align="center"><b>Metropolitan Community Church of Austin</b></p>  <p align="center">at: The Congregational Church 408 West 23rd    477-7747</p> <p>Sundays 2pm Thursdays 7:30pm</p> <p align="center">WE DO NOT DISCRIMINATE BECAUSE OF RACE, CREED, SEX, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, OR HANDICAP</p>

DIRECTORY RATES: Only \$10 per month to Gay Community Services for the support of Austin's Gay Hotline, peer counseling, information and referrals, library, speakers bureau, and rap group.

TEXAS GAY CONFERENCE IN AUSTIN THIS WEEKEND

The Fourth Annual Texas Gay Conference is being held in Austin this weekend, June 18 and 19. Sponsored by the Texas Gay Task Force, this year's conference will offer a wide range of workshops, speeches by lesbian and gay male leaders, a business meeting, worship services, and recreational activities.

Speakers for the conference will be Ken Cyr and Janna Zumbrun, both Texas activists, and Bob Kunst, one of the spokespersons of the Dade County Coalition for the Humanistic Rights of Gays. Cyr, one of the founders of the Texas Gay Task Force and presently active with the Texas Gay Archives in Houston will deliver the keynote address at 10 o'clock Saturday morning to start the conference. Zumbrun will address the final session of the conference at 11:30 Sunday morning concerning our needs and goals for the coming year. Zumbrun serves on the Human Relations Commission for the City of Austin, and is active with the Austin Lesbian Feminist Organization, Texas Women's Political Caucus, and the Texas Gay Task Force.

Kunst will speak Saturday evening in a session open to the general public. One of the leaders of the Dade County Coalition, Kunst appeared frequently on news programs and interview shows during the Miami campaign representing the Coalition's position before the national media. He also attempted to debate Anita Bryant before the Miami Kiwanis Club when she countered with the Battle Hymn of the Republic rather than substantive arguments.

The specific time and place of his address have not been finalized at this time as his appearance was only recently arranged through the efforts of the Gay People of West Texas. The Lubbock group and the conference committee will make further announcements when plans are confirmed.

The conference also offers sixteen workshops exploring the needs, goals, and experiences of lesbians and gay men. Scheduled for three separate periods on Saturday, workshops from which to choose include topics related to politics, religion, literature, feminism, the media, community services, and personal relationships.

Three workshops on political involvement have been prepared by Nick Schuler of San Antonio. The various aspects to be explored are (1) Gays in the Political Arena, (2) Political Organizations in the Gay Community, and (3) Political Friends and Enemies of the Gay Community. Those who have followed the recent session of the Texas legislature and the Miami campaign will find these encounters helpful in shaping future political efforts.

Two of the workshops will explore religious issues. One session will examine the essence of Gay Spirituality and Gay Theology with a panel made up of the Reverend Rob Shivers of the Austin MCC, Chris Broadhurst of Dignity in San Antonio, and Gene Leggett from Gay United Methodists. The other session will consider issues that arise between Feminism and the Church. A. K. Campbell,

Nina Wouk, and Reverend Shivers will lead the latter discussion.

Consideration of the creative aspects of our culture will be provided in workshops entitled Lesbians and Literature and Gay Male Poetry. The first, led by Diane Draper of Austin, will explore the treatment of lesbians in literature as well as the contributions of lesbians to writing. Randy Conner, a University of Texas teaching assistant in the English Department, will lead the workshop that examines the themes of gay male poetry in relation to the liberation movement.

Besides the feminist workshops already mentioned, four other sessions are planned for lesbians to explore areas of unique interest to women. There will be separate "how-to" workshops on Setting Up a Peer Counseling Service for Women and Setting Up a Feminist Bookstore. The first will be led by Malorie Tolles who will draw from her experiences with the Austin Women/Space peer counselling center. The Common Woman Bookstore Collective which has been in operation in Austin for over a year is sponsoring the second session.

Also for women will be a discussion of Lesbian Participation in International Women's Year which will focus on the Texas IWY conference the following weekend in Austin and the national conference later this year in Houston. Leaders in the discussion will be Pokey Anderson of Houston and Nina Wouk and Janna Zumbrun of Austin. A separate session will be devoted to developing Lesbian Communication Networks so that matters relevant to the feminist movement can be disseminated to all who are interested.

Also focusing on communication will be a workshop on Gay Media by Allen Winter which will look at gay access to the general "straight" media as well as examine the use and focus of the rapidly expanding gay media. The session will begin with an introduction by Winter who studied both topics as part of his master's thesis in the UT School of Journalism. The session will then proceed with a panel discussion then a group dialogue.

Transgenerational Relationships will be the topic of a workshop led by Jim Egging of the Forward Foundation of San Antonio. The session will examine the difficulties couples encounter when there is a generations difference in age accompanied by differing values and experiences that are almost as different as cross-cultural values and relationships.

Finally, the goals and operation of Gay Switchboards and Service Organizations will offer an opportunity for the volunteers in such groups around the state to share their experiences and to help new communities start such groups. Dan Puckett, Office Coordinator of Austin's Gay Community Services will moderate the session.

After a busy schedule of workshops and speeches on Saturday, the conference will focus on worship and recreation on Sunday. The Metropolitan Community Church will conduct services at 9 o'clock in the University Y auditorium followed by

(continued on page 4)

BOOK REVIEW: TENNESSEE WILLIAMS MEMOIRS  
(Bantam; 320pp. \$1.95)

What goes on inside the head of an acclaimed playwright? What inner agonies does a famous personality experience regarding his homosexuality, personal life, career, talent, et.? Tennessee Williams probably did not set out to specifically answer such questions in his memoirs, but he does achieve this for himself as well as giving a very candid insight into the life and loves of his checkered career.

Here is an honest expression of himself as he feels and remembers it, digging deep into his heart, and consciousness, his struggles, his defeats and victories.

Williams' memoirs are at times funny, offensive, or sad---but always frank and apparently honest. He has displayed his private life with no holds barred, a fact which may actually help the rest of us to see our life struggles in a different light.

(There is a copy of this book in the GCS library.)

Rob Shivers

HOUSTON RALLY (conclusion)

seen now as ever. We have civil rights ordinances, but gays in Austin are to have to be prepared to fight to maintain those ordinances. The fight for guarantees of civil rights for gay people throughout the country is the concern of the Austin gay community and of every other community. The anti-gay movement can easily gain momentum, especially since they are dealing with scare tactics, sensationalism, and unsubstantiated myths. We need to keep up our momentum to preserve our rights, just as any other minority group does.

Art

TEXAS GAY CONFERENCE (conclusion)

a friendship period. The final General Session will then consider resolutions from the various workshops or from individuals and will offer participants an opportunity to assess the success of the conference. The session will close with the address on future goals and directions by Janna Zumbrun.

Sunday afternoon will be spent for enjoyment at various parks around town or at the lake. A volleyball tournament is being sponsored by Gay Community Services with teams from Lubbock, Houston, and Austin already entered. Ramsey Park at 44th and Rosedale will be the site of the tournament as well as frisbee and swimming in the pool there. Other options include Zilker Park and Barton Springs or Lake Travis where activists may make friends with other workers.

Anyone interested in the conference is invited to participate. Registration is just \$10 (with a \$5 discount for those whose income is under \$5,000). Registration is from 9-10 o'clock Saturday morning at the Unitarian Church, 4700 Grover (one block west of Lamar). For more information, contact Gay Community Services at 477-6699.

I hear the men  
always the men  
whispering at corners  
and in the offices  
and in the market places  
and in their congresses and courts  
and in the schools  
and in their books  
and in the church  
shout that no god or deity  
female or male may  
cut across the way  
of their word  
or speak any other way  
than with their sword.

I hear the women, often,  
say this, too.

What I would say  
if they'd hear  
would be:

You don't know Jesus as lover  
or Orphus as queer,  
don't see Jesus cruise St. Matthew,  
as Caravaggio did,  
don't know John the Beloved  
nor Buddha's Ananda,  
nor what the Berdache do  
that men like me make some gods  
to protect men like me from you.

Our defenses are strong,  
and impenetrable.

As Borobudur or Chartes or Esse  
collect cosmic energy,  
make non-A A,

so we are guardians of  
another way  
other tools

beyond the men I hear  
always the men  
whispering at corners  
with their man-made rules.

Calvin Doucet

TEXAS GAY CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Saturday, June 18

9:00 Registration  
10:00 Keynote Address--Ken Cyr  
11:00 Workshop Session One  
1:00 Lunch  
2:00 Workshop Session Two  
4:00 Workshop Session Three  
6:00 Dinner  
7:30 Texas Gay Task Force Business Meeting  
9:00 GUEST SPEAKER--Bob Kunst

Sunday, June 19

9:00 Church Service by Austin MCC  
10:30 Closing Session of Conference  
11:30 Closing Speaker--Janna Zumbrun  
12:15 Adjourn to Recreational Activities

Conference Site

Saturday--Unitarian Church, 4700 Grover  
Sunday--University Y, 2330 Guadalupe

Registration

\$10 (\$5 discount if earning under \$5,000)

Gay activism in the form of lobbying the United Methodist Church for changes in its official attitude toward gay people, has been going on in the Austin-San Antonio area since 1971.

About 20 people wore armbands with pink triangles and sat together at the ordination services of the Southwest Texas Annual Conference on June 1, 1977. This group of 20 was made up of members of the Southwest Texas United Methodist Gay Caucus and their friends, members of the Metropolitan Community Church in San Antonio, and members of Integrity, the Episcopal gay organization.

Following the sermon, most of the gay group walked out of the service in protest just before the ordination ceremony began. After the ordination of deacons and elders, Bishop J. Chess Lovern responded to the walkout by making a few impromptu remarks and leading the conference in prayer.

Bishop Lovern states that he felt that the group had walked out because it felt it was not wanted by the church. The bishop affirmed that all of us in the church have weaknesses and failings, that all of us need to grow and change, and that all of us are welcome at the table of the Lord. He requested that the group meet with him personally again in the near future.

The annual conference level gay activist effort has been concentrated on the ordination service because open, out-of-the-closet lesbians and gay men are denied ordination into the ministry of the United Methodist Church.

Bishop Lovern's genuine offer of fellowship with the Gay Caucus is an act of Christian leadership on his part. However, the voting members of the annual conference, lay and clergy, are another matter. They are not bound to follow their bishop's example of warm comradeship and acceptance of gay church people. Even if the conference members do choose to "accept" gay activists as fellow Christians, they probably will not feel like pushing for the acceptance of lesbians and gay men into the ordained Methodist ministry. Acceptance into the ministry is the sign gay activists look for to signal them that the church does indeed want and respect them.

Sitting on the other end of the pew from the Gay Caucus was Don Hand, a lay delegate from the Southwest Texas Annual Conference to the General Conference in Portland, Oregon, in 1976. It was Mr. Hand who proposed the legislation that was incorporated into the 1976 Discipline which states that United Methodists regard homosexuality as "incompatible with Christian teaching"--Anita Bryant's viewpoint exactly.

It is the General Conference of the United Methodist Church which makes the laws and policies for this particular denomination, just as the Congress does for the United States. Until General Conference declares that sexual or affectional preference shall not disqualify a candidate for ordination, the individual annual conferences cannot legally ordain out-front lesbians and gay men into the Methodists ministry.

Wayde Frey

For approximately the past three months the Gay Political Coalition has been active in the campaign on protecting human rights locally as well as nationally. The Coalition first surfaced in response to the Clay Smothers House Bill 1902 which attempted to regulate gay students on state-supported campuses. The most visible actions of the political group have been gathering signatures on a petition protesting this bill. Lobbying both representatives and senators at the capitol on various pieces of legislation and most recently in helping with the collection of donations for the struggle of the Dade County Coalition were also part of their activities during the first few months of its existence.

In order to take a more progressive stand the Coalition has changed its name to the Society for the Advancement of Freedom and Equality: S.A.F.E.

The future of the organization will be lobbying the new mayor and city council regarding this city's housing ordinance. S.A.F.E. meets twice a month on Sunday evenings at the M.C.C. For further information regarding the time, contact Gay Community Services at 477-6699.

OPINION (From San Diego activist groups newsletter)

"Yes, I like to meet gay people, but GCS is not for me. The place is really cliquish and most people just go there to drink."

"GCS is not even a cruisy place, why should I go to see the same people over and over again."

"The good old days were neat. We used to get fifty or sixty people every Wednesday, and had dances and programs. I went there two weeks ago and there was nothing going on."

I've heard these comments time after time; most of them are probably true. We come here with expectations, we want to meet new people, start love affairs or form acceptable social groups. . . . But nothing happens and we end up getting the well known "GCS Depressions". Maybe GCS should disappear and we should all start going to the bars instead. After all, who wants to put energy into an organization which doesn't give anything back.

Well, it is very easy to put GCS down, to get fed up and stop coming. But that's the easy way out. I firmly believe that WE ARE GCS----and when I say we I don't mean the six people who always come. GCS is for all of us and we make out of it what we want. There are no rules which say that GCS shouldn't be cruisy or an intellectual-political group. We can actually become any of these things, but we need YOU to do it. We need to get people who want to have a gay environment in which to interact, people who want to make this place a comfortable one to all gay people. WE NEED YOU----- Give us a chance to prove that we can make something good out of this.

REMEMBER THE FREE VD CLINIC ON FRIDAY, JUNE 17, AT THE AUSTIN CLUB BATHS, 308 W. 16th STREET, 8-10 pm. BE SAFE!!

