

gay austin

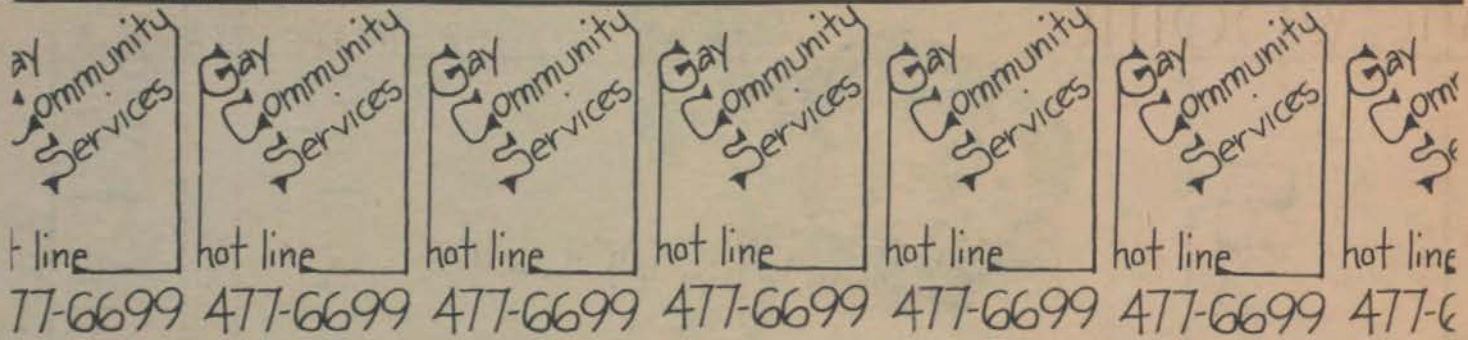


Anita says:

I love gay austin!

vol. 2, no. 8

may 1978



gay austin

STAFF

EDITOR Kelly Kay

CONTRIBUTORS
 Jim Bagg
 Arnold Fleischmann
 Wayde Frey
 Art Morris, III
 David Morris

ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE Arthur Morris

GAY AUSTIN is the monthly publication of Gay Community Services. The advertisements displayed signify the following businesses' support of the work of the organization. Gladly patronize these establishments and above all else let the people know that you appreciate their equal, open-hearted support.

ADULT BOOKSTORES
 All American News 2532 Guadalupe 478-0222
 Stallion Bookstore 706 East 6th 477-0148

BARS
 Austin Country 705 Red River 472-0418
 New Apartment 2828 Rio Grande 478-0224
 Private Cellar 709 East 6th 477-0387

BATHS
 Club Austin 308 West 16th 476-7986

BODY AWARENESS
 Safari Growth Studio 2004 1/2 Guadalupe 472-6828

COIN SHOP
 Capital Coin Company 3004 Guadalupe 472-1676

HAIR CUTTERS
 Comb Free 1512 West 5th 477-8280

LAWYERS
 Legal Clinic 501 West 12th 478-9332

RESTAURANTS
 The Old Pecan Street Cafe 314 East 6th 478-2491

GAY AUSTIN wishes to apologize to the BODY POLITIC for failing to acknowledge that the cartoon appearing in last month's GAY AUSTIN, page 3, was used by permission of that publication. The cartoon, depicting a man apparently overcome by semantical confusion, originally was printed on the cover of the March issue of BODY POLITIC.

THE OPINIONS expressed herein are those of the writer or editor, and not necessarily those of Gay Community Services nor the advertisers.

GAY AUSTIN is published by Gay Community Services of the University Y, 2330 Guadalupe, Austin, Tx, 78705. The coordinators of Gay Community Services are:

Arthur Morris	General Coordinator
Troy Stokes	Finance Coordinator
Steve Thomas	Office Coordinator (and peer counseling)
Dennis Milan	Speakers Bureau Coordinator
Bruce Aleksander	Media Coordinator
Kelly Kay	Publications Coordinator

Deadline for submissions to GAY AUSTIN's June issue is May 22. Submissions should be mailed or delivered to the Gay Community Services offices at:
 2330 Guadalupe, #7
 Austin, Texas 78705
 Letters should also be sent to this address.



Gay rights proven unpopular

... again

BY ART MORRIS, III

THE ST. PAUL REFERENDUM HAS PASSED. There is now no ordinance protecting gay people from discrimination based on sexual orientation in employment, public accommodations or housing in St. Paul. The constitutionally questionable practice of allowing the majority to determine the rights of a minority group had occurred again. But however unfortunate, the results were not wholly unexpected.

This country has never been one to uphold the rights of any minority in any election. Suffrage for women was not gained through popular vote. Nor was the right to vote given Blacks as a result of a public vote. Can we imagine a black woman's being allowed to attend any state university if her admission had to be approved by popular vote at the turn of the century?

Then why all of the uproar and surprise over our loss in St. Paul?

The opposition to the 4-year-old ordinance was led by the Baptist-dominated Citizens Alert for Morality. They fought with a campaign of fear, misinformation and hate. The manipulation of the voting public worked. The higher than expected turn-out of voters accounted for the overwhelming defeat of St. Paul's gays' rights.

YOU LAID BACK AUSTIN GAY FOLKS may be wondering how all of this concerns you. Your support of gay rights in other cities is most important. At this very moment both Eugene, Oregon, and Wichita, Kansas are gearing up for May referenda on gay rights. If these referenda are not stopped, Austinites may be facing one of their own before they know it. Just look whom the Allandale Baptist Church has invited to Municipal Auditorium this very weekend.

Eugene and Wichita gays need our support now. Send what you can to help them in their struggle to preserve human rights. Remember, the ordinance you help save may one day be your own.

Eugene Citizens for Human Rights
PO Box 402, Eugene OR 97440

Homophile Alliance of Sedgewick County
PO Box 2573, Wichita KS 67201

Tri-City National Defense Fund
PO Box 3949, Hollywood CA 90028



The Old Pecan St. Cafe

French Cuisine, Courtyard, & Bar.
Open 8 a.m. until 2 at night.

314 East 6th St.

Respect vs unintentional oppression

DEAR EDITOR:

Your article "Gay women: not 'Lesbians'" in the April issue of GAY AUSTIN disturbed me for several reasons and I would like to comment on it.

The most disturbing aspect of the article for me was its tone. It seems to me that when people respect one another they call each other by names of their respective choosing--to tell people that the name they have chosen for themselves will not be honored and they must use some other name shows a genuine lack of respect for the people's integrity and value. If my friends ask me to call them "lesbians" rather than "gay women," I am glad to do so and I would consider them to be completely justified in being angry if I refused. Likewise, if I ask a friend to call me "gay" rather than "homosexual" or "queer" I have a right to expect my request to be honored. A person who refused to honor such a simple yet important request would hardly be a friend.

Another point which I consider important is this: you don't have to intend to be oppressive to be oppressive. The most destructive and most common forms of oppression are utterly unintentional. For example, the ostensible purpose of Anita Bryant's crusade is not to oppress gay people, but rather to help society. The effect, of course, can be oppression of the first order.

So, when a group informs us that we are being oppressive, we ought to examine ourselves carefully and, above all, listen carefully to what they have to tell us about ourselves. (This is one of our big opportunities to grow!) It is entirely possible that we are, indeed, unintentional oppressors.

Another aspect of your article which I found disturbing is your simple-minded criticism of separatism. It seems to me that one of the things that separatists really accomplish is to involve numerous people, who would be otherwise uninvolved, in the struggle for sexual liberation.

Thus in working for their own feminist goals, the general goals of gay liberation (if indeed the gay liberation movement is coherent enough to have goals) are advanced. Thus the alliance, such as it is, between the "gay movement" and the "women's movement" is a natural and highly desirable one, but it absolutely must be based on mutual respect.

I think that if I were a lesbian I would put more of my energies into the women's movement than in the gay movement because the women's movement stands a much greater chance of more immediate success and its success advances the goals of both movements.

Stan Bear



**COMB
FREE**

477-8280
472-4978

Handmade Haircuts at People's Prices

LEGAL SERVICES at reasonable fees

The Legal Clinic charges \$15 for your initial consultation session with an attorney. There is no time limit. If you want or need additional services we will supply you with a written fee quotation. If you don't wish to go on with a case after consultation you are under no further obligation.

• UNCONTESTED DIVORCE (NO PROPERTY OR CHILDREN)	\$ 90
• UNCONTESTED DIVORCE (WITH PROPERTY OR CHILDREN)	150
• UNCONTESTED ADOPTION	100
• NAME CHANGE	35
• BANKRUPTCY, INDIVIDUAL	225
• BANKRUPTCY, HUSBAND AND WIFE	275
• SIMPLE WILL, INDIVIDUAL	40
• SIMPLE WILLS, HUSBAND AND WIFE	80

The legal fees quoted above do not include court costs. These fees are for cases filed in Travis County between December 1, 1977 and June 1, 1978. Fees for legal work outside of Travis County will be higher. The Legal Clinic also accepts criminal cases and civil cases not listed above. Please call for an appointment. No legal advice will be given over the telephone.

Hours: 9:00-5:00 weekdays. Weekends and evenings by appointment.

Vivian Mahlab

**Legal Clinic at 501 W. 12th St.
Austin, Texas 78701
512-478-9332**

News briefs... ...austin

ANITA'S COMING !!!

HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS PLAN BREAKFAST FESTIVAL

Anita Bryant will appear as special guest witness Sunday May 7 in Municipal Auditorium for Allandale Baptist Church's Great Day celebration.

The Austin Coalition for Human Rights, an aggregate of women's groups, pro-ERA activists, right-to-abortion groups, and gay rights groups, is planning a "Breakfast Festival for Human Rights" to be held in Town Lake Park during Anita's appearance in Municipal Auditorium. According to the festival's coordinators, it will be a pot-luck breakfast rally without speakers. Starting time is 9am.

ADS TO BE PLACED IN AMERICAN-STATESMAN

There reportedly are efforts to place two large ads in the May 7 issue of the Austin American Statesman, which would declare support for human rights.

TEXAS GAY TASK FORCE PLANS TEXAS GAY CONFERENCE 5

The Texas Gay Task Force announces that Texas Gay Conference Five will be held in Dallas at the Marriott Hotel June 10-11. Co-chairpersons for the conference are Lee Knapp and Steve Wilkins.

The annual TGIF Texas Gay Conference has in the past included a variety of workshops and other events. Last year's conference, held in Austin, included workshops on the gay press, gay activism and community politics, gay poetry and other topics of interest to the gay community. Featured speakers were Miami's Bob Kunst and Houston's Ray Hill.

To register for the conference, which is open to everyone regardless of membership in TGIF, call GCS at 477-6699 for more information.

THIRD COMPLAINT FILED AGAINST CABARET

Since the last issue of GAY AUSTIN, another complaint has been filed with the Austin Human Relations Department against the Cabaret, a local disco, for violation of the sexual orientation provision of the Public Accommodations Ordinance (see GAY AUSTIN, vol. 2, no. 7, April, 1978). According to Terry Harris, the complainant, the case involves an incident last October 21 (erroneously reported in GAY AUSTIN as having occurred in November) in which he and a male friend were bodily ejected from the club for dancing together. Harris says he called the police when the manager of the club threatened to call them himself as a result of Harris' attempt to discuss the matter reasonably, but that the police took the side of the

manager. The police played a similar role in the incident at the White Rabbit disco reported last month. The two complaints filed previously against the Cabaret, also involving discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, have meanwhile moved a step closer to the courtroom. Braniff Airlines, owner of Cabaret and the Driskill Hotel in which it is located, have failed to respond to the attempt to reach a conciliation agreement, and the case has been sent to the City Attorney for prosecution.

In the meantime, the White Rabbit Disco, the subject of several complaints under the same ordinance for discrimination against Chicanos and Blacks, is trying to change its image. It now features salsa music once a week and advertises over the local Spanish-language radio station. The word "white" has been deleted from its name in recent advertising.

--David Morris

AUSTIN MCC SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

Austin's Metropolitan Community Church is gearing up for an active month in May and is industriously seeking to increase membership for its small but active congregation.

Now located at 614 East 6th St., MCC is led by its new minister, Jeff Bishop, in Sunday services at noon and at 7:30 p.m. The noon service is more formal, the evening service more "free-wheeling and experimental." Holy Communion is observed at both.

MCC was host to a spiritual renewal week April 12-16 conducted by the New Freedom Evangelistic Team, whose workshops included such topics as Homosexuality and the Bible, Community Outreach, Social Christian Action and Stewardship.

In a joint effort with churches from Houston and San Antonio, the Austin MCC will lead a weekend Spiritual Renewal Weekend Camp in June.

In addition to Sunday worship, church members gather often for a variety of other social and program events, including a monthly pot luck supper.

MCC Austin is a mission church of the United Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, founded by the Reverend Troy Perry in California. Headquartered in Los Angeles, UFMCC is organized into nine districts in the United States and also has church extension programs in Australia, Great Britain, Canada and Nigeria.

Since UFMCC's organization from a single church founded by Perry, author of "The Lord is My Shepherd and He Knows I'm Gay," the international church has become one of the fastest growing churches in the world. It now has more than 107 congregations in seven nations.

PEARL STREET WAREHOUSE CLOSES

After a decade of service to the Austin gay community, Pearl Street Warehouse, affectionately known to its patrons as "PSW," closed its doors April 29.

A significant decline in business is the apparent reason for the bar's closing. PSW owners have reportedly placed the bar on the market.



BRISCOE

BY ARNOLD FLEISCHMANN

TEXANS GO TO THE POLLS on May 6 to select candidates for the November general election. While there are dozens of candidates for what seems to be an infinite list of offices, a number of key primary races should be of interest to the gay voters of Travis County.

The gubernatorial race features primary battles for both Democrats and Republicans. In the GOP, former party chairperson Ray Hutchinson is facing high spending oilman Bill Clements. Without a presidential race this year, most observers aren't expecting a large turnout in this election.

The Democratic primary promises to be a real donnybrook. Incumbent Dolph Briscoe is campaigning on what he cites as a record of fiscal responsibility and prosperity for Texas. His rallying cry is "no new taxes." He also attacks his major opponent, Attorney General John Hill, as a free spender whose leadership would produce larger state government and an income tax to finance these new programs. Briscoe also likes to remind voters of a number of new programs created during his six-year tenure, the most recent being the anti-crime and highway improvement proposals approved by the legislature last year.

And in this corner



CLEMENTS

FOR HIS PART, HILL has attacked Briscoe for a failure to deal squarely with the problems of school financing, delay and cronyism in his appointments, and a general lack of leadership for the state. Hill sells himself as champion of consumers, citing his support for creation of the Public Utilities Commission, the performance of his office in handling consumer complaints, and his confrontations with major businesses and utilities such as Southwestern Bell. Hill has received strong support from the liberal wing of the party and enjoys the endorsement of The Texas Observer, the Texas Women's Political Caucus, and a number of minority group leaders around the state.

Former insurance commissioner and state senator Joe Christie and U.S. Representative Bob Krueger are dueling for the Democratic nomination and a chance

CAPITAL COIN COMPANY

3004 GUADALUPE

472-1676

AN EXTENSIVE COLLECTION OF COINS AND CURRENCY

GOLD JEWELRY FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD
ALSO BUYING ANTIQUES AND ALL GOLD

20% DISCOUNT ON GOLD JEWELRY AND COIN SUPPLIES WITH THIS AD.

AUSTIN COUNTRY
THE BAR WITH A HEART
705 RED RIVER 472-0418

"SENSURROUND"

AFTER HOURS
Friday & Saturday

Com
C
A Wo
iAb
200

a look at the primaries

er...

to face Republican John Tower and his \$1 million-plus campaign chest in the fall election for the U.S. Senate.

KRUEGER HAS ESTABLISHED a reputation as a hard-working and effective member of Congress since coming to Washington in 1975. His ratings by major interest groups identify him as a conservative who votes with liberals on some social and educational issues. He has been a leader of the efforts to end federal regulation of oil and gas prices, which has earned him the support of that industry. He has also been endorsed by the Teamsters, as well as by some local party and minority group leaders.



HUTCHINSON (R) with NATHAN SMITH, his Travis County Campaign Co-chairperson



HILL

Of all the candidates for state-wide office this year, Krueger is the only one who has a public record on gay rights issues. Last year he voted for an amendment to a bill in the House which would have prevented legal aid funds from being spent in cases involving questions of gay rights. Thanks to action in the Senate, however, the bill became law without this restriction.

CHRISTIE CHALLENGES KRUEGER and Tower by saying, "The major oil companies have two candidates in this race. The people deserve at least one." Christie has hammered at Krueger's opposition to consumer class action suits and a federal consumer cooperative bank, his stand on weakening the Clean Air Act, and his position on oil and gas deregulation. Christie has tried to create an image of a consumer advocate and environmentalist, and has resorted to a variety of publicity stunts to counter Krueger's edge in fund raising. He has been indorsed by the Committee on Political Education of the AFL-CIO, The Texas Observer, and several minority group organizations in cities such as Houston.

These are the choices facing Texas voters on May 6. They are important ones which can dramatically shape the future of gay rights in Texas and in Washington and should not be taken lightly.

Love Your Body!

celebrate spring with products from

The Body Bar of San Francisco

...or choose something from our collection of vibrators, sexual enhancers, and books for your safari into body awareness...

Come Celebrate With Us!

Open Wed-Sat 11-6
A Woman-Owned Business
(Above the Haircut Store)

2004 1/2 Guadalupe Austin, Texas 78705 (512) 472-6828

safari
GROWTH STUDIO

ALL AMERICAN NEWS

2532 Guadalupe

"For the active man"

the best selection in adult

material...

Anywhere!

...national

ST. PAUL ACTIVISTS SEEK INJUNCTION

The St. Paul Citizens for Human Rights went to court seeking an injunction immediately after the referendum repealing the city's gay rights ordinances passed in the April 26 vote.

The injunction would prevent implementation of the referendum pending court litigation in order that gay citizens would not lose their jobs while the issue remains legally unresolved.

According to Craig Anderson of the SPCHR, the group will challenge the referendum on procedural grounds. Eventually they plan to deal with the concept of the legality of a majority voting to abolish the rights of a minority.

Jean O'Leary and Bruce Voeller, co-executive directors of the National Gay Task Force, said they were "outraged that a majority of misinformed voters have once again denied civil rights to a group of American citizens."

AT LONG LAST: A SAN FRANCISCO GAY RIGHTS ORDINANCE

The nation's city reputed to have the gayest population in the country now has a gay rights ordinance, which prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation in employment, housing, and public accommodation. The ordinance was passed on a 10-1 vote by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors after much debate.

The San Francisco ordinance gives complainants three possible avenues for action. They may file a complaint with the San Francisco Human Rights Commission; sue for injunctive relief; or ask the district attorney to prosecute.

OAKIE HOUSE AND SENATE PASS BIRCHER'S BILL

John Birch Society member Senator Mary Helm's bill allowing the firing of a school teacher who publicly commits "the detestable and abominable crime against nature" with a person of the same sex passed the Oklahoma house 88-2 and the senate with no dissenting votes. Before the bill is presented to the governor, the house will again vote on the bill as it has been amended by a conference committee.

Senator Helm reportedly introduced the bill in an effort to prevent the gay movement from migrating to middle America from the East and West coasts.

The Oklahoma Education Association has voiced opposition to the bill.

GAY CANADIAN WINS CUSTODY OF HIS CHILDREN

Telling the court that he is gay, for the first time in Canadian legal history a gay man was awarded custody of his children after divorcing his wife.

The Montreal man was found to be "the parent with the most meaningful emotional ties with the children," a 13 year-old boy and an 8 year-old girl. The mother, who has a history of psychiatric disorder and depression, was given generous visitation rights.

PRESBYTERIANS MAY ORDAIN GAYS

A special study group of the 2.6 million member United Presbyterian Church has recommended that the church adopt a policy permitting the ordination of gays.

The majority of the 19-member study group found that homosexual relationships could be "ethically sound," although five members issued a minority report concluding that homosexuality "is not God's wish for his children," and is a result of "man's fallen nature."

Church officials fear the issue could lead to divisions when it is considered at the church's general assembly this May.

GAYS MEET WITH FEDERAL PRISON HEAD

In one of the meetings planned by the National Gay Task Force to be held with government officials, representatives from several gay groups met with Norman A. Carlson, Director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons. Also in attendance were Midge Costanza, assistant to President Carter, and Patricia Wald, Assistant Attorney General.

Members of the gay community present included Jean O'Leary, TGIF co-director; Rev. Troy Perry of the United Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches; David Rothenberg, executive director of the Fortune Society; Nan Hunter of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund; and Robert Arthus and John Wahl, attorneys, MCC Prison Project.

O'Leary described the meeting as "a most important and encouraging first step in our relationship with the Bureau of Prisons, and we count it among the most productive sessions we've had with federal agencies to date."

Carlson agreed to invite representatives of the national gay community to speak at planned seminars for sensitivity training of prison staff in Atlanta, Dallas and Denver.

Carlson also promised to designate a member of his staff to be officially responsible for handling complaints from gay inmates of the federal prisons.

The newly formed NGIF prison project, under the direction of Carolyn Handy, co-founder of the National Organization of Black Women, will continue to work with prison authorities and handle problems of gay inmates on both the state and federal levels.

Breakfast Festival

for Human Rights

A gathering of all the people of Austin
who - by our presence - wish to affirm
human rights and communicate to
ANITA BRYANT
an unmistakable sense of
UNWELCOME.

"We deplore the efforts of Anita Bryant to erode
the growth of human rights in Austin, in Texas, and
in America through her continued opposition to ERA;
to lesbian and gay rights in employment, housing
and affectional preference; and to women's rights to
choose abortion.

We affirm the human rights of ALL people, regardless
of sex, sexual preference, age, race, belief or econ-
omic condition."

Austin Human Rights Coalition

9 AM **MAY 7th** 9 AM

Town Lake Park - next to Municipal Aud.

bring food, music & t-shirts (for silk-
screen)

The story IS homosexual love

BY JIM BAGG

IN A CHECKLIST OF CURRENT and forthcoming books on homosexuality, *Publisher's Weekly* (Aug. 8, '77) comments on the strong market and quotes booksellers to the effect that gay books are bought both by a growing homosexual population which has stopped hiding and by curious heterosexuals whose interest has been stimulated at least in part by national publicity given gay rights issues.

Yet in a recent *Advocate* interview (July 13, '77), Merle Miller complains that the *New York Times* and the *New York Review of Books* will not give any attention to gay novels. Jonathan Katz's book (*Gay American History*) has been ignored. If all those silent writers, including those on the staff of those two publications, would 'come out,' things would be different."

As an infrequent reader of the *NYTBR* and the *NYRB*, I had little direct knowledge of the truth of Miller's accusation and was curious to run across Gilbert Sorrentino's review in the *NYTBR* (vol. 83, no. 1) of a novel with a manifestly homosexual theme. Was Merle Miller wrongly critical of the *Times*, or had the *NYTBR* changed its policy?

I STILL DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER to that question, but I suspect, after reading the Sorrentino piece, that it's okay to review a gay novel in the pages of the *NYTBR* if the reviewer is careful to deny the importance of the homosexual content: "(this book) certainly is not about homosexuality. It is not, finally, about sex—which is used as the base upon which its formal structure is built."

TOO MUCH FLESH AND JABEZ (by Coleman Dowell; New Directions Paperback, 151 pages, \$5.95) is a novel within a novel, the fabrication of Miss Ethel, a retired high school teacher who "had never once entered another person . . ." In her loneliness Miss Ethel writes a "perverse story" about a former pupil, Jim Cummins, who had showed great intellectual promise but had disappointed her by conforming to small-town expectations: marriage and the life of a farmer. Part of her attraction to Jim had been sexual, and indeed there had been groundless "faculty gossip" about her weekend tutoring of the boy.

SO MISS ETHEL'S FANTASY is ostensibly heterosexual in origin. I say "ostensibly" because distinctions between genders get blurred in Miss Ethel's mind. As a young girl she had been a "blunt-languaged hoyden . . . toughening (into androgeny, she thought) at the hands and minds of five wild brothers and a pack of equally wild male cousins, the way she had had to conceal the calluses from her suspicious mother . . . her primary question had been addressed to masculine experience: 'What is it like?'" And now, in her old age, Miss Ethel has discovered that she can "become" a character in her own novel: "now Jim, now Jabez, now Ludie, and so on, . . . she had an increasing sense of insecurity in her own persona, which like an amoeba had divided into two and then gone on subdividing."

a new novel by

COLEMAN DOWELL

too
much
flesh
and
Jabez



On the basis of scant evidence, Miss Ethel constructs her own version of Jim Cummins, a man of supernatural sexual parts (hence "too much flesh") trapped in marriage to a frigid wife "whose smallness was at least partly to blame." Reduced to plot summary, *TOO MUCH FLESH AND JABEZ* sounds like off-the-rack porno: a virile young farmer who can get no satisfaction from his wife resorts to masturbation accompanied by fantasies involving loose women; he has a wet dream involving a partner of unknown sex who "loved his bigness and told him so"; and finally he meets a 14 year-old boy named Jabez, recently expelled from his parents' home and sent to live with his aunt, a consequence of doing You Know What. Jabez does not regard bigness as an impediment, and sets out to seduce Jim, who proves a willing victim.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

AT FIRST JABEZ IS PORTRAYED as something of a freak. "It (Jabez) stood like a statue, its hair swinging forward to cloak its face, the straining cloth of its clothes tracing lines of such tenderness that the teacher felt the powerful attraction of androgyny, like a self-memory." It also happens, conveniently, that Jabez bears resemblance to his sister Ludie, about whom Jim had entertained lustful thoughts prior to his marriage.

But as the narrative progresses and Jabez's character is more clearly defined, the sexual ambiguity dissipates. "Deliberately he showed his front as well as his back to Jim, to let Jim know that he was not a freak, something half man, half woman." Later, "It was Jabez who woke Jim by slapping his erect cock against Jim's face. When Jim came fully to, it was to see a large male organ poised over his mouth." At the novel's end the "old" Jabez is dead; and when the new Jabez "thought of corn-holing Jim a real brutal manhood stirred in him."

THE NOVEL'S ACTION, THEN, progresses from heterosexual tension to androgynous tension to homosexual tension. If Sorrentino is correct in saying TOO MUCH FLESH AND JABEZ is not "about" homosexuality, I find this progression odd. Miss Ethel's novel lapses at times into outright polemics in defense of male homosexuality. For example, "from that very satisfactory spout could come the evidence of his joy, a gift for Jim that he would come to see as a lot better than the secretive and unprovable satisfaction that a woman had to offer or conceal." In wrestling with guilt after sex with Jabez, Jim reviews the pros and concludes, "he could not see the perversion as amounting to a hill of beans in the bigger scheme, except in the legal sense, and he had never had much respect for lawmakers."

Then as surely as if she were Mary Renault, Miss Ethel writes of a time when Jim and Jabez might escape and rest "beside seas upon which Greek lovers in pairs had gazed . . ." And here (the novel having ended inconclusively, the reunion of Jim and Jabez implied but not consummated), Miss Ethel embraces more strongly than before the fantasy that she can become Jabez and go to Greece with Jim: "the two of us, together in Greece?"

AS HER FINAL ACTION, Miss Ethel asks the real Jim Cummins to read TOO MUCH FLESH AND JABEZ. "He read the book as a confession: that she could have been the woman for him, or the boy, if that was the way he tended." Why must we conclude with Sorrentino that the importance of one theme (loneliness) reduces another theme (homosexual love) to the rank of a mere plot element? Sorrentino, you see, argues that the real theme is Miss Ethel's "desperate attempt to come to terms with her own loneliness, her desolation of spirit." With at least equal justice we could reverse his argument and maintain that the loneliness motif and heterosexual trappings of the novel's framework are there to provide a socially acceptable pretext--and context--for a vindication of homosexual attachment.

But I trust it's not necessary to conceive a distorted interpretation of a novel in order to review it in GAY AUSTIN.



Club Austin 308 W. 16th Street 476-7986

VOICES OF THE YOUNG

We watch on TV the jobs we'll never have.
We see the images of lovers we'll never have.
Hey, boys, stop osculating in the corner.
Come over here and watch this.
See those straight freaks?
They're not like us.
They get residuals for being in commercials.
We get minimum wages or unemployment comp.
I'd rather be on TV than work
In Jack-in-the-Box.
Wouldn't you?
You know you're not wanted there.
You know there's not room for you.
So what are you waiting for?
They can't use you. They don't need you.
Come join me in a spectacular little celebration.
We're gonna rock the top off this old town.
I never knew it could feel so good
To bust loose, to kick ass, to go smashing.
That'll get us on TV I bet.

--Wayde Frey

**THE STALLION
BOOKSTORE**
706 E. 6th Street
AUSTIN, TEXAS

*"Not the Largest,
Just the Best"*

OPEN TIL 3am

DAILY

MONDAY-FRIDAY \$2 lockers, Club Austin, 8am-4pm

MONDAY-SATURDAY Happy Hour at the New Apartment, 4-8pm

WEEKLY

MONDAY Lambda AA, 209 W. 27th, 8pm
 Free beer, the New Apartment
 Movie Night, Club Austin

TUESDAY Lesbian rap group (open), Womenspace, 7:30pm

WEDNESDAY Buddy night, @ for 1 Club Austin.

THURSDAY Showtime, Austin Country, 10:30pm
 Chicken night, free lockers for ages 18-21; free chicken dinner at 7pm, Club Austin

FRIDAY Womenspace programs with discussion; coffee at 7pm, speaker at 8 pm; see weekly topics below
 Rap group, Gay Community Services (open), 8pm

SUNDAY Happy Hour at the New Apartment, noon-8pm
 Volleyball sponsored by GCS, Ramsey Park, W. 44th at Rosedale, 3pm
 After Hippy Hollow Hour, free beer and hot dogs, 7pm, Private Cellar.
 Metropolitan Community Church services, 12 noon and 7:30pm, 614 E. 6th St.

SPECIAL EVENTS DURING MAY

- 1 Human Rights and You, ACTV, 8:30 pm.
- 2 University of Texas Lesbian/Gay Alliance regular bimonthly meeting, Texas Union room 2,408; last meeting of the semester.
- 3 Human Rights and You, rebroadcast on ACTV, 8:30 pm.
- 5 Womenspace program: Janna Zumbrun and Alice Woods will present a slide show on the meeting in LA to form a national lesbian feminist organization.
- 6 Primary elections.
- 7 A Great Day sponsored by Allandale Baptist Church with Miss Anita Bryant as special guest, Municipal Auditorium, 9:45 am, free admission.
- 12 Breakfast Festival for Human Rights, sponsored by the Austin Human Rights Coalition, Town Lake Park, 9 am. Bring your own food.
- 12 Womenspace program: Victoria Hellman of Austin Community Nurseries South will lead a discussion on how to choose a day care center and how to judge the quality of care.
- 14 Mothers' Day.
- 17 Gay Community Services monthly general meeting, 2330 Guadalupe, 8 pm.
- 19 Womenspace program: Martha Schulman, owner of Moondream Catering, will lead a discussion of the preparation of vegetarian food.

Free VD tests sponsored by GCS, Club Austin, and the Texas Department of Health; all participants receive a wooden nickel good for one free drink at the Private Cellar; Club Austin, 10 pm-midnight.

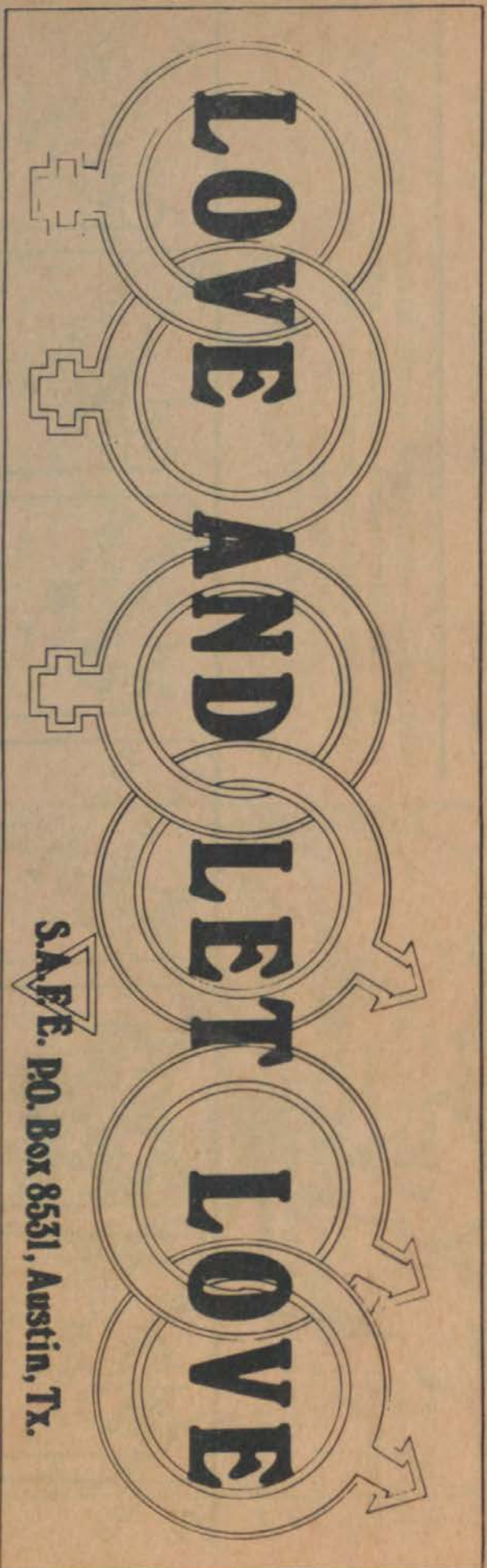
- 21 Society for the Advancement of Freedom and Equality bimonthly meeting, Capital Ceramics, 809 W. 12th St., 8 p.m.
- 22 Deadline for submissions to GAY AUSTIN.
- 26 Womenspace program: Kate Vandermoer on "Women Unite with the Earth: The Politics of Appropriate Technology."

After Hippy Hollow Hour
 second annual
 at the
 Private Cellar
 Sundays, 7pm 'til ??
FREE BEER
FREE HOT DOGS
NO COVER
CHARGE

709 E. SIXTH
 AUSTIN
 PRIVATE
 CELLAR
 477-0387

Womenspace is a place for women to come for information, for counseling, and for meeting other women and learning about the community. We are open from 7-10 pm Tuesday through Friday above Sommers Drug at 2330 Guadalupe. Telephone 472-3053.

AUSTIN'S MESSAGE TO ANITA:



BUMPER STICKERS AVAILABLE AT AUSTIN BARS, BATHS