

gay austin



gay austin fills the streets!

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gay austin

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THE COVER finds Gay Austinites filling the streets in celebration of Gay Freedom Week. The Gay Pride March began at noon, June 24 and proceeded north up Congress Avenue and around the Governor's Mansion to Wooldridge Park for a rally. Photo by Harvey Neville; story and more photos on page 12.

NEWSBRIEFS are taken in part from The Advocate, Gay Community News (Boston) and The Body Politic (Canada).

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Letters should also be sent to this address.

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Upfront

Ginny Apuzzo should be proud of gay Texans,

When the openly gay candidate for New York's State Assembly delivered the keynote address at Texas Gay Conference V last month in Dallas, she said that the gay movement today reminds her of the French during WWI.

As Apuzzo explained, the French were totally convinced that they would defeat the Germans simply because French soldiers were overflowing with "élan". "Élan" has no English cognate, but it can be translated roughly as "ardent courage".

Anyway, the French marched off to the battlefield armed with heavy shields of "ardent courage". The Germans took machine guns.

We know what happened to the French in WWI.

We also know what happened in Miami, St. Paul, Wichita and Eugene. To Apuzzo, every new gay rights referendum is another blast of the homophobic machine gun. She sees that the gay movement rises courageously --brimming to the soul with élan--trying to shield itself from every blast, only to fall in defeat. She worries that each time we rally in desperation that we do so at the expense of forming ALTERNATIVE STRATEGIES.

Apuzzo says it's time that we start channeling our

energies into new and positive directions.

She should be proud of gay Texans because here in Texas we are beginning to do just that. Read on page 7 about the Texas Gay Task Force's plan for the upcoming legislative session (more details on TGTF's strategy next month). See pages 18-19 for more news of Texas Gay Conference V in which gay Texans from all across the state came together to learn from and inspire one another. It is just that sort of tightly knit organization being developed by TGTF which is one of the keys to the alternative strategies advocated by Apuzzo.

Houston celebrated Gay Freedom Week in grand style with Town Meeting I (see page 7). Other Texas cities take note!

Here in Austin we had the biggest Gay Pride Week ever -- with everything from a Gay Pride March and Rally to poetry readings and a dance. Most of the festivities were arranged by the Austin Coalition for Human Rights, the new and very active group which gave us the Breakfast Festival for Human Rights in May (see inside for photos and stories from both events).

Gay Texans have really taken the initiative in the last two months. Let's keep going strong.

--Kelly Kay



photo by Will van Overbeek

What does Anita have to sing about? See page 14.

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Gay political strategy at the crossroads

By ARNIE FLEISCHMANN

Anita Bryant's visit to Austin is behind us. So are the party primaries and the county conventions, as well as a series of referenda accross the country. These events suggest several courses which the gay rights movement might follow in Texas and Travis County.

In a sense, we have reached a fork in the road and have two strategies to chose from. The first would have us play symbolic politics, a sure way to raise issues and consciousness. The other adopts a more low-key strategy. What can be said for each?

Those who promote symbolic politics favor such actions as attempting to repeal the state's sodomy laws. Repealing section 21.06 would undoubtedly be a great moral and symbolic victory. Those who favor this strategy, however, should be prepared to demonstrate that attempting to repeal these laws during the next Legislature will actually yield positive results then.

The situation is somewhat like marijuana laws. If few people are convicted for violating them, will trying to repeal them bring the self-righteous out of their closets? Will these people pressure for enforcement of laws which are currently ignored? Will they pressure for even more restrictive legislation like that advocated by the Travis County Republican Convention's resolution on hiring gay teachers? These are questions which the proponents of symbolic politics must grapple with before embarking on their campaign.

Many would call the second strategy accomodationist. Its supporters would like to avoid symbolic issues and concentrate instead on building alliances with office holders, bureaucrats, and interest groups. This strategy won't make the evening newscasts and may prove incapable of maintaining the support of those who can't be full-time gay activists. Those who favor this approach will have to respond to those who charge that they are taking a go-slow, conservative stance that compromises gay rights.

Which shall it be? Personally, I tend to favor the second strategy for several reasons. First of all, we cannot count on the Supreme Court to overturn the state sodomy laws. A series of cases from Texas, Virginia, and North Carolina all suggest this. We may be able to count on the court to guarantee the rights of free speech and association guaranteed by the First Ammdement. But that leaves the questions of individual rights to be decided through the legislative process.

Second, we can't win the symbolic issues yet. Asking the Legislature to repeal the sodomy laws next session is like asking the Railroad Commission to favor consumers instead of oil and gas producers. Why won't they do it? Because few, if any, legislators have anything to gain by supporting repeal. Politicians avoid risk, and our task is to convince them not only that gay people are not a risk, but also we may be an important political asset to them.

What gay Texans need to do is cultivate friends in a Legislature which appears as if it will be more progressive than the last. Having cultivated such friends, we need to get them in a position where they rely on us for campaign workers, contributions, and votes. Only then will we be able to count on them when the going gets tough. Such a strategy seems reasonable in light of what happened in the U. S. House of representatives when I was working there last year. When an oral vote on a gay rights question was called, we, won. When a roll call was called for on the same question, we lost. We must give politicians something to stick their necks out for.

Opposing our enemies will not gain political victories. It's simply not enough to oppose Mayor McClellan for her conduct in last year's fight over a fair housing ordinance for Austin. Our task demands more than confronting delegates to the Travis County Democratic Convention with resolutions on gay rights. While such efforts are a necessary part of an overall strategy, they should get second billing to coalition building and public education efforts. We must influence the recruitment, funding and campaigning of candidates.

Among the activities we might promote are forums at which candidates or their representatives can speak with gay voters. Endorsements and accompanying press releases are valuable in building alliances. So is the monitoring of votes and statements by local office holders. Congresspeople and their staffs

Continued on page 6



Courting human rights

By ART MORRIS

The gay men and lesbians of Eugene, Oregon are the latest to suffer the blow of the referendum. Question 51 on the ballot asked if the ordinance which protected the rights of gay men and lesbians should be repealed. The law gave protection in the areas of employment, public accommodations, and housing. It said that one's sexual orientation alone was not a reasonable cause for exclusion or discrimination. The ordinance was repealed by a 2-to-1 vote.

Eugene is the fourth area in less than a year to subject gay men and lesbians and their rights to a popularity contest. Dade County, Florida was the first of the municipalities to allow the civil rights of a minority group to be decided by the majority in a popular election. As you may remember, Anita Bryant Green lent her name and energy to this event.

After a four month campaign of fear and hate by the organization called "Save Our Children," that ordinance was repealed. The Dade County Coalition and the Miami Victory Party both ran tremendous campaigns aimed at educating the public. But their campaigns didn't prove strong enough to combat that most unholy alliance of Southern Baptists and conservative Roman Catholics. The referendum passed by a 2-to-1 margin on June 7, 1977.

The call for referenda was spearheaded last summer by various conservative, charismatic and fundamental religious and right-wing groups. St. Paul is the city that was forced to hold the first referendum after Dade County. The St. Paul Citizens for Human Rights was formed to educate the people of the city about the referendum and about gay people. The St. Paul referendum passed by a 2-to-1 margin in the April 25, 1978 election.

The referendum in Wichita, Kansas marked the greatest defeat that we have had to face. The Homophile Alliance of Sedgwick County worked hard and long to educate the public; overall they ran an effective campaign. Unfortunately, they were dealing with one of the most conservative areas of the country. Liquor-by-the-drink is still a major area of controversy in Kansas. On May 9, 1978 the voters of Wichita voted 5-to-1 to repeal the ordinance that protected the gay people of that city.

But it was the Eugene defeat that was the greatest surprise of all of the referenda. Oregon is traditionally liberal, and Eugene is an urban area with strong overall support for the rights of lesbians and gay men. Jerry Weller, co-chairperson of the finance committee of the Eugene Citizens for Human Rights, said "Civil rights have never been a matter of popularity. No minority ever received civil rights from a vote." Weller said that we have only the courts to look to. The E.C.H.R. will be in court to contest some of the tactics of VOICE, the conservative faction opposing the civil rights ordinance.

Although there appears to be no immediate relief, groups from each of the cities are fighting in the courts on grounds that the rights of a minority group

cannot be put to a popular vote--and that to do so is a violation of the constitutional rights of all people.

At the question of the constitutionality of the various referenda, one is reminded of Martin Niemoeller, a Protestant clergyman. He was imprisoned for speaking out against Hitler and survived a concentration camp where 76,000 Jews and 15,000 children were slaughtered. He described how it happened: "...the Nazis ... came for the Communists, but I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Communist; then they came for the Jews, but I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew. Then they came for the trade unionists, but I didn't speak up because I wasn't a trade unionist. Then they came for the Catholics, but I didn't speak out because I was a Protestant. Then they came for me, but there was no one left to speak for me."

What Pastor Niemoeller omitted is that first the Nazis came for the homosexuals and other "undesirables." But before that, they created a climate in which the escalating persecutions -- the rounding up of the "undesirables" -- would be possible, while steadily widening the devouring definition of that word.

(from Gay Sunshine, with permission)

In all, what the courts decide for Dade County, St. Paul, Wichita and Eugene they will decide for the whole country. The decision will initially affect the gay men and lesbians of this country, but it will ultimately affect everyone. The courts have the power: will the work of Martin Luther King and Susan B. Anthony go the way of the Dade County Coalition, the Eugene Citizens for Human Rights, the St. Paul Citizens for Human Rights, and the Homophile Alliance of Sedgwick County?



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Coming out at TGC V

By R. H.

The Texas Gay Conference Five in Dallas in mid-June was an incredible awakening for me. It was the first gay activist meeting I had ever participated in, and I was extremely apprehensive about attending. My reasons for attending were threefold: 1) to hopefully meet a "higher class" of gay people than I had been meeting at Austin bars and parties; 2) to see who the activist leaders were; and 3) to benefit and learn from the various workshops offered.

The first of my expectations was realized at the kick-off cocktail party Friday night when I spotted someone standing alone in the shadows looking as forlorn and out of place as I felt at that moment. His opening comment was to compliment the graphics on the cover of the official program we were all dutifully clutching. The cover design of a vortex with a superimposed number "5" proved to be an apt symbol for the conference, a heady barrage of dizzying stimuli and sensations which affected each of us at different levels of consciousness during the course of the weekend.

Beginning Saturday morning with the presentation of keynote speeches, I began to fulfill my second expectation concerning what type of leadership we have at the forefront of Texas gay activism. The speakers represented all colors, shades and textures you could possibly imagine. They were witty, touching, eloquent, knowledgeable, informed, caustic, and inspiring--but most of all they were committed; committed to giving each one of us a sense of pride in being gay. They challenged us to stand up for our civil rights--if not as activists, then by boycotting products and establishments whose endorsers or policies seek to discriminate against us.

My third expectation was realized when the workshops began on Saturday afternoon. The workshops varied in quality, but the ones I attended, gay physical health care, the law as it affects homosexuals, and gay literature and movies, were informative and practical. I was most impressed by the professionalism of some of these presentations.

As coincidence would have it, the person I met at the cocktail party Friday night was from Austin also. We spent the entire weekend together, sharing both the conference experiences and each other's company. We shared our innermost thoughts, desires, fears and self-doubts. In many ways he was the most intellectual and stimulating person I have met in the gay lifestyle. Toward the end of the conference I remember fervently wishing that the weekend would never end; that my consciousness and sensitivities would never stop expanding.

The theme of the conference was "Setting Sites on Human Rights" and I believe I left Dallas having set my sights on new values, beliefs, priorities and goals that I had not been forced to confront before. I have never felt so much pride in being gay as I experienced that weekend in Dallas. TGC V was everything I had hoped for, and more. I made a special friend whose self-revelations significantly altered the way I perceive gay relationships. I am grateful to him and to the sponsors and leaders of TGC V for restoring pride I had lost, raising my consciousness and providing me with memories of a weekend during which all those who attended walked a bit taller in the sun.

GAY STRATEGY . . . continued from page 4

can be very heavily influenced by surveys and letter writing campaigns. Equally important is the development of contacts within government agencies at all levels. Remember, it was one of those often-maligned federal bureaucrats who wrote regulations last year which made gay couples eligible for federal housing.

We need to build on the positive spirit characterized by the Breakfast Festival for Human Rights and the Gay Freedom Week Celebrations. To do so means putting off the symbolic issues until we are more certain of winning without stirring up opponents who can win in the short run because fear is on their side. It's too late in 1978 to develop a full-scale strategy for the November elections. There is plenty of time, though, to begin recruiting candidates, funds, and workers for next spring's city council elections.

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PARENTHOLD DECRIES 'TYRANNY OF MAJORITY'
AT HOUSTON'S TOWN MEETING ONE

The Houston Gay Political Caucus sponsored Town Meeting I in Houston on Sunday, June 25. The Gay Chicano Organization, the Lesberadas, a lesbian alliance, as well as a society for gay civil engineers and The Executive and Professional Association of Houston participated.

Former Texas gubernatorial candidate Frances "Sissy" Parenthold was treated to a two-minute-long standing ovation by more than 3,000 gays who attended Town Meeting I after she condemned religious fanaticism against homosexuals and urged gays to demand their "full human rights."

Parenthold, formerly of Corpus Christi and now the president of Wells College in Aurora, N.Y. was the keynote speaker.

"Racism is not a state issue, just like parenthood and childbearing are not state issues," she said. "Human rights is a human issue."

Recalling a speech last week by Carter, Parenthold said the president had vowed to continue calling for human rights in such countries as South Africa. Yet, she said, "inequality and basic human injustice" runs rampant in this country."

Parenthold said human rights in America are subjected to the "tyranny of the majority" and the "tyranny of the state."

Speaking to the gay community meeting in Houston, Parenthold said "The rights of this large minority can no longer be trampled upon." She stopped several times on her way out a rear door of the arena to wave to the crowd which cheered for more than two minutes.

Once the speech was over, Town Meeting I turned into what one leader described as a "strictly business" meeting of the gay community. All manner of issues were debated, from the rights of transsexuals to alleged police brutality leveled against gays.

Several leaders of Houston's lesbian community stood to declare that the Houston community of gay men had largely ignored women in the planning of the meeting, which GPC leaders hope will be an annual event, and in gay issues in general.

TGTF PLANS TO FIGHT
DISCRIMINATORY LEGISLATION
DURING 66TH SESSION

A five-point plan was introduced at the Texas Gay Conference Five, June 10, in Dallas. The plan outlines how the present Texas law, which criminalizes homosexual conduct, will be repealed and how Texas Gays will prevent discriminatory legislation from passing in the upcoming 66th legislative session.

The plan calls for:

- 1) continual identification of human rights supporters in all regions of Texas,
- 2) building coalitions with groups of traditionally underrepresented persons and with persons who support our push for equality.
- 3) a comprehensive communications network aimed at grass roots involvement with local lawmakers,
- 4) establishment of an Austin office and a lobbying team.
- 5) \$25,000 price tag to implement the plan.

According to Kathy Deitch, moderator of the Texas Gay Task Force, which sponsored Texas Gay Conference Five and drafted the plan for the upcoming legislative session, gays will be visible and active in Austin during the session.

TGTF issued a statement at the conference which further explains their position:

We will be visible and active in Austin during the next legislative session. The 1977, 65th session was a forewarning to us. Be reminded that that session saw the first discriminatory legislation aimed at Texas gays, a measure to prohibit gay groups from being recognized and from using state college and university campus facilities. Certainly such legislation was unconstitutional and improper; however, there are legislators who feel that "the perverts must be kept in the closet."

The Task Force is preparing to prevent additional legislation of this type. An example this next session, commencing January, 1979, may very well be aimed at prohibiting gay teachers and their supporters from teaching and to allow local school districts to engage in "witchhunts" to determine who is and isn't gay. Similar legislation has been introduced and/or passed in several other states.

In April, about 30 Task Force members met in New Braunfels, Texas to lay the groundwork for this legislative push. At present, we are gathering data related to the legislature, that is, learning more about the process of legislation, talking with key supporters and more importantly, testing the waters with legislators to learn how they view our concern for the enactment of new legislation which will single out Texas gays for harassment and discrimination. The active fundraising campaign to raise \$25,000 will begin later this summer.

We believe we must begin our work early, so as to deter and/or prevent action aimed at pushing us back into the closets. We will not sit back and wait to see what certain interest groups and their lawmakers have planned for us. Texas lesbians and gay men are on the move.

national...

DEPUTY SHERIFFS FOUND GUILTY OF VIOLATING GAY'S CIVIL RIGHTS

After deliberating seven hours, a federal jury found all four defendants guilty in the trial of present and former county law enforcement officials of conspiracy to violate the civil rights of an admitted gay man and transvestite. Special Justice Department prosecutor Ralph Martin, in his closing arguments, accused the deputy sheriffs of causing "an orgy of terror" for Lee Roy Watson, 24, who prefers to be known as Linda Sue Jackson.

Watson is seeking more than \$2 million in damages from the three men and one woman on trial. A fifth defendant will be tried separately.

Watson was arrested twice in February and May 1977 on several misdemeanor charges, including criminal impersonation while working as an Avon salesperson. At the time of the second arrest, he testified that he was forced to appear naked before several women in Malvern City Jail as he was being teased by one of the defendants. Later he was beaten with a nightstick, according to testimony by eyewitnesses.

On June 25, Watson testified that one of the defendants took him to a remote part of Hot Springs, beat him with nightsticks and a flashlight, pouring turpentine in his anus, and cut his hair, injuring his ear in the process. They then set two Doberman pinschers to attack him, resulting in bites to his wrists and inner thighs; one of the defendants subsequently poured alcohol on the wounds. Watson also said that one of the defendants asked to be felled by him, but later dropped the request.

Watson was hospitalized for ten days for treatment of wounds following the incident, causing his attending physician to call the injuries the most severely beaten patient he had treated in 25 years.

U.S. District Court Judge Oren Harris commented. "It would have been very difficult to arrive at any other verdict. It must be made clear that the Constitution of the United States is for all citizens." Harris released all four defendants on bond pending sentencing later this month.

'QUEER AND LESBIAN' TEACHERS TARGETED IN OKLAHOMA

Members of Oklahoma's lower house voted 88-2 to permit school boards to fire or refuse to hire persons who have engaged in "public homosexual conduct." Rep. John Monks (D-Muskogee) who authored the bill maintained that with his bill, districts could dismiss "people afflicted with this degenerate problem...people who are mentally deranged in this way." When asked whether his bill would apply to both sexes, Monks replied: "It will cover both queers and lesbians." The bill now goes before the Oklahoma Senate for action. The Senate version is sponsored by Sen. Mary Helm, a member of the John Birch Society.

The measure defines "public homosexual conduct" as "advocating, citing, imposing, encouraging, or prompt-

ing public or private homosexual activity in a manner that creates a substantial risk that such conduct will come to the attention of school children or school employees." By such definition, even heterosexual teachers who speak out in behalf of gay rights could be liable for their jobs.

NATIONAL LESBIAN FEMINIST ORGANIZATION FOUNDED IN LOS ANGELES

Los Angeles, March 17-19: the Founding Convention of the National Lesbian Feminist Organization. Lesbians from all reaches of the country gathered that weekend to form an organization committed to dealing, from a feminist platform, with the oppression of lesbians in all of its manifestations. These manifestations were seen as including, but not being limited to, discrimination based on sexual preference, sex, race, class, age and physical disability. The organization also committed itself to education and the development of lesbian culture.

One of the more significant affirmative votes, from the south's viewpoint, was a motion amending the convention rules to allot an equal number of votes to each of the five regions present. Another important resolution opened membership to all lesbians and women identified women, reflecting consideration for lesbians who remain closeted.

Race and class were strongly addressed in a resolution which calls for 50 percent representation by women of color and a balance of class backgrounds on state and national level planning and decision-making committees.

Delegates to the meeting voted to hold a national ratifying convention of the organization in Spring, 1979, in St. Paul-Minneapolis. State conventions of all NLFO members are to be held in the interim to encourage stronger grassroots participation and to provide a forum for discussion of issues. Delegates to the national conference will be elected at the state conferences on the basis of one delegate for each ten qualified participants.

Delegates to the founding conference and all other interested women who meet the membership requirements may also form local groups. Membership dues are determined on a sliding scale basis of \$1.00 per \$1,000 of gross



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A 12-member interim steering committee was elected to serve between the founding and the ratifying conventions. The members are of various colors and class background and are located in all regions of the country.

The organization will publish a bimonthly newsletter. All local/state/regional news of national interest will be included. Financial donations are also encouraged.

For more information about the organization or newsletter contributions write to: NLFO, P.O. Box 14643, Houston, Texas 77021.

**'DIVORCED' LESBIAN
ORDERED TO SUPPORT EX-LOVER**

San Diego (California) Superior Court Judge Byron F. Lindsley June 6 ordered Denease Conley to pay \$100-a-month support to Sherry D. Richardson. Before the two women participated in a Holy Union ceremony at the Metropolitan Community Church in February, they had signed an agreement that Richardson would perform the duties of a "wife," while Conley would provide financial support.

After the relationship terminated recently, Richardson, who said she had given up her job in New York to be with Conley, filed suit for support and the division of property acquired by the couple during their relationship. Conley, who was not represented by counsel, agreed in court to the support agreement, which will continue indefinitely unless it is modified by the court or another judicial procedure.

Judge Lindsley accepted the couple's agreement on the basis of the Marvin-Triola decision in which the California Supreme Court ruled that there can be property and support agreements and obligations between unmarried people. That case involved actor Lee Marvin and his common law wife. The Conley-Richardson case appears to be the first gay couple test case of that precedent.

**ENTERTAINERS DONATE TALENTS
TO FIGHT BRIGGS INITIATIVE**

Singers Joan Baez, Harry Chapin, Peter Yarrow and Holly Near drew a near-capacity crowd of 5,800 to the Santa Monica (California) Civic Auditorium on June 7 to raise funds to fight the Briggs Initiative battle looming in the Golden State. The event, sponsored by the New Alliance for Gay Equality (New AGE) of Los Angeles, raised an estimated \$70,000.

At two performances marking the first anniversary of the defeat of gay rights in Dade County (Florida), the crowds, moved to tears, offered standing ovations. Nearly half the audience consisted of women, a first for any gay rights fundraising event. All four performers donated their talents to the successful concert. The evening's only jarring moment came between shows when a bomb threat was announced, and the second show had to be delayed for 45 minutes.

Two law suits are underway challenging the so-called Briggs initiative, which would require the firing of gay educators and those who "advocate" the gay lifestyle.

Filing its suit soon after the California secretary of state announced that the Briggs initiative had enough valid signatures to qualify for the November ballot, Gay Rights Advocates challenged the initiative on behalf of the California Federation of Teachers.

Gay Rights Advocates charges that the initiative unconstitutionally violates protections of due process, equal protection, privacy and free expression. The suit also charges that if the initiative is allowed on the ballot, it would have a chilling effect on teachers' first amendment rights to speak against it because, under the initiative's advocacy provisions, they might be subject to termination from employment should the initiative pass.

The Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (MCC), represented by attorney John E. Wall, also filed suit in an attempt to have the Briggs initiative removed from the ballot. The MCC suit claims that the initiative, should it become law, violates separation of church and state principles. Theoretically, gay teachers who wanted to keep their jobs would be forced to avoid attending MCC services because they might be identified as gay and therefore fired from their jobs. This, contends MCC, violates their right of religious freedom.

**PREBYTERIANS VOTE TO REFUSE
ORDINATION TO PRACTICING HOMOSEXUALS**

SAN DIEGO -- After extensive committed debate, the full session of the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church voted not to ordain practicing homosexuals as ministers in their church.

Delegates from the assembly claim this action followed years of study concerning social, psychological, as well as religious aspects of homosexuality, and previous to the vote, found themselves sharply divided as to the matter of ordination.

A church committee issued two reports that disagreed on the ordination question but concurred in several key

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Gay and proud

Julio Coreño: a farmworker

By DAVID MORRIS

As you drive south from Austin to the valley in April, the fields and brush along the sides of the highway change by subtle steps from nearly green to green and the mesquite becomes thicker. The houses change, too, from plain symmetry and neatness in the north to richer florid schemes and less modest color in the south. And poverty, from the highway, reveals itself in poorer sides of towns as unadorned human prevalence over neatness of lawns and rigid architectural geometry.

But the valley, by one measure, is not poor. Hidalgo County, whose southern border is the Mexican Border, is the richest agricultural county in Texas, the second richest in the nation. In its fertile soil grow orange trees, grapefruit and countless types of vegetables, enough to feed millions and enough to make rich men richer. For it is by the measure of rich men that Hidalgo is rich. Like corporate feudal lords, they gather fortunes while seated in plush chairs at polished desks, breathing cool, filtered air; but fortunes in carrots and onions need more than clever business deals, a warm sun, and great holdings of fertile land. What's needed, too, are abundant human hands to cultivate and pick and to do so cheaply.

By the measure of the 70,000 agricultural workers who live there, Hidalgo is one of the poorest counties in the nation. There are efforts to build a union. With few resources beyond their own determination, a group of farmworkers led by Antonio Orendain has been trying to change what by now seems an almost permanent situation by organizing strikes, protests and marches. The Texas Farmworkers Union, La Union de Campesinos de Texas, has organized and helped organize many local strikes, the latest being in the onion fields, where most workers previously earned less than a dollar an hour at the rate of 35¢ per sack of onions. Last year, they marched 1,500 miles from their headquarters in San Juan to Washington, D.C., to speak to Jimmy Carter. Carter's refusal to listen was no major blow to people who had been run over, shot at and jailed for their efforts.

An openly gay man is in the thick of the union's struggle. Small and dark, with indian features and a recent permanent, Julio Coreño's effeminacy is one with his strength and determination. Being a campesino, a farmworker, is more his life than his occupation, as it was the life of his parents and his

grandparents. Born in the Mexican state of Guanajuato, he has never been to school and speaks no English. He is sensitive and articulate on the subject of his life as a campesino and his union, and that, as it turns out, was the subject of the interview Enrique López and I held with him at his home in Mercedes, Texas, on the eastern edge of Hidalgo County.

Although deeply political, Julio's community has not yet politicized the subject of homosexuality, and he was reluctant to discuss it in a political interview. All the more important, then, is the obvious respect his determination and energy have won him among his

colleagues, a respect that in itself is hardly unusual in practical situations in working-class Mexican and Chicano communities.

DAVID MORRIS: How much money do farmworkers make here in the valley?

JULIO COREÑO: You can't make money here, the salaries are very low. We never work forty hours a week, much less overtime because they don't want to pay time-and-a-half.

D.M.: In other jobs it's only the father that works, but here in the harvests isn't it true that the whole family usually works?

J.C.: Everyone always works, the father, the mother, the children, everyone. They have to take them to work because you can't earn enough pay to be able to say, well, "I'll be the only one to work."

D.M.: So the children don't go to school, or they go only when they can?

J.C.: The way we were raised, our parents didn't send us to school because there weren't any schools on the ranches; there was nothing, and even when the government started putting schools on the ranches, parents didn't send their children. Who could send



photo by Enrique López

Campesino Julio Coreño

their kids to school? It was better to have them driving the oxen, or with the team; working the soil; bringing firewood; bringing hay for the donkeys; taking care of the goats or the pigs; or this or that. They would say that the schools were a thing of the devil.

Now, when there are classes, when the schools are open, the children don't go to work. But when they get out of school, their parents are there to pick them up and take them to work. Mothers take their babies to work with them, too, because they don't have enough money to have someone else take care of them. So there they are with their bottles, in the sun, in the wind, exposed to poisons from the work, to insecticides. All that's very dangerous. D.M.: So if the kids don't learn anything else, they are going to spend their lives working in the fields?

J.C.: Well, at most, they finish high school; but most stay to work in the fields. If all of the food is produced by the campesinos, everything the lower classes eat and the upper classes, and all the communities, educated and not educated, then it can't end.

So campesinos have to exist anyway; if we're all going to be educated and the government wants us all to go to school, then what are all those educated people going to do?

D.M.: What about technology? It is said that all of that work is going to be done by machines in the future. So what's going to happen to campesinos?

J.C.: Yes, exactly. Most are going to be unemployed. One machine does what hundreds of workers can do. But many people have told us that we should go to school since the government has so many education programs, and stop going around like trouble-makers and agitators. So why are we struggling? I tell them that if education were enough to end all the exploitation, if there wouldn't be any more exploited campesinos, I'd go to school. But if I go to school and, nevertheless, there is still exploitation for hundreds and hundreds who are out in the fields, then what good does it do for me to go to school? THEY still won't respect our opinions. Only what THEY say goes. I can't say I don't like this work, or that's not the right way you're doing it, can I? Just the way THEY say, that's the way it is. For example, in many states they've done away with the short hoe.

ENRIQUE LOPEZ: And in Texas? Can they use the short hoe?

J.C.: They've got us bowed down, and really bowed down. If the boss comes to the field and we're not bent over we're fired.

E.L.: Why do they use the short-handled hoe?

J.C. Well, ideas that the bosses have. They think the work is done better. Long hoes have always worked well, but the bosses don't think so. If I tell the boss or contractor I'm not going to work with a short hoe and bring my own long-handled hoe from home, then they have a saw in the fields and they cut it off.

And up in the northern states people say the bosses don't give them short hoes. But I tell them, don't think it's because the boss loves you so much. The boss has never loved us, all he loves is his big sack of money, that's all he wants.

People don't matter to him. They want to have people in stock, to have a lot of people of every type, of every age, of every size, every kind of people, like a basketful of apples, and from it the buyer, the boss, whoever is going to buy that merchandise, he's picking out and picking out, all

number one, all number one, and all the number twos and number threes he leaves there or he throws away. They're no good, according to him, because he's going to choose the best. That's the way he wants us, the people, the campesinos. No, he doesn't want to have us that way, he has us that way, do you see? Because they pick the best and the strongest, the ones that can do a lot of work, not the weaker ones.

They want to have a lot of people so when a bunch die, or one dies, they put in ten more. One dies, they put in ten more. They want to have extra people like extra machines. They don't want to lose them. They're not going to lose, for example, ten trailers of cantaloupes, ten trailers of whatever is waiting there without ice and without being crated, so it moves, it has to be moved.

D.M.: Is there a law protecting the workers from insecticides, from poisons used in the fields?

J.C.: The workers have none. That's why we make these marches, and make these protests, and make strikes, because the campesinos aren't protected.

D.M.: So for example if a group of workers is in a field and a plane passes by spraying insecticides, what happens?

J.C.: No--not "for example"! They do pass and they do spray us.

D.M.: They don't pay any attention to the workers?

J.C.: No, they don't pay any attention to us, because we don't have any laws to back us up. People have even been killed in the fields by the planes because they fly so low that even if the people lie on the ground they have been hit.

D.M.: How many years have you been doing this?

J.C.: Well, as for being a campesino, my whole life because I don't know how to do anything else, just farmwork.

D.M.: From what age?

J.C. From the age of eight, which is a child's age, isn't it? I worked because we have always been very poor, my parents have always been very poor. I never went to school, I've never seen a school from the inside, just from the outside, from the sidewalk.

D.M.: Some people say you worked harder than anyone else during the march to Washington.

J.C.: Well, I can't say I was the hardest worker, because who knows? For me it wasn't work at all. Although I would work here and there and then I'd cook for all the strikers and I'd distribute the newspapers, I'd distribute leaflets and I'd go around to the houses and talk to the people.

E.L.: Some would be marching and there would go Julio and some others distributing papers, or they'd have run forward, the marchers would pass by and they'd run again. And the rest would be just marching and marching. It's hard.

J.C.: For me it wasn't work since I'm used to it. I'd even go barefoot. And I never got a blister. I'm used to walking around like that. Look, I think I have enough callouses.

E.L.: And a lot of people in the union would make fun of you because you're gay wouldn't they?

J.C.: Oh, yes. Well, no. They just . . . they liked to play with me.

E.L.: And you loved it

J.C.: Oh, I did, yes.

E.L.: But they accepted you anyway.

J.C.: Oh, yes, they had no reason not to accept me. It's not against the law.

E.L.: Do you think the march to Washington was a good idea even if you didn't get to talk to Carter?

J.C.: Well, I think it was a good idea even if he



Esther's Follies showed us what happens when (oh, my!) Anita finds her sons in bed together.



Was Dolph looking when we marched by his mansion?



The parade's front banner is carried with pride down to Wooldridge Park for the Gay Freedom Rally.

photos by Harvey Neville

Gay Austin in celebration...

By ART MORRIS

Traditionally celebrated during the last week of June, Gay Freedom Week was observed this year June 19-26. The week commemorates the ninth anniversary of the birth of the modern Gay Liberation movement in America. On June 28, 1969 gay men and lesbians fought back in the face of police harassment at the Stonewall Inn on Christopher Street in New York City. For three consecutive days there was heavy street activity with bonfires and rioting. As an immediate result the gay people of the area felt emotional relief. But there were long term results which are still being felt.

Austin has observed Gay Pride Week regularly since 1971. That year there was a picnic at Wooldridge Park followed by a march to the Capitol and a rally and workshops on the grounds. Each year since then has seen some observance of the occasion.

With gay pride being increasingly in evidence throughout the country while gay freedom is continually threatened with referenda by Anita Bryant, Clay Smothers, Harold O'Chester, and California's Sen. John Briggs, it is easy to understand why Gay Freedom Week is celebrated throughout. When our freedom is in jeopardy, we feel the need to proclaim it all the more vehemently.

This year's Gay Freedom Week Celebration began with Gay Freedom Night at the Private Cellar on Sunday. There was free beer and guitar playing. Wednesday, June 21 was the Austin premier of *Word Is Out* the newest documentary of gay people in America. The showing was a benefit for the Austin

Human Rights Coalition put on by the Doble Screens.

A workshop conducted by Greg Calvert of the Austin Human Rights Coalition dealt with gay men and cruising. He used methods of encounter and discussion in recognizing feelings held by many men.

The traditional march and rally took place on Saturday. At noon about two hundred people marched from First Street up Congress to Eleventh Street over to Guadalupe and down to Wooldridge Park. Several blocks long, the lively parade progressed without mishap.

The only form of harassment came on the part of one APD police officer who insisted on crowding the marchers together and rushing the pace of the parade.

A street dance took place Saturday night on 23rd Street at the People's Renaissance Marketplace with music by Little Imo. 200 to 300 people attended the dance, including several avowed heterosexuals. But police forced the band to stop playing at 11:40 p.m., citing a city ordinance forbidding amplified music in public places after 8:00 p.m.

Gay Freedom Week concluded on Monday, June 26 with a poetry reading by Texas-based lesbians and gay men at Esther's Pool. Among those present was Houston poet Joseph Lonax.

All in all, Gay Freedom Week, 1978, was a success, with more participation by more gay people than ever before. We've come along way since 1969--even if together we have that much farther to go.



A representative of Children of Gays sits proudly beside her father at the rally.



Here's a picture to send home to Mom.

Backstage with Anita

By HARVEY NEVILLE

"And, remember Reverend, tell all of your good people to pray for the victory of repeal in Wichita and Eugene." With those words Anita Bryant ended her "testimony" at Austin's Municipal Auditorium on May 7. She then walked out of a well-protected rear exit of the building arm-in-arm with Harold O'Chester of Allandale Baptist Church. A waiting car took Bryant and her entourage to the airport; they were escorted by two city motorcycle policemen and one squad car.

I had been waiting backstage at Muni three hours for an opportunity to talk with the Florida orange juice queen (it seemed like years while watching the "Church service" and her performance). Her tightly scheduled, three hour visit had prohibited a personal interview which I tried arranging months in advance through her office. (The Fishers of Men) in Miami.

Part of me didn't want to be anywhere near or have anything to do with Bryant, her show or O'Chester's peculiar form of worship. It was as if to witness (used in the non-religious sense) their spectacle would give some validity to it.

The Breakfast Festival for Human Rights was being held simultaneously down by Town Lake near the Auditorium. The one thousand happy and gay people were there sharing in something which I, too, wanted to be a part of: a celebration of solidarity in opposing Bryant's great eagerness to deny gays and women equal rights in living their lives as they want to -- as they must.

But indeed there I was in the wings of the stage at Municipal Auditorium shaking the hand of one of the world's most famous homophobes, Anita Bryant Green, before she made her first entrance. I had been per-

sueded by the voyeur in me to observe Anita in action. I was asking her if we could talk for a few minutes after the "service" was over, and she had agreed to a short meeting with the press. Bryant had made a point of telling me that her appearance was strictly a religious one, and in no way political, although I hadn't asked any question that prompted the comment.

The one-time first runner-up in a Miss America contest had arrived at about 10:00 a.m. -- 45 minutes before her portion of the "service" began. One city policeman had been guarding the rear entrance to the auditorium for an hour before Bryant's arrival. But the low-key and easy-going backstage mood set by some rather disinterested lighting, sound and television technicians had altered radically when a beefy contingent of eight additional policemen came on the scene at 9:45 a.m. They checked the credentials of anyone who (like myself) was straggling around on the stage or who did not look particularly enthralled with Reverend O'Chester's haranguing of the audience for donations.

THE ARRIVAL

The police received a radio message when the Bryant party was a five minute drive away from the auditorium (having arrived at the airport). The good word was given to an expectant O'Chester who had been pacing to and fro backstage whenever he left his rostrum on stage, hands tightly clasped like a nervous new father. While on stage he had managed to present a different persona -- that of the cool, collected preacher.

A local television news camera team caught the scene as Anita Bryant walked in, O'Chester at her side. Professional all the way (from the experience of countless orange juice commercials, no doubt), Bryant looked directly into the camera, smiling and

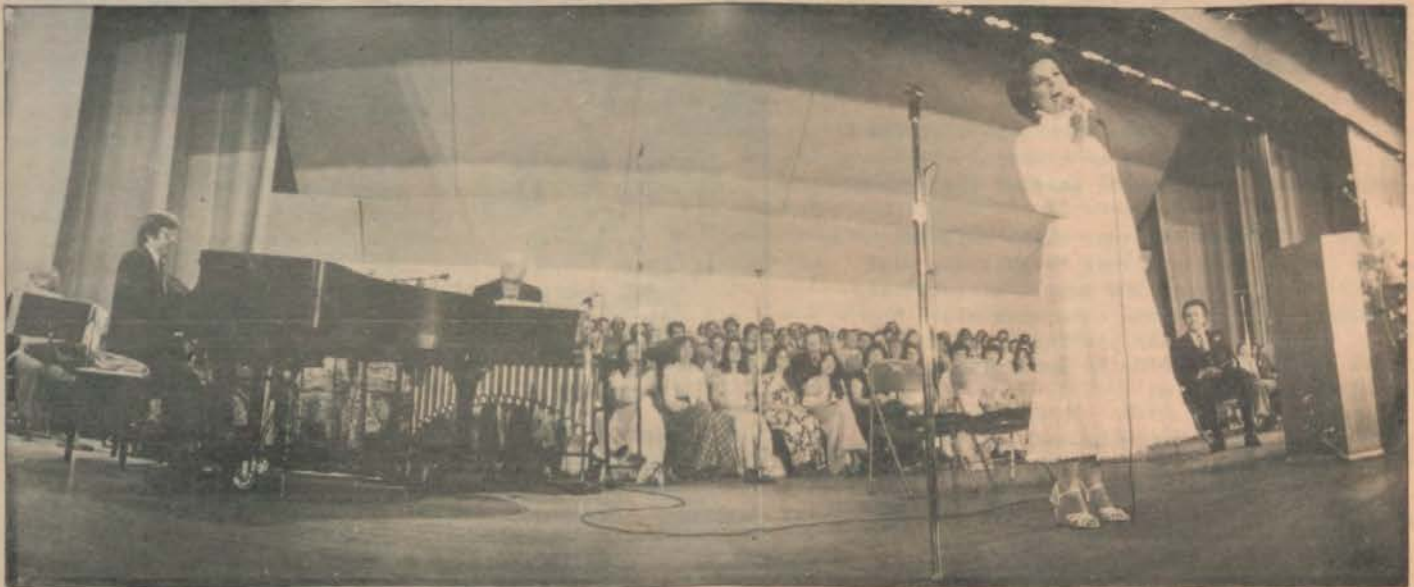


photo by Alan Pogue

mouthed "hello."

The show -- sorry I did mean "service"-- went on building to a climax while Anita prepared herself. She finally appeared in an all-white lace and cotton gown, looking like an old-time country girl on the way to the town Sunday picnic. She walked around backstage humming to herself and checking her oft-repeated Bible references on the little notecards she carried.

ANITA — AN ENTERTAINER

At the designated time (the audience having been properly primed), Reverend O'Chester introduced Anita, then walked to the side of the stage to escort the star of the service on. The opening number was "Give me an Old-fashioned ..." which made her gown take on the significance of a costume. And as soon as she started singing with that orange-selling voice, the purpose of her participation was uncovered for all to see.

Bryant is an entertainer who sings about God and throws in some occasional political commentary between numbers, just as some other show-person might deliver jokes between songs. But she never once made a direct reference to gays, homosexuals, or feminists during the show. Rather, she would repeatedly chant about "militant radical groups" which threaten "the children," "the family" and the righteous order of society. Anita manufactured some genuine-looking tears but was subtly able to turn them on and off at will, and the audience cried right along with her. She was good. She was so good that she was scary.

Bryant and her homophobic clones (such as O'Chester) have memorized a string of formulaic phrases used to describe the danger of those "militant radical groups." Anita's "testimony" would have read like excerpts from the choicest comments in her Playboy interview (May, 1978).

There were a few dissenters among the true-believers in the audience. But whenever those individuals shouted out a retort to Anita's pronouncements, those cries for reason or tolerance were drowned out in a sea of applause for whatever quip an amplified Anita would answer back.

WHAT'S BEHIND IT ALL?

In an interview one week prior to Bryant's visit, Harold O'Chester said that he had invited her to participate in the special Allandale Baptist "service" at Municipal Auditorium "for no particular reason. We invited Anita Bryant basically because she's very prominent." He went on to list the other celebrated national "religious" figures who had appeared in the past, including Jimmy Carter (while governor of Georgia), Charles Colson and Pat Boone, among others.

Reverend O'Chester has a clear view of what the role of his church in the community should be: "Our job is to permeate the community. Jesus said we ought to be salt. Salt flavors a community -- salt keeps the rotteness out. If my church can't make an ethical and moral impact on the community, then we ought to quit being what we are."

Although she was invited to appear in Austin "for no particular reason," other than being prominent, Bryant reiterated that she had come only to share



photo by Will van Overbeek

her religious "testimony for a church service," during the short press conference afterwards. When told about the Breakfast Festival being held outside, Anita said "Well, I don't know what they're upset about...They have their opinion and I have mine; but I'm not here on any one particular issue per se, but to share the hope for anyone who's willing to look at an immoral lifestyle as sin, and that's true for any kind of sin. I'm not just against the sin of homosexuality."

In the world of O'Chester and Bryant there are, obviously, no clear demarcations between the realms of religion, politics and entertainment. Crusades throughout history have always fused those first two elements, and the third is an addition of our distraction-filled age of television. To get attention, an event must have some entertainment value. And Bryant and her sponsors know how to succeed on that count.

Allandale Baptist Church had a specific reason for inviting Anita Bryant -- regardless of what O'Chester said. She is a national, political figurehead for that element of American society which is fed up with "liberalizing" social changes. It's no revelation that a strong reactionary movement is well underway these days, and that tactics employed by liberal causes of the sixties are being mimicked with success. But there's a vital difference between the political role religious leaders played a decade ago and the role of Bryant and O'Chester today.

HUMAN RIGHTS IS THE ISSUE

The former actively contributed a moral and ethical underpinning of multi-denominational support to the politics of equal rights for blacks, chicanos and women, and in opposition to the war in Vietnam. Today, the politics of religion is the denial of rights for gays; the denial of a woman's right to

Breakfast Festival

MAY 7th

Town Lake Park





for Human Rights



PHOTOS BY ALAN POGUE

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Harvey Milk

photos by Harvey Neville

By KELLY KAY

Gay women and men from across the state met together in Dallas June 9-11 for Texas Gay Conference V, held in Dallas' Royal Coach Inn.

After a welcoming cocktail party Friday evening, the conference began with a powerful address from Brooklyn professor of urban politics Ginny Apuzzo, who is currently running for the New York State Assembly.

In her speech Apuzzo called for a new self-understanding within the gay movement. "I'm not convinced we've gotten over self-hate," the former co-chair of the Gay Rights National Lobby said.



**"No one ever delegates power
because it's morally right"**

— Ginny Apuzzo



Milk, Amador, Apuzzo, Lee Knapp (conference cochairperson), Deitsch, Steve Wilkins (conference cochairperson)

Apuzzo also called for gay activist's acknowledgement of our clearly self-interested motive for fighting the homophobia which would deprive us of our human rights. "We're not in this for altruistic reasons," she said.

Apuzzo explained that the movement must operate from the principal "where there is oppression, I am oppressed." She expressed a personal fear that gay men will forget about lesbians once the males have won their rights.

Apuzzo also expressed her concern that the gay movement rallies around every new referendum at the expense of forming alternative, more positive strategies.

Kathy Deitsch, moderator of the Texas Gay Task Force, sponsor of the conference, outlined the task force's five point plan for the next legislative session (see article, page 7). Task force coordinator for the central region Woody Egger explained the plan's strategy to restrict the jurisdiction of Section 21.06 (the sodomy law) to acts committed in public. The plan's success will legalize homosexual acts committed in private between consenting adults.

Carol Phelan, an eight year veteran of the State Legislature, instructed the conference on the subtleties of the legislative process.

After a dismal lunch provided by the Royal Coach Inn, the conferences went into various workshop sessions from "Teachers and Homosexuality" to "Long-term Relationships".

Saturday evening, openly gay San Francisco City/County Supervisor Harvey Milk discussed his campaign and his tenure to date in office.

Milk also introduced the film "Gay USA," which doc-



Don Amador

uments the 1977 Gay Pride Day Parade held in San Francisco.

Sunday Don Amador, who teaches gay studies at several schools in Los Angeles, delivered a talk entitled "Gay Sociological and Cultural Roots." Amador is the recently appointed gay liaison on L.A. Mayor Tom Bradley's staff.

NEWS BRIEFS continued from page 9

areas. A majority of the committee members supported a set of proposals that call homosexual acts "sinful." One such proposal counsels Presbyterians that "our present understanding of God's Will precludes the ordination of persons who do not repent of homosexual practice."

Yet another statement urged those in charge of reviewing candidates for the ministry not to make a specific inquiry into the "sexual orientation or practice" of a candidate who has not declared his or her sexual preference.

The report also contained a condemnation of the "widespread contempt for homosexual persons that prevails in our society" and voiced strong support for laws upholding civil rights for homosexuals. However, while not ordaining declared homosexuals, the church will welcome "such persons" as members.

NYC'S FIRST GAY COMMUNITY CENTER OPENS

The first gay community center in New York City, to be called the Triangle Gay Community Center, was formally dedicated at ceremonies on June 24. Created by the Metropolitan Community Church of New York at its offices on the third floor of 26 Ninth Avenue, the space will house not only church activities but programs of the West Side Discussion Group, the Christopher Street Liberation Day Committee, units of Gay Over-eaters and Alcoholics Anonymous, therapy groups and rap groups of all kinds.

GAY TEACHER REINSTATED IN NYC

NEW YORK -- Sallie Herson has been officially reinstated to a teaching position for the New York City School Board of Education. She had been released from her job as peer-group counselor at Walton High School in the Bronx in November of 1976, just days after sharing with students in a rap group discussion that she was a lesbian.

Officials of the United Federation of Teachers and the Board of Education have issued statements in support of the employment rights of homosexual teachers. The issue in this case was whether it is permissible for teachers to openly acknowledge, in the classroom, a homosexual lifestyle. With this decision, the Board has clarified its position.

The initial incident took place in late October of 1976. The student initiated topic of homosexuality led to a frank conversation in which Ms. Herson shared with the students that she lived with another woman and their six children.

With support from the Gay Teachers Association and the legal counsel of the New York Civil Liberties Union, Ms. Herson filed suit in federal court last August, charging abridgement of her constitutional rights by the NYC Board of Education. In response to this suit, the Board initiated an informal hearing procedure in October, 1977. As a result, it was determined that Ms. Herson should be returned to a teaching position. Arrangements were recently completed and she is presently teaching in a junior high school.

SEATTLE IN TURMOIL OVER ANTIDISCRIMINATION ORDINANCE

Both Save Our Moral Ethics (SOME), led by homophobic Seattle policeman David Estes, and gay rights supporters' Citizens to Retain Fair Employment (CRFE) are firing off volleys in the battle to repeal the city's anti-discrimination ordinance. SOME is attempting to collect 17,626 valid signatures by August 1 to put Initiative 13 on the November ballot.

SOME's May 24 advertisement in an area newspaper headlined "Ten Reasons for Repealing Seattle's Homosexual Law," lists statements such as: "Homosexuals account for half the murders and suicides in large cities." "Half of the nation's syphilis comes from homosexuals." "A great many homosexuals are classified as suicidal unemployables and therefore qualify for welfare, and are thus living off the American people."

Protect America's Children, Anita Bryant's organization, has contributed \$3,000 to SOME, while the Play-

After Hippy Hollow Hour
second annual

at the
Private Cellar
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boy Foundation gave \$2,000 to CRFE. Gay activists charge that the police are in cahoots with the pro-Initiative 13 forces after Liquor Board enforcement officers issued citations for violations of the law to operators of the Monastery, where a fundraiser to fight the anti-gay initiative was taking place.

Meanwhile CRFE is preparing a poll designed to measure voter awareness of the issues at stake and to find out just how Seattle citizens feel about gay people

The proposed initiative differs from those in the four cities where repeals have passed. It would, if passed, also remove from Seattle's Office of Women's Rights all enforcement powers for discrimination claims based on sex, marital status and sexual preference. Jurisdiction would pass to the city's overloaded Human Rights Department. In addition, the passage of the Estes ordinance would not affect the city's teachers since Seattle public schools are not governed by city ordinances.

ON CAMPUS

An appeal brief before the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals has been filed in behalf of three Texas A&M students, members of the Gay Student Service Organization. The brief, filed by J. Patrick Wiseman, a Houston attorney, asks the court to agree with three other circuit court decisions -- the 1st, 4th, and 8th -- and allow gay organizations on campus. The original suit, filed three years ago, had been dismissed by a Houston Federal judge.

The faculty of Yale Law School in New Haven (Connecticut) has voted to protect gay students from discrimination by law firms and other recruiters. Yale is the second law school in the country to adopt such a measure. The words "sexual orientation" will be added to the existing policy that safeguards against discrimination on the basis of sex, race, national origin, and religious beliefs. Law firms found in violation of the statement may not use the services of the law school.

Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund Inc. of New York recently represented a non-tenured professor at Pennsylvania State University in a hearing before a faculty committee with respect to his dismissal on charges including one that he was "an admitted homosexual." The dismissal was in violation of a position

in defense of gay people taken by the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Association of University Professors.

Acting upon the recommendation of the committee, the president of Penn State has decided to reinstate the professor and award appropriate damages.

The University of Missouri has paid Gay People's Union \$10,385 in court costs as a result of the decision in the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals that gave the group campus recognition. The U. S. Supreme Court refused to review the case, thus allowing the lower court ruling to stand. Officials of the university have asked the Supreme Court for a rehearing on its refusal, but such rehearings are rarely granted.

international...

RAPE IS NOW A CRIME IN FRANCE

AIX-EN-PROVENCE, FRANCE -- A criminal court sentenced three men to prison terms for raping two avowed Lesbians four years ago in a landmark decision which their lawyers said established for the first time "that rape is a crime" in France.

Although rape is listed as a felony in French legal statutes, the trial marked the first time a rape case was heard by a criminal court before a jury without additional criminal charges, such as armed robbery, accompanying the indictment.

In the past, rape cases in France were tried as simple misdemeanors by a judge without a jury in closed door sessions.

BODY POLITIC TO GO TO CANADIAN SUPREME COURT

The editors of The Body Politic have announced that they will go to the Supreme Court of Canada in a bid to quash the search warrant used to raid the journal's office last December 30.

Clayton Ruby, the paper's legal counsel, has been instructed to seek leave to appeal the dismissal by the Ontario Court of Appeal of an earlier TBP move to quash the warrant on April 14.

At that time, a three-man panel of Ontario's highest court refused to interfere with the March 15 ruling of Mr. Justice Garrett to the effect that the warrant used in the raid was legal.

The move is described as a "stand against growing police powers" in the May issue of the gay liberation newsmagazine published May 5.

"The recent revelations of growing police crime--warrantless breaking, theft and arson among other activities--are frightening to a lot of people," said TBP collective member Ed Jackson. "If our fighting this action can help focus attention on the extent of police power in this country, then our appeal to the Supreme Court will have been justified."

ALL AMERICAN NEWS

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NEWS BRIEFS continued from page 21

Pink Triangle Press, publisher of TBP, is claiming that the warrant was illegal because it was so vaguely worded as to allow the police to take anything they wished. In fact, the police seized twelve cartons of material, including subscription lists and manuscripts. The raid prompted expressions of concern from a wide variety of groups and individuals including Books in Canada editor Douglas Marshall, broadcaster June Callwood, the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, and eight Toronto city aldermen. The

action was also protested by members of the gay community in places as far away as London, San Francisco and Melbourne, Australia, as well as all across Canada.

In a recent development, TBP has learned that the police have obtained a judge's authorization to retain the materials seized for a further 12-month period. The paper was not permitted even to argue against the court application for this authorization.

ANITA . . . continued from page 15

choose abortion or to be constitutionally guaranteed of equal rights. During the press conference after her performance, Bryant spoke to this point quite clearly: "I just know that we cannot legislate morality, but I think it's time we stopped legislating immorality."

Anita described her initial motivation to oppose gay rights beginning with that ill-famed Dade County ordinance as a fight to "repeal special privilege laws which would take away the constitutional rights of a majority of Americans. That issue (in Dade County) would have made it mandatory that private, religious schools hire flaunting homosexuals. That's a very religious, bigoted (sic) law." "And," she continued, "what they (gays) want to do on a national basis is to use these laws to push homosexuality as an alternative lifestyle."

Anita almost hit the truth in that last statement, but she errs in her usage of the verb "to push." Gays are not trying to push anything on anyone. Yet we do want to have our way of life accepted as an alternative lifestyle, and not be discriminated against or left outside the protection of (or persecuted by) the law for being what we are.

Anita spoke about her concern over homosexuality as a mother. She has felt compelled to take a political stand against gay rights in order to protect her children (and everybody else's). When asked if she really recognized the degree of difference and the not totally logical connection between her political stance (and note, it's not a religious one now) and her concern as a mother, Bryant lost some of the composure she had maintained until then and said "They (gays) are under the constitution. IF THEY DON'T FLAUNT THEIR HOMOSEXUALITY, THEY HAVE THE SAME RIGHTS AS ANYONE ELSE." As long as gays are "in the closet," they are not offending Anita and thus endangering her children.

The hundreds of people standing out by Town Lake on that muggy Sunday morning had certainly been focusing their celebration and peaceful protest on the right issue -- human rights. For Anita Bryant is asking us to hide ourselves so that we don't offend her and threaten her rights by asserting our own. Of course, those people didn't have to be inside to hear that message -- it has been heard before and will be heard again.

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JULIO CORENO . . . continued from page 11

didn't talk to us, because for us, for me, for the union, we weren't going because we were so anxious to see him, because after all we weren't going to kiss him. What mattered was talking to the people, to the poor people, to every class of people, poor and not poor, to anyone who would support us. That was our idea.

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gay athletic clubs form across the state

By BILLY FRAZIER

Have you heard the talk about a Pan-Texas Gay Athletic Championship? It is more than just talk. Already the Montrose Sports Association of Houston, the Turtle Creek Athletic Club of Dallas, and the newly developing Capitol City Athletic Club of Austin have been engaging in rousing and intense athletic competition involving volleyball in each of the three cities. Dallas held the first tennis tourney in June. Gay People of West Texas (GPWT) from the Lubbock area also participated last year. San Antonio, Galveston, Corpus Christi and other cities will soon get the message about how much fun is to be had on (and off) the playing fields and will want to organize their own teams.

Tournaments are usually played during the day on weekends with the sponsoring city also hosting visitors to all sorts of social soirees, poolside parties, and dining excursions, and in addition to the "thrill of victory and the agony of defeat," these pan-Texas get-togethers foster excellence among accomplished as well as aspiring gay athletes. Especially noticeable is a camaraderie among the participants which is truly heart-warming. After all, any time the two legendary Texas rivals, Dallas and Houston, can spend the majority of two days together without coming away with bloody fangs and fingernails, you have to admit that a marvelous feat of inter-city diplomacy has occurred.

This rather recent development (starting last spring) of sports interest in the gay community has been so encouraging that plans are now being made to expand into other popular types of competition; for example, organizing teams for baseball, swimming, and diving, marathon races, field sports, golf and other areas where there is enough interest and participation to make it exciting and challenging.

How do YOU join the fun and games? Simply contact the organizers in your city for more information. If there is no present organization, start talking it up with athletes you know and then approach a local gay service organization, or local bar, for support; or simply organize yourselves. For helpful hints and guidelines visit a city that already has it together and ask them for useful information. In Dallas, go by Revershon Park (off Turtle Creek Blvd.) on Sunday afternoon around 5pm. In Houston, try Cherryhurst Park (off Ridgewood and Cherryhurst St.) on Sunday afternoon around 5pm. In Austin, come by Ramsey Park (off 44th and Burnet) on Sunday from 5 to 7pm.

All of us who are already involved invite all of you to join us. We need more athletic representation for all major Texas cities, and also more sideline supporters (where we've been told there is more "action" than on the field). And, after all, what would American sports events be without a cheering section of beer guzzlers on hand? The next Austin-Dallas-Houston Tournament will be held the first Saturday and Sunday in August in the Capitol City. Details will be published later. Come on out--bring your friends--and enjoy the game.

In Austin, George (owner and operator of the Private Cellar) is generously donating (in the name of good sportsmanship, of course) a free keg of beer to lighten spirits every second and fourth Sunday at Ramsey Park. This kind of support (team T-shirts, free beer, political donations and who knows what else) furthering gay community activities is to be highly commended and deeply appreciated. We thank you, George.



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NEWS BRIEFS continued from page 2

special events

- 7 Womenspace program: "Women's Health: Abortion." Ginny Cleaver from Austin Women's Health Collective; Jane Hertel from Reproductive Services.
- 9 National ERA March for extension and ratification. Washington, D.C. Call (202) 737-2295 for more information.
- Society for the Advancement of Freedom and Equality special meeting. Call Woody Egger for details.
- 14 Womenspace program: "Considering Services for Battered Women." Lois Ahrens and Joy Ruth.
- 18 Deadline for contributions to GAY AUSTIN.
- 19 GAY COMMUNITY SERVICES monthly meeting. 2330 Guadalupe, 8 pm.
- 21 VD Clinic sponsored by the State Department of Health, Private Cellar, Club Baths and GCS. Free for men and women. Club Austin, 308 W. 16th, 10 pm to midnight.
- Womenspace program: "The New Viet Nam." Chris Cunningham, director of the University Y, will report on her recent trip to Viet Nam.
- 28 Womenspace program: "Women's Music." Gail Lewis and Ruth Huber will play original music (guitar and piano).

weekly

- MONDAY-SATURDAY Happy Hour at the New Apartment, 4-8pm
- MONDAY Lambda AA, 209 West 27th, 8pm
Free beer, the New Apartment
- TUESDAY Lesbian rap group (open), Womenspace, 7:30pm
- THURSDAY Showtime, Austin Country, 10:30pm
- FRIDAY Womenspace programs with discussion; coffee at 7pm, speaker at 8pm; 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, West 44th at Rosedale, 5-7pm. Free keg of beer every second and fourth Sunday (donated by the Private Cellar). Come on out!
After Hippy Hollow Hour, free beer and hot dogs, 7pm, Private Cellar.
Metropolitan Community Church services, noon and 7:30pm, 614 East 6th.

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- * 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 June 1, 1978 and September 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.

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