

T.G.T.F. NEWS

TEXAS GAY TASK FORCE
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LGDT ACTIVITIES

The Lesbian/Gay Democrats of Texas met Saturday, June 26, in Houston to formulate overall plans for the State Democratic Convention to be held September 10-11 in Dallas.

Politically, the main decision was to emphasize passage by the convention of a resolution against the Family Protection Act. Buttons to identify our delegates and alternates as Lesbian/Gay Democrats of Texas, "1982" buttons for the closeted, and "I'm Straight but I Support Gay Rights," which contributed so much to the passage of a gay rights resolution in Houston in 1980, were authorized.

The LGDT plans to staff a hospitality room in the Hiatt hotel; workers will be needed, especially persons who are neither delegates nor alternates. The cost will be split among the cities active politically. The price of an advertisement in the convention program is being explored.

Persons attending the convention should plan to arrive in time to attend the first LGDT meeting, which will be held Friday afternoon about two or three p.m.

Further development of these plans will be carried out at a meeting held in connection with the National Leadership Conference in Dallas. The LGDT meeting will be held on Sunday afternoon, August 15, at 1:30, somewhere in the Grenelefe Hotel. Delegates or alternates who cannot attend should contact LGDT for information. They would also like to have the names of any such persons; write Steve Thomas or Scottie Scott at P. O. Box 822, Austin, TX 78767.

North Texas area persons willing to work in the hospitality room may contact Edra Bogle (817-387-8216) till the coordinator is named. More details will appear in the next issue.



Response to the conference planned for August 13-15 at the Grenelefe Hotel in Dallas has been received from many cities, large and small, all over the country, and from many outstanding gay and lesbian leaders. A great many events are being scheduled.

A banquet Saturday night will feature as speakers Lucia Valeska and Mel Boozer of the National Gay Task Force, Troy Perry of the Metropolitan Community Church, and Jean O'Leary, currently of Gay Rights Advocates. Tickets for the \$25 event are available for persons who do not register for the rest of the conference; it will be held at the Dallas Convention Center. Registration for the entire conference, to be held at the Grenelefe Hotel, 1011 South Akard, is \$60.

Some of the planned workshops and other events include:

POLICE RELATIONS--Jo Daly, San Francisco Police Commissioner

GAY HEALTH--put on by a national meeting of the Gay Health Association

FAMILY PROTECTION ACT--Dave Gerash (Denver, NGTF) and Susan Green (GRNL)

FUND RAISING--Jim Foster (Human Rights Campaign Fund)

ANCIENT GREECE SPORTS MEDIA PORTRAYALS
LIFE OUTSIDE METROPOLITAN AREAS

GAY-RELATED DISEASES (Dr. James Curran, Atlanta Center for Disease Control; Stanley Matek, American Public Health Assoc.)

NATIONAL GAY TASK FORCE Board Meeting, the first to be held outside New York City

GODSPELL production by Dallas MCC

LARRY BUSH, author, keynoting Friday dinner

Both the DGA conference committee and Bill Beauchamp, NGTF Board Member from Dallas, need people to help drive visitors to and from the airport, to house visitors, to help at the conference, etc. Call Bill Nelson at 832-1130 or 559-3488, or Bill Beauchamp at 8516 1/2 Midway Road, Dallas, 351-6692. (All area codes 214).

TEXAS GAY/LESBIAN CONFERENCE NINE: "A SHARED EXISTENCE"

This ninth annual meeting of gay men and lesbians from all over Texas will be held September 3-5, 1982, in Houston at the University of Houston's Agnes Arnold Hall. Keynote speakers will be Harry Britt, San Francisco City Supervisor, and Lucia Valeska, Executive Director of the National Gay Task Force.

A registration blank is available on page Please plan to attend this Labor Day Weekend, and help us develop our plans for an educational effort which will acquaint all of Texas with the true facts about and needs and rights of gay people.

GAY PRIDE WEEK ACROSS TEXAS

Gay Pride Week 1982 was celebrated as usual this year in Houston and Dallas, and detailed accounts of it can be read and photos viewed in *This Week in Texas* and other gay media. However, the most significant fact about Gay Pride Week this year was the number of smaller cities across Texas now sponsoring events during the week, and the increasing visibility and quality of events.

HOUSTON has long been a leader in the celebration, and this year Mayor Kathy Whitmire issued an official proclamation of the week. The parade was as big and beautiful as ever, with an estimated audience of 80,000; half the city council at the following rally; people from throughout the state invited to the parade and rally; and Congressman Mickey Leland as Honorary Grand Marshall.

DALLAS's Razzle Dazzle Dallas was its usual success, and the air-conditioning worked for the first time this year. The parade was bigger and better than ever, with Councilman Ricardo Medrano and NGTF's Lucia Valeska as Grand Marshalls, though the week of activities was perhaps a bit sparser, as was the craft fair each weekend.

FORT WORTH participated in the Dallas parade with several floats, including National Lambda's and the Krazy Kowboy's prize winners. Over five hundred people met for the first gay pride picnic to be held in Fort Worth, and various organizations, as well as the bars, held special events during the week.

DENTON's Gay/Lesbian Association co-sponsored a public forum, "No One is Free Till All Are Free," with the local American Civil Liberties chapter; participants were NGTF's Lucia Valeska and Bill Beauchamp, and ACLU's Don Smith. Both the Denton and NTSU papers featured major articles on the forum. A GLAD/NGTF-sponsored cocktail party afterwards honored Lucia and Bill; a number of local political figures attended. GLAD also took part in the Dallas parade.

AMARILLO held a Day of Remembrance at the Unitarian Fellowship. A picnic in Ellwood Park was co-sponsored by Gay Community Services and several local bars.

SAN ANTONIO celebrated Gay Pride Sunday on the 27th with a San Antonio Gay Alliance picnic in Lion's Park; other entertainment and educational events were held throughout the week.

Yes, undoubtedly AUSTIN and EL PASO and other cities celebrated too, but I don't have the information. (How about some members from those locations becoming correspondents for TGTF News?)

When one remembers that only three years ago the first major parade and week of activities took place in Dallas (though a small parade and some events had occurred before then), one realizes how fast we are moving. In three more years, how many places will be qualified to join such a listing? Wouldn't you like to help your hometown, no matter how small, become one?

And doesn't it make you proud?



DALLAS POLICE HARRASSMENT

When Dallas got a new police chief in early May, rumors were rampant that police had been told that hassling gays was all right, and that they would be supported in any anti-gay actions. These rumors seemed substantiated by a series of raids on popular bars beginning May 2, during which spotlights were aimed through bar windows, and arrested men were hauled off in paddy wagons. There more usual harrassment: repeated requests for liquor permits (three or four times per night) and patrons' i.d. cards, frequent patrols of bars, and arrests for public intoxication far beyond the numbers of such arrests in equivalent non-gay bars--all was prevalent.

A Dallas Gay Alliance-sponsored rally on May 9 was attended by an estimated 1500 persons; two hundred attended the City Council meeting on May 12 at which four DGA leaders (Don Baker, Al Calkin, Bill Nelson, and Campbell Read) spoke. Councilman Ricardo Medrano (who later Grand Marshalled the GPW parade) spoke to the Council on the necessity for "equal application of the law," and said the police department "has not been

fair." He asked it to explore "sensitivity training" or "community relations training" and said the gay community, "just like the black and Hispanic community" has unique problems of which officers should be aware.

With this show of strength, the police were soon behaving more properly, and such behavior has continued: the Gay Pride Week Parade, for instance, received better protection and less police harrassment (to speed up, for instance) than it ever had.

The Assistant City Manager, Levi Davis, on May 12 wrote DGA President Don Baker that the police are obliged to understand the varying neighborhoods of Dallas, including the gay ones, and that the manager's office was "committed to enforcing the laws . . . equitably throughout our community." A series of meetings between city officials and DGA personnel was set up.

(*Dialog*, June 1982, pp. 1-2; July 1982, p. 1; *The Advocate*, May 21, 1982, p. 11; radio broadcast of City Council meeting on WRR.)

CAN ONE PERSON MAKE A DIFFERENCE? BY TOM CAINE

How many times over the years have you heard the statement: "What difference can one person make in an election?"

One person can really and truly make all the difference in the world. For example, in the 1980 presidential campaign in Dallas County, one person quadrupled the vote total for Libertarian candidate Ed Clark. All this person did was to hand out fliers door to door in his free evenings. When those precincts were compared to similar precincts that were not "walked," it worked out that he recruited one vote for every eight pieces of literature. In his district he could hit eight doors in about fifteen minutes, getting one of those eight votes, or four votes per hour, thirty-six votes per day. In an election where 40% will vote Democratic regardless of what you do and 40% will vote Republican, these four votes an hour would make quite a difference.

Assume there were a county-wide election here in Denton. There are about 27,000 registered voters. Of these only about 40%, or 10,800 persons, will vote in a major election, far fewer in a minor one. Now let's assume the old saw of the 40/40 split. This means that we only need to concern ourselves with 2160 voters (20% of 10,800). That is the number of swing voters in a major election.

To win those votes, one can either try to

research who these people are and go straight to them (noting that the opponent is probably doing the same thing) or one can go after a similar number of new voters. The latter entails less competition and gives a better return on time invested. The late Richard J. Daley, known as Hizzoner da Mayor of Chicago, used this technique most effectively. When southern states were trying to keep blacks from voting, Hizzoner was sending limousines to the south side of the city and taking them to the polls.

But back to our 2160 votes. Even if all those 2160 swing votes went against your candidate, you could win. To get a corresponding number of votes for your person at four votes per hour, you would need approximately 580 hours. It would be considered an upset victory, and one person could have made the entire difference.

In reality, few candidates are going to lose all the swing votes, and few campaigns are not going to generate help along the way. So let's assume that things go poorly but not disastrously. You lose 80% of the swing vote. That means your opponent now gets 1728 of those votes and your candidate gets 432 of them. Without your work you would lose the election; however, you could recruit the difference of 1296 votes in only 324 hours. With ten people that breaks down to four hours a week for eight weeks: a small price to pay to elect people who will help ensure our future freedom.

LESBIAN CELEBRATION

The second weekend of Gay Pride Week in Dallas was celebrated at the First Unitarian Church on Preston Road by a large group of very enthusiastic lesbians attending the First Annual Lesbian Celebration.

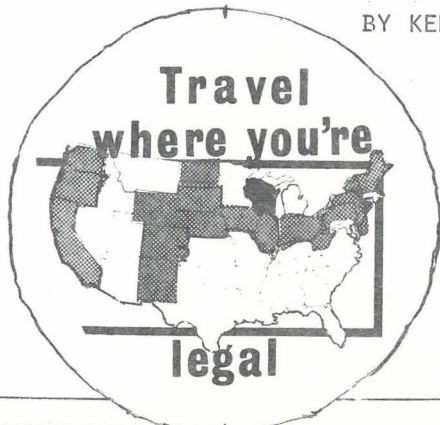
The weekend started off Friday night with a performance by Holly Near and her pianist Adrienne Torf. The audience participated, surprisingly in tune, as Holly went through the lyrics first and then sang a contrasting part. The 502 people at the concert clapped for every woman who participated in the whole production (they were all announced before the concert), showing a wonderful lack of the usual crowd apathy about people behind the scenes. Despite problems with the sound system, the music was excellent and the performers didn't let the technical problems undermine their performance. Holly is a "real person" performer; she lets her politics show through her music unashamedly, covering subjects such as nuclear power, racism, and sexism as well as gay liberation.

Saturday, starting in the morning and going on until around four p.m., were the workshops, covering such topics as "What is Feminism," "Nonviolent Persuasion," "Monogamy/Non-Monogamy," "Coming Out," "Power Issues," "Artificial Insemination," "Parents and Friends of Lesbians," "Co-Counseling" and "Alternative Energy Sources."

After a break in the schedule, at eight p.m. many women (including the audience at several points) performed at a Lesbian Rights Task Force-sponsored coffeehouse. The lineup included More Joy, Siri Lini and Friends, women's poetry readings, and a lot of very funny lesbian humor. After the coffeehouse the floor was cleared, the music was turned up, and everyone danced.

All in all it was quite a successful weekend with an evident abundance of lesbian pride. The First Annual Lesbian Celebration was sponsored by the Dallas County Chapter of the National Organization for Women and the Dallas N.O.W. Lesbian Rights Task Force. I commend them for the great job and hope to see even more happy lesbians there next year.

BY KENDRA HOLT



RAPING LESBIANS IS OKAY

What happens when a member of our community has an obviously winning case against her parents? The County Prosecutor can arrange for her to lose it, as was proven in Cincinnati this May. Simon Leis granted (despite protests from Stephanie Riethmiller and her lawyer) her parents immunity in exchange for testifying at the trial of Ted Patrick, James Roe, and Naomi Goss, who were hired by Riethmiller's parents to "deprogram" her from homosexuality by abducting her and raping her repeatedly. Her parents then became witnesses for the defense.

There was no dispute that the woman was shoved in a van and held for six days in another state, but the jury ended "hopelessly deadlocked" on the kidnapping charge. Roe was accused of raping Ms. Riethmiller each of the nights she was held, but acquitted; the prosecutor called him a "mercenary for hire" and thus not responsible because he was fulfilling a contract--a contract arranged by the parents whom Leis had granted immunity.

The mother testified that Stephanie had felt the experience was "positive" till the Norwood, Ohio, police had "planted the opposite idea in her head" upon rescuing her. She herself testified she was not allowed food or sleep, and was "in total shock," "afraid for herself" without "a friend in the world" during the experience.

Leis forced Riethmiller and her roommate, who has a very masculine appearance, to answer questions about their sexual orientation till he was forbidden to do so by the judge. It was obvious Riethmiller was actually the person on trial, as her lawyer observed. Yet there is no alternative in such a case but to allow the public prosecutor to handle the case.

The next time you hear a woman say that only men need to be involved with politics and in electing people sympathetic to equal treatment for gays in courtrooms, one might remind her of Stephanie Riethmiller. Meanwhile, a bill has been introduced in the Ohio legislature making legal the kidnapping of adults by their parents for deprogramming purposes. (*Gay Community News*, May 8, 1982, pp. 1, 6.)

NO ONE IS FREE
TILL ALL
ARE FREE

A CHANGE OF HART BY EDRA BOGLE

A number of events in 1982 show a major achievement in our struggle for gay rights: it is beginning to be socially unacceptable to oppose such rights.

The most widely-spread evidence of this attitude was shown in the publicity regarding Ronald Reagan's appointment of B. Sam Hart to the U. S. Civil Rights Commission. Publicity on the wire services and all major networks inevitably carried the comment that he was "against busing for school integration, equal rights for women, and civil rights for homosexuals." This is the first time that an appointment has been generally criticized because of opposition to gay rights.

Hart's statements, made on Philadelphia television and in the *Washington Post*, compared homosexuals to thieves, said we are "both immoral and sinful," and that "They have chosen a way of life." He felt his duty on the Commission would be "to bring America back to a more moral position." Such statements are typical of the small-time radio evangelist Hart is. Pennsylvania Republican Senator Arlen Spectre said he had never heard of Hart, and both he and Senator John Heinz opposed Hart's nomination.

There were many other reasons for opposition to Hart: a company he owned had defaulted on a Small Business Administration Loan, a radio station he owned owed \$4,400 in taxes, till last fall he hadn't registered to vote in twenty years, blacks disliked his opposition to busing, and women loudly protested his disregard for the Equal Rights Amendment and other guarantees of their rights. An added insult for women was that Jill Ruckelshaus, a former special assistant to President Ford and a moderate Republican, had been fired to make room for Hart's conservative vote. This would have given a conservative majority on the Commission, which is more advisory and policy-making than actually involved in enforcing civil rights provisions.

Now Hart has withdrawn his name, and again gay activists are getting some of the credit for this withdrawal, as they have for

recent votes in Austin, Houston, and elsewhere.

Another example of the new attitude was the "I Love Liberty" special produced by Norman Lear on network television in March. Six minorities told what they had done for America, and how their contributions went unrewarded. Gays were included, were represented in a serious and non-stereotypical manner, and the point was repeatedly made that no one knows most of the gay persons with whom they are actually acquainted. This is the first time such a point has been made in a program for a general audience in which we have been considered along with other abused groups.

Many other indications point toward the change. A radio commentator whose name I didn't catch was criticizing journalists for not giving the truth about minorities, and included homosexuals specifically among such minorities. The Wisconsin law designating homosexuals as a minority not to be discriminated against is the first such state-wide law, and indicates a new attitude among politicians. *Making Love, Personal Best, Victor/Victoria, Death Trap,* and *Partners* show the movies are changing. Among intellectuals, at the Modern Language Association convention in December, not a single voice in the Delegate Assembly opposed a resolution against Oklahoma's anti-gay school teacher law-- although earlier some of the same people who were silent had been maneuvering that the resolution should not be brought up.

Not long ago people accepted racial prejudice. It has not disappeared, but attitudes now make it unacceptable for most people to openly discriminate racially. Prejudice against gays has been accepted, even expected. Now that is beginning to change. We must do whatever we can to encourage this change, which will make it possible to live our lives without fear, and for those of us even in the most sensitive situations to speak for their own rights without fearing disclosure. (*No Name Newsletter*, March, 1982, pp. 1-2; Ellen Goodman, "GOP Right is Shooting Itself in the Foot," March 7, 1982, *Denton Record Chronicle* p. 11A; *Dialog*, February, 1982, pp. 1, 3.)

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION FORM

The TGTF Newsletter will appear eight times in 1982. Subscriptions are free with membership; however, non-members may subscribe or members may wish to give subscriptions to friends or libraries. It will always be mailed in a plain envelope. Please enclose a check for \$5.00 for each subscription, made out to TGTF. Mail to P. O. Box AK, Denton, TX 76201.

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NEWS NOTES

ARTS AND HOBBIES

FASSBINDER DIES: Rainer Werner Fassbinder, openly gay filmmaker, died of a probable overdose of drugs and alcohol in Munich this June. His 1978 *The Marriage of Maria Braun* is the best-known of his forty movies, which deal with power and individual corruption in contemporary society. (*Time*, June 21, 1982).

FIRST NORTH AMERICAN GAY MEN'S MUSIC FESTIVAL will be held in Minneapolis Sept. 3-5, 1982. Voices & Visions Productions, a gay men's collective there, will sponsor three days of music, workshops and community events. Tentative participants include Tom Wilson, who just released his second album; Charlie Murphy, Chris Tanner, David Sereda, and the Quinlan Sisters. Workshops on songwriting, performance and production, three mainstage concerts and two matinees are planned. Cost will be \$30 for registration before August 15; \$40 after that; for information and pre-registration write Voices & Visions Productions, P. O. Box 3549, Minneapolis, MN 55403. (*GLC Voice*, June 21, 1982, p. 7).

MATERIAL WANTED: An anthology of poetry, short stories, personal reminiscences, art work, photographs and essays on black and white men, especially emphasizing the gay black experience, is being compiled. It will be published by Gay Sunshine Press. Submissions (including SASE) should be sent to Black-White Anthology, 279 Collingwood, San Francisco, CA 94114. Deadline is October 1, 1982.

MEG CHRISTIAN AND CRIS WILLIAMSON AT CARNEGIE HALL: The two well-known lesbian musicians will be featured at a concert to be recorded live Friday, November 26, 1982, to honor Olivia Records' tenth anniversary. Tickets are available at \$12, \$17, \$20, \$25, and sponsor tickets at \$100 minimum. Two performances are planned, at 7 and 10 p.m. Mail order requests must be postmarked before November 1, and should be ordered from Olivia Records, 4400 Market St., Oakland, CA 94608, enclosing a SASE. (415-655-0364).

SEX SYMBOL PLAYED A GAY MAN? *Family Weekly's* "Ask Them Yourselves" column recently referred to Harry Hamlin, co-star of *Making Love* as being "hailed as the sex symbol of the 80's." We've come a long ways!

STAMP COLLECTORS, ATTENTION: A year-old San Francisco group is currently issuing special covers concerning gay events and persons; stamps available include those on Eleanor Roosevelt, Dag Hammarskjold, Willa Cather, Robert Indiana's "Love" stamp, and a 1981 Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade and Celebration cover for June 28, 1981.

The group intends to work toward more lesbians and gay men being honored by stamps, and toward gay interest in stamps. For information, write the Gertrude Stein Philatelic Society, Box 14551, San Francisco, CA 94114. (*Dialog*, May 1982, p. 2).

WAS CONAN'S DADDY A GAY TEXAN? Little did Robert E. Howard know, when he killed himself in 1936 because his mother had died and he could not bear to live without her, that in 1982 a movie featuring his most famous hero would be made with the top body-builder in the country as its star. Cross Plains, Texas, in the thirties was not a place to come out. There is no proof that Howard indeed was gay, but his life rather suggests it: his unmarried status, his apparent loneliness, his suicide, as well as his very masculine heroes. Therefore the movie *Conan the Barbarian*, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger, has an added interest beyond its picturesque heroes and heroine. The Conan series has recently been reissued in paperback; one might check fantasy sections for them. They are badly written and betray their original publication dates, but appeal to a taste for action, mixed-up mythology, good-triumphing-over-evil, and are replete with not-too-difficult exotic details of the "Hyborean Age," as well as sword-and-sorcery events which carry the reader along from chapter to chapter.

- BASIC INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP \$15/YEAR
- CONTRIBUTING MEMBER \$25/YEAR
- SUPPORTING MEMBER \$100/YEAR
- SUSTAINING MEMBER \$250/YEAR
- LOW INCOME MEMBERSHIP (INCOME UNDER \$5,000) \$5/YEAR
- ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBER \$25/YEAR
- I WISH TO BE A CONTRIBUTING FRIEND RATHER THAN A MEMBER.
- RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP NEW MEMBERSHIP NEW ADDRESS

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I am willing to have my name exchanged for mailing purposes with other Human Rights groups at the discretion of the TCTF Board. Minimum requirements for exchange will be confidentiality and plain envelopes.



A piano is a piano is a piano is a piano.

~GERTRUDE STEINWAY [JACK FREEDMAN]

MISCELLANEOUS

ABILENE MOTHER TO GIVE UP CHILDREN, SAVE LOVER: Joy Goble will give up not only custody but visitation rights to her 12-year-old son and 8-year-old daughter, after the children signed statements saying that her lover, Carol Cain, had sexually molested them. The women say that the father, Gary Cato of Snyder, had forced the children to lie, and offered the couple a choice between Joy never seeing the children again and Carol being prosecuted for a felony. (*The Advocate*, July 22, 1982, p. 15).

ANTI-GAY DALLAS CLERK FIRED: Recently the Dallas biweekly *Metro Times* was told of a stock clerk in the Gaston Avenue Tom Thumb who made "rude anti-gay comments" whenever he saw a particular customer. The publication called Charles Cullum and Dallas Mayor Jack Evans, officers of the company. Eventually Mayor Evans confirmed that the employee had been dismissed. (*Metro Times*, July 8, 1982, p. 7). See--you can be treated decently if you stand up for your rights--especially if your grocery has a politician for an officer and a branch unofficially but widely known as the "Mary Thumb."

FORT WORTH OPENS CENTER FOR THE COMMUNITY: In April a non-profit Christian service organization opened, sponsoring a series of Thursday night public programs, a telephone counseling and information service, individual and group counseling, and educational and recreational programs. The center's professional staff covers many fields. For information, write 2412 Lipscomb, Fort Worth 76110 (817-926-3521). Response from the Fort Worth community has been outstanding with fifty to 100 attending the Thursdays.

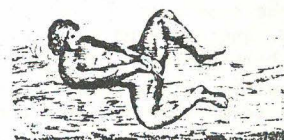
HOUSTON FEATURED: *The Advocate* for July 22, 1982, includes a major article on gay life in Houston, similar to its recent major article on Dallas gay life.

INTERNATIONAL LESBIAN/GAY YEAR? The International Association of Lesbian and Gay Women and Gay Men is pushing for 1983 to be a year in which everyone would cooperate to publicize gay rights, especially in international bodies such as the United Nations, European Council, and World Health Organization, which still considers homosexuality an illness. The IGA Conference met in Washington, DC July 11-18. For information, write IGA Action Secretariat, Rozenstraat 8, 1016 NX, Amsterdam, Netherlands. (*The Advocate*, April 15, 1982, p. 10).

THE 1982 MIDWEST LESBIAN-FEMINIST CONFERENCE will be held September 3-6 at a wooded campsite near Omaha. For information write the Lincoln Legion of Lesbians, P. O. Box 30137, Lincoln, NE.

THE MISSISSIPPI GAY ALLIANCE is now publishing a monthly newspaper for the gay community there, under the title of *This Month in Mississippi*. The June 1982 issue was in readable format and carried a good deal of state and national news. Former Mississippians might well want to keep in touch with them at P. O. Box 8342, Jackson, MS 39204; dues (apparently including the publication?) are \$10 per year.

NOTES FROM ABROAD: In Mexico City last December fifty people demonstrated against a restaurant chain that denied services to homosexual persons. The Movimiento Feminista di Roma has taken up the cause of two Sicilian women arrested for kissing in public and charged with "offences against public morality." The Swedish government has given a Brazilian lesbian right of sanctuary. She said that the status of women in Brazil forced her to leave. She is the first person known to have received refugee status on the grounds of homosexuality. A Norwegian open lesbian has been renominated by her party for four more years in the Norwegian Parliament; she has been active in support of gay issues. (*The Lesbian Insider*, April 1982, pp. 10-11).



The Art of Swimming, 1699.



OFF OUR BACKS, a feminist newsletter, has recently published special issues on women with disabilities, an international issue, and women and education. Issues are \$1.00 + 50¢ postage from oob, 1841 Columbia Road NW, #212, Washington, DC 20009. Subscriptions are \$14 a year contributing, \$8 regular, \$20 institutions. Although not exclusively lesbian, much lesbian-feminist information is included in each issue.

PARENTS AND FRIENDS OF LESBIANS AND GAY MEN: Four new chapters of this organization have recently joined: Chico, CA; Rochester, NY; Pensacola, FL; and Akron, OH. Persons wishing information about the nationwide group can contact P. O. Box 24565, Los Angeles, CA 90024. The first International Convention will be held from August 5 through 8 at the Sheraton-Town House in Los Angeles; May 1 was deadline date for registration. (*F&PLG Newsletter*, February 1982, p. 1).



The following was reprinted from
the Newsletter of DIGNITY/GLAD
Wyoming January 1982

(and this from the Newsletter of DIGNITY
/SAN ANTONIO, June 1982)

I am an enthusiastically heterosexual male. Is my heterosexuality a virtue? A sign of righteousness? Either an accomplishment or a victory of some kind on my part? Of course not. I had nothing whatsoever to do with my being heterosexual. It is a mysterious gift of God's grace communicated through an exceedingly complex set of chemical, biological, chromosomal, hormonal, environmental, developmental factors -- totally outside of my control. My heterosexuality is a gift -- neither a virtue nor a sin.

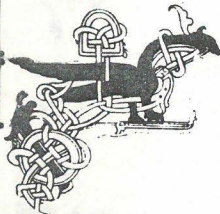
What I do with my heterosexuality, however, is my personal, moral, and spiritual responsibility. My behavior as a heterosexual may be, therefore, very sinful -- brutal, exploitive, selfish, promiscuous, superficial. My behavior as a heterosexual, on the other hand, may be beautiful -- tender, considerate, loyal, other-centered, profound.

Precisely the same distinction between being a homosexual and behaving as a homosexual applies to heterosexuals, unless you and I are to be guilty of that lowest blow of all, and that is to work by double standards.

Homosexuality, quite like heterosexuality, is neither a virtue nor an accomplishment. It is a mysterious gift of God's grace communicated through an exceedingly complex set of chemical biological, chromosomal, hormonal, environmental, developmental factors totally outside of my homosexual friend's control. His or her homosexuality is a gift -- neither a sin nor a virtue. What she/he does with their homosexuality, however, is their personal, moral, and spiritual responsibility.

Their behavior as a homosexual may, therefore, be very sinful -- brutal, exploitive, selfish, promiscuous, superficial. Their behavior as a homosexual, on the other hand, may be beautiful -- tender, considerate, loyal, other-centered, profound.

With this interpretation of the mystery that must be attributed to sexual orientation, both heterosexual and homosexual, I clearly do not believe that homosexuality is a sin.



Bishop Melvin Wheatley
United Methodist Church
October 12, 1981

RADIO SERVICES PROVIDED: Three half-hour programs, "Litany for Humanity," with fifty persons from a number of cities discussing their lives, was produced to "inform a general audience about the different treatment gay people face in their daily lives, at U.S. borders and in proposed federal legislation." The programs were funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and other sources and produced by CPB. Ask your local public radio station to obtain them from Western Public Radio, Fort Mason Center, San Francisco, CA 94123.

The National Gay Network, a news service covering hard news; theater, film and record reviews; and financial planning tips, has begun service. It may be dialed direct at 415-552-1312. Each broadcast also contains thirty seconds of commercial. The broadcasts are updated every other day unless a major news story develops. They have been so popular that three more phone lines were recently installed. Northern California FM radio station KRJB, in the Russian River area, has become the first affiliate of the NGN. (*The Advocate*, July 8, 1982, p. 10; *Dialog*, July 1982, p. 3).

WORTH QUOTING: Mrs. Sandra Kurjiaka, Arkansas state American Civil Liberties Union leader, speaking to a recent Gay Pride Week demonstration: "You should have protested sooner. Your silence speaks loudly. Through your silence you let them say that you are deviant and perverted." (*Jackson Daily News*, June 21, 1982, quoted in *This Month in Mississippi*, June 1982, p. 3).

WORTH QUOTING: "So many good and law-abiding citizens . . . including one Democrat and two former Republican Members of Congress, have admitted practicing homosexuality that it seems appropriate to me to end discrimination based on sexual orientation," said Republican Congressman Paul McCloskey in a letter to a constituent about his support of H. R. 1454. (*The Advocate*, June 10, 1982, p. 10). This statement seems particularly timely in view of recent accusations by a house page that he felt compelled to perform homosexual acts with more than one congressman in order to succeed as a page.

WOMEN'S ATHLETIC ARCHIVES AT TWU: The Texas Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women, active for fifteen year until eliminated on April 3 of this year, has presented its archives to Texas Woman's University's collection on the history of Texas women.

When the group started, there was little or no intercollegiate competition for women in athletics; rather each school might hold "play days" or sponsor intramurals. Recent developments in men's intercollegiate athletics and the decision of their group to include women's competition forced the death of both the Texas and national AIAW groups.

WOMANSIGHT, a newsletter for women from all over Texas, is looking for women interested in helping them with advertising sales, writing, photography, art work, and calendar information from other cities. Those interested should call 214-823-6423 or write them at P. O. Box 64974, Dallas, TX 75206.



BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL

ECONOMIC PRESSURE WORKS: Recently three discotheques in Aspen, Colorado, allowed same-sex dancing when several gay ski clubs from New Orleans and Los Angeles were in town. Though previously the operators had said they would ask such couples to leave, "I think the discos decided there were good business reasons," said Fred Kamm, local spokesperson. (*The Advocate*, April 15, 1982, p. 10).

GAY ACADEMIC UNION NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN CHICAGO OCTOBER 8-10: The first midwest meeting of the GAU will be held at the Conrad Hilton Hotel. Kathleen Hall of the University of Chicago and Gregory Sprague of Loyola University are Program Coordinators. A wide variety of papers have been solicited for the program, most of which will be read on Saturday, with an awards banquet that night. Friday includes registration and a reception, with caucus meetings. On Sunday the GAU business meeting will be held, and delegates from areas without chapters can confer about establishing new groups. The Chapter Starter Kit is currently undergoing much-needed revision. (*GAU Newsletter*, Spring 1982, pp. 1, 7).

GAY MARKET EXPO: Chicago will hold The Midwest Gay and Lesbian Convention, featuring over 300 products and services, on September 10-11. For more information write Box 95102, Schaumburg, IL 60195 (312-884-7023). Such meetings have previously been held in Los Angeles, San Francisco and Seattle. (*The Advocate*, June 10, 1982, p. 10).

JOB DISCRIMINATION SUIT: Pacific Telephone is being sued by Gay Law Students and Gay Rights Advocates for discriminating against gay employees. All such discrimination was ruled by California's Supreme Court in 1979 to be illegal. The class action suit seeks injunctive relief, compensatory and punitive damages, and attorneys' fees. Published employment policies used to exclude all gay persons, then "manifest homosexuals" in the grounds that such persons will "create conflicts with existing employees or the public we serve." Another document maintains such persons would be unwelcome to do telephone repairs in homes. Recently, however, the company has declared it no longer discriminates. (*National NOW Times*, June/July 1982, p. 9; . . . *into the Courts*, March 1982, p. 3).

LESBIAN AND GAY ASSOCIATED ENGINEERS AND SCIENTISTS placed an advertisement for itself in the May issue of *Scientific American*, a journal with two million readers. An earlier ad had been refused by *Science News*. The organization publishes a newsletter, sponsors a job referral service, and features social activities and lobbying. It is interested in organizing chapters around the country. For information write LGAES, Box 70133, Sunnyvale, CA 94086. (*The Advocate*, June 10, 1982, p. 10).

LESBIAN WINS SECURITY CLEARANCE: Betty B. Anderson, a GS-7 Pentagon secretary, wanted to advance but needed a higher security clearance to do so. She was told she must pass a psychiatric examination to see if she were an "ego-dystonic homosexual," an American Psychiatric Association classification for persons unhappy with their orientation. Dr. Robert L. Spitzer testified as a former APA president and Columbia University professor, and as creator of the term, that "the absence of ego-dystonic homosexuality is self-diagnostic and does not require the intervention or attestation of a psychiatrist" and that demands for Anderson to take such an examination were unwarranted. She received her clearance on April 28. (*The Advocate*, July 8, 1982, p. 10).

OPENLY GAY PROFESSOR CHOSEN: Dr. Edra Bogle, Associate Professor of English at North Texas State University, was elected in May to serve as Secretary of the Faculty Senate there. She has been "out" on campus for five years, has appeared in the campus paper and on local television on gay rights issues, and has been Co-Director of the Gay/Lesbian Association of Denton, which she is currently serving as Political Action Chair. Dr. James Tanner, also an Associate Professor of English at NTSU, and current Co-Director of GLAD, just completed a term as Secretary. Both report no discrimination or problems in being "out." Obviously on some campuses at least, such an action does not mean professional suicide, but rather both report evidence of admiration from heterosexual colleagues for being willing to stand up for one's rights and the rights of others.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR GAY/LESBIAN STUDENTS AVAILABLE: Any student currently enrolled or accepted as an undergraduate or graduate may apply for a scholarship of \$1000 from the Gay Academic Union. Twenty persons have received such grants since they were initiated in 1977. The potential of the student to make significant contributions in research, teaching, community service or artistic endeavor is assessed by the scholarship committee. Applications are due by October 15. For information write: GAU Scholarship Committee, P. O. Box 927, Los Angeles, CA 90028. (*GAU Newsletter*, Spring 1982, p. 2).

"TAPPING THE HOMOSEXUAL MARKET" was the title of a major article in the *New York Times Magazine* for May 2, 1982 (pp. 35-35, 74, 76, 78, 80-2, 84), reprinted in part or whole around the country, such as in the *Dallas Morning News* of that day (1F, 9F). Implications of the ability of male homosexuals to spend money should now be available to many small businesses who otherwise might not have considered the topic.

TRANSSEXUAL PILOT TO SUE: Karen Ulane, ne Keith, was ruled by U. S. District Judge John Grady to have the right to sue Eastern Airlines for not reinstating her as a pilot after her gender reassignment operation. Grady held that the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, applies; it is the first case in which a transsexual has won the right to sue. Ulane seeks reinstatement, lost wages and benefits, and \$4 million compensatory damages. (*Equal Time*, June 2, 1982, p. 2).

HEALTH

ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION at home without hassle or physician is discussed, and detailed information given in a recent publication, *Rocking the Cradle*, published by Alyson Publications, P. O. Box 2783, Boston, MA 02208. Cost is \$5.95 and 75¢ postage.

BLIND GAYS: The Lambda Resource Center for the Blind records books such as Don Clark's *Loving Someone Gay* and John Boswell's *Christianity, Social Tolerance and Homosexuality* for the blind, and issues a quarterly cassette magazine covering gay life in general. For information, write (in print, braille, or cassette) to LRC for the Blind, 3325 N. Sheffield, Chicago, IL 60657. (*No-Name Newsletter*, March 1982, p. 8).

DISABLED LESBIANS: Sarah M. Braak, 153 Ontario St., Albany, NY 12206, is planning a networking project for the 1982 Michigan Women's Music Festival, and would also like to hear from women (lesbians or not) about support services for disabled women (including alcoholics, drugs, fat, elderly, etc.) in various geographic areas for a guide and bibliography she is compiling. (*Matrices*, February 1982, p. 19).

ELDERLY LESBIANS: Dr. Monika Kehoe is studying the social, psychological, physical and economic conditions of lesbians over age sixty-five, an area in which hardly any previous research has been done. She particularly needs to contact more women from the south and midwest to fill out her questionnaire. She hopes this information may eventually lead to support systems such as at-home visiting for the incapacitated, information and referral services, meeting places, and escort services to hospitals or shopping centers. Elderly lesbians can write her at Center for Research and Education in Sexuality, SF State Univ., San Francisco, CA 94132. (*Matrices*, May 1982, p. 16).

HEPATITIS VACCINE RELEASED, MAY BE DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN: In July Merck, Suano and Dohme will begin providing a vaccine for hepatitis B, the effectiveness of which was demonstrated in a major study in 1980. Merck & Co. has given gay males a low priority, along with "prostitutes, drug addicts, and prisoners," to receive the vaccine, although they tested the vaccine and provided a large share of the antigens it needs. For instance, one Dallas company (NEI Blood and Plasma Center) is currently running an ad in gay publications offering free tests, with the possibility of \$2,600 payments if one has the right type of antibodies.

Probably 70% of gay males already have such antibodies, and another 10% are carriers of the disease even though they may never have exhibited any symptoms. The other 20% would profit by receiving the vaccine, which will probably prevent their getting the disease for life. The \$100 cost seems low when being a carrier has often been associated with liver cancer, cirrhosis of the liver, and prolonged weakness and disability--as well as being a menace to any potential sex partner. (Dr. John Whyte, "Hepatitis Vaccine Released" in *Equal Time*, June 16, 1982, p. 7; *Metro Times*, July 8, 1982, pp. 5-6).

HERPES NEWS: YOU CAN GET IT FROM TOILET SEATS AND TOWELS! The virus that causes herpes simplex has recently been demonstrated to live 1 1/2 to 4 hours on a dry surface and up to three days on cotton gauze similar to towels. Dr. Trudy Larson from UCLA has been investigating cases where several members of the same household get genital herpes, including some who have not been sexually active. The disease is presently incurable; twenty million persons are estimated to have it. Care should be taken to avoid using other people's towels, and general watchfulness used. Doctors should be sure examination instruments are sterilized (chlorine bleach or 70% alcohol is effective). (*Denton Record-Chronicle*, May 16, 1982, p. 2H.)

"REJECTING REJECTION" was a paper given by Houston therapist Travis Peterson at the Fourth National Lesbian and Gay Health Conference in Houston in June. He stressed that the success of treatment may depend on attitude as well as on physical factors, and that negative value judgments of gay patients may diminish the quality of health care they receive. However, the gay person, by refusing to play the role of rejectee, can avoid this.

Gay persons as well as heterosexuals are often homophobic, and may have even more trouble overcoming it; yet "the ultimate form of oppression is self-oppression . . . when the gay person has adopted and internalised people's definitions of what is good and bad." This self-oppression has a significant effect on one's health and on health care. (Jim Halloran, "Health Notes," *San Antonio Calendar*, June 18-July 1, 1982, p. 12).

IMMIGRATION

On April 23 Englishman Carl Hill won the right to enter the United States. "I've travelled through all of Europe and part of the Middle East, and it's only when I come to the land of the free that I have any trouble," Hill said. His "trouble" began on June 13, 1979, when he arrived in San Francisco to cover the Gay Freedom Day parade for the *London Gay News*, wearing a "gay pride" button. Having won his first case (details below) Hill again entered the country, this time in November 1980, when, in order to challenge the revised rules on immigration, he told officials that he was gay. He won again when they excluded him, but the immigration judge's ruling was overturned in July 1981 by the U. S. Board of Immigration Appeals, a three-member administrative agency in Washington.

Now U. S. District Judge Robert P. Aguilar, whose area is Northern California, has declared the appeals board incorrect; another appeal is expected from the Justice Department.

Meanwhile, Rep. Julian Dixon (D-CA) is sponsoring a special briefing for Congress on the problems foreign visitors who are homosexual have entering the country. It will feature medical experts dealing with out-dated ideas of homosexuality as illness, and experts in international law and immigration law history to suggest what Congress can do to reform the regulations.

A 1952 law excluded homosexuals as being mentally ill. In 1979 the surgeon general agreed to stop issuing medical certificates stating that gay persons are ill. The Justice Department then declared such certification unnecessary, and said immigration officials could decide who was gay. At first this led to a list of stereotypes for border guards to watch for, but eventually it was decided only those who declared themselves gay would be barred. Questions could be asked on evidence such as buttons, or if someone else entering declared the person to be gay. Now that has been struck down by Judge Aguilar.

Gay Rights Advocates, which handled the case, believes it to be a major victory. The only possible cloud (aside from the appeal is should the newly-conservative Department of Health and Human Services, or Surgeon General Everett Koop, again grant medical certification of the "illness" of gay immigrants. However, Rep. Henry Waxman (D-CA) has said that he "would hope that the INS and PHS would abide by this medical and legal judgement that healthy people should not be subjected to medical inquisitions." Waxman is chair of the Subcommittee on Health and the Environment. He went on to warn that "a return of politi-

cal psychiatry would be public malpractice." (*Gay Community News*, May 8, 1982, p. 1; *The Advocate*, June 18, 1982, p. 9; *San Francisco Examiner*, April 22, 1982, p. 1; *San Francisco Chronicle*, April 23, 1982, p. 2; Gay Rights Advocates, undated letter to members from Jean O'Leary, Executive Director.)

The Gay Rights Advocates, whose lawyers won this case, are instituting a major drive for sustaining members. They can be contacted at 540 Castro St., San Francisco, CA 94114.

MILITARY

ARMY MUST KEEP GAY SOLDIER--FOR A WHILE: Sgt. Perry Watkins, whose security clearance was revoked last year, has won the right to continue attending Army programs. District Judge Barbara Rothstein will rule in July as to whether he may reenlist in October, though a justice department lawyer has said Watkins will be rejected regardless of the outcome of the case.

Watkins was drafted fourteen years ago, told of his homosexuality but was accepted, and has been openly gay in the Army, acting as a female impersonator in German folk fairs while stationed abroad.

The American Civil Liberties Union lawyer handling his case asked that army rule 635-200, chapter 15, be declared unconstitutional. The rule says flatly that "homosexuality is incompatible with military service" and was added after Leonard Matlovich won his case, based on the older chapter 13, which allowed job performance to be considered. (*GLC Voice*, June 7, 1982, p. 2; *The Advocate*, July 8, 1982, p. 10).

LESBIAN MILITARY CASE IN SAN ANTONIO: U. S. District Judge H. F. Garcia has held hearings on a government motion to dismiss the suit of Sylvia Pedraza for reinstatement in the Army. He enlistment was voided in 1979 on the grounds she had lied on her application about whether she had ever committed a homosexual act. The judge, considered a liberal, now has the case under consideration. It is one of roughly a dozen cases on the rights of gays and lesbians in the military services currently pending in federal civilian and military appeals courts. (*Dallas Times-Herald*, May 11, 1982, pp. 1, 7).

POLICE

The CHICAGO Police Training Academy regularly provides fifty-minute sessions on understanding gay persons to its recruits. Now gay instructors will present five or ten minute presentations to officers in six predominantly gay precincts, the first time members of the gay community have spoken directly to rank-and-file officers. (*Equal Time*, June 16, 1982, p. 2, from *Gay Life*.)

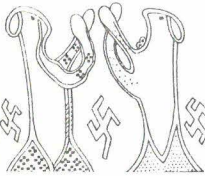
A MINNEAPOLIS jury on May 20 found two gay men innocent of all wrong-doing, after the police had brought a suit against them for assaulting a supposed victim who was not called on to testify; for fighting gay-bashers whom everyone agreed had first attacked them, yet were never arrested; and for interfering with the work of police officers. As a Minnesota gay paper wrote:

The details of the case are stereotypical. Gaybashers attack peaceable gays. Police arrive on the scene. Gaybashers exit. Gays get charged.

Yet the outcome was not stereotypical: the jury of two men, four women, found the gays not at fault. One juror, after looking at pictures of one of the men with blood all over his face, explained she had told the others that they, too, would have come to the aid of someone they loved (the two were lovers.) Two jurors later explained they "know how the police will stick together on a story when they need to." At first the police chief said he would not consider action against the officers involved in the case, but under later pressure is reconsidering. (*The GLC Voice*, June 7, 1982, p. 1).

"If only, then, a city or an army could be composed of none but lover and beloved, how could they deserve better of their country than by shunning all that is base, in mutual emulation? And people like these fighting shoulder to shoulder, few as they were, might conquer—I had almost said—the whole world in arms. For the lover would rather anyone than his beloved should see him leave the ranks or throw away his arms in flight—nay, he would sooner die a thousand deaths. Nor is there any lover so faint of heart that he could desert his beloved or fail to help him in the hour of peril, for the very presence of Love kindles the same flame of valor in the faintest heart that burns in those whose courage is innate. And so, when Homer writes that some god 'breathed might' into one of his heroes, we may take it that this is what the power of Love effects in the hearts of the lover."

Symposium, Plato



TUCSON, ARIZONA Deputy Police Chief Thomas Nichols has said that his department will "hire homosexuals as police officers," but that it is not hiring anyone at present. Nichols had been approached on the subject by George Tomlins of the Political Action Committee of Tucson, who hopes that gay police from other cities, who as experienced officers might get preferential treatment, will apply. Although homosexual acts are illegal in Arizona, Tucson has an ordinance barring discrimination on grounds of sexual or affectional preference in employment, housing, and public accommodations. (*The Advocate*, July 22, 1982, p. 16).

POLITICS

FAMILY PROTECTION ACT UPDATE: Though there has been no further action on this bill (H.R. 3955 and S.1378) in congress, some parts have been introduced as separate legislation. A new version, updated to fit tax law changes made in the tax cut bill of last year, is expected soon. (*Texas Women's Political Times*, Summer 1982, p. 6).

JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS TO BE SCREENED FOR ANTI-GAY RECORDS: The National Gay Task Force has recently developed a program to help avoid the appointment (usually for life) of homophobic judges. When a judicial appointment is announced, local lawyers will investigate his or her record on gay rights and general attitude toward homosexuality. Volunteers for this are needed from around the country.

If anti-gay bias is discovered, various support groups, including Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund (New York), Gay Rights Advocates (San Francisco), Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (Boston), and Gay Rights National Lobby, will work politically, with civil-rights groups, with the media, and with direct protests to the White House and Senate.

For more information or to offer assistance, write Mel Boozer, 1304 4th St., SW, Washington DC 20024 (202-484-6235). (*NGTF Task Force Report*, March/April 1982, p. 1).

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA, VOTES AGAINST GAY RIGHTS: On May 11 Lincoln voters defeated a charter amendment extending civil rights protections by a 78%-22% vote. Although one local paper supported the amendment and another took no stand, and local radio and cable TV gave it much publicity, ignorant and homophobic statements were rampant. Cheryl Long of the Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights was pleased at the "tremendous visibility" they received, and felt it "a very positive experience." (*The Advocate*, May 21, 1982, pp. 11-12). Rhetoric--and experience--teaches that it is much more difficult to change someone's mind on a subject already decided about than on something never really thought about. To undertake such a vote without a long-term educational program and an assessment of the attitudes of one's community is to court such a disastrous vote as that in Lincoln. It does not seem a good way to get visibility, since it will probably make any such vote in the future much harder to win, and crystallize attitudes which need not have been negative had more care been taken to educate the community. Austin and Houston had done so before their recent successes; let us hope that any Texas cities which might consider such action will also do much preliminary work before considering taking any such measures to the voters.--ecb.



PRIMARY RESULTS: Candidates in the May 1 primary election endorsed by the Lesbian/Gay Democrats who won either that vote or the later run-off or whose opponents withdrew include Bob Bullock for Comptroller, Jim Hightower for Agriculture Commissioner, Gary Mauro for Land Commissioner, and Ann Richards for State Treasurer.

REPUBLICAN FUNDING: The Republican Party's National Campaign Chair, Rick Shelby, is working toward 225 industry political action committees making the maximum contribution of \$5,000 to forty targeted House races. This would gross more than a million dollars for each of those races. In the last election only two candidates for the House spent that much; only thirty-three spent half of it. (*Common Cause*, June 1982, p. 11). Unfortunately, the economic conservatism which leads to such funding is usually tied in with opposition to gay and women's rights and the rights of other minorities. See Frank Rossiter's article in the November 1981 *TGTF News*.

TOPNOTCH POLITICIANS ATTEND GAY POLITICAL ACTION DINNER: The Municipal Elections Committee of Los Angeles (MECLA) in April hosted a \$150-a-plate fund-raising dinner with Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D-MA) as keynote speaker. Governor Jerry Brown, Mayor Tom Bradley and the entire Los Angeles City Council, Republican Senatorial candidate Rep. Pete McCloskey, Supervisor Harry Britt of San Francisco, Tom Hayden, Wisconsin's David Clarenbach who sponsored that state's gay rights bill, Gore Vidal, and many other political figures were among the 1,000 attendees. *Making Love* won the group's first annual Communications Award. The evening ended with dancing and a number of private receptions. (*The Advocate*, June 10, 1982, p. 9).

RELIGION



CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP ADDRESSES DIGNITY MTG.: In December, Archbishop John May of the Archdiocese of St. Louis spoke to a vesper service held by the St. Louis chapter of Dignity, thus becoming the fifth U. S. bishop to meet with a gay organization.

He stressed the injustice of denying basic human rights to any group of people, such as lesbians and gay men, and acknowledged that the sexual orientation of such persons is not "to be considered in any sense sinful." Although he called for chastity, hearers did not interpret this in context as a call for celibacy. (*Dignity/San Antonio Newsletter*, July 1982, p. 1).

LESBIAN FORMER NUNS: Rosemary Curb and Nancy Manahan, former nuns themselves, are collecting material about convent life, coming out, spiritual consciousness, etc. They will accept tapes as well as written material. Curb's address is Rollins College, Winter Park, FL 32789; Manahan's 1066 Terrace Drive, Napa, CA 94558. Deadline is October 31, 1982.

MCC TO RELEASE TV SHOW: A Canadian firm has produced "God, Gays and the Gospel: This is Our Story," an hour-long film to appear on fifteen television stations initially in April, 1983, and then to be released for other local stations. Sponsored by the Metropolitan Community Church, the film features musicians from Dallas and Fort Worth. (*Metro Times*, July 8, 1982, p. 4).

METHODISTS ELECT GAY ACTIVIST, DISMISS CHARGES AGAINST BISHOP: The Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church has named Troy Stokes of Austin to the Board of Church and Society of the group. Stokes was co-founder of both the Austin and San Antonio

TEXAS GAY/LESBIAN CONFERENCE NINE -- A SHARED EXISTENCE

TENTATIVE LIST OF WORKSHOPS: SEPTEMBER 3-5, 1982, AGNES ARNOLD HALL, UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON, FEATURING HARRY BRITT AND LUCIA VALESKA

- Gay Power--Harry Britt
- Coalition Politics--Debra Danburg
- Civil Disobedience--Ray Hill
- Texas Gay History--Ray Hill
- How to Feel Good About Ourselves as Gay Persons--Cris Halstead, Psychotherapist
- Houston Women Take Back the Night
- Effects of Right-Wing Political Involvement
- Women Starting in Business
- Transpersons
- The Gay and Non-Gay Communities Relate
- Being Handicapped and Gay
- Gay Men & Lesbians Understanding Each Other
- How Ethnic Minorities and Caucasians Can Better Relate to Each Other
- Gay and Non-Gay Together

- ___ Enclosed is my \$15 Pre-Registration for the Conference (not including Saturday night entertainment). (Registration is \$20 that weekend)
- ___ Enclosed is my check for \$25, covering both the Conference and my yearly membership to TGTF
- ___ Enclosed is my \$5.00 for the Saturday night entertainment
- ___ Enclosed is my contribution of \$ _____ for the Conference
- ___ Please send information on Hotels/Motels available & cost

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Phone Number _____

MAIL THIS FORM TO: TGTF, P. O. Box 66282, Houston, TX 77266 Advance Registration will be Appreciated

gay phone services, and has been involved in church and gay politics since 1971, when the issue was raised in Methodist circles because pastor Gene Leggett was dismissed from a Travis Park church after it had hired a private detective to tail him. Persons wishing to contact Stokes about church matters may call him at 512-472-3784.

Bishop Melvin E. Wheatley, Jr., of Denver has been cleared of charges of "disseminating false doctrine" and "undermining the authority of the Holy Scripture" brought against him by the board of a Dallas church and members in Boulder and southern Georgia. The Western Jurisdiction Committee on Investigation said it found no validity in the accusations.

Wheatley had appointed Rev. Julian Rush, who had been serving another church and was not reappointed there when he announced his homosexuality, to a Denver church position. Rush now plans to leave the ministry, return to school, and become a counselor.

The United Methodist Church in 1972 passed a statement calling homosexuals "individuals of sacred worth" whose rights should be ensured, but that "we do not condone the practice of homosexuality and consider this practice incompatible with Christian teaching." (San Antonio *Calendar*, June 18/July 1, 1982, p. 19; *The Advocate*, July 8, 1982, p. 9). A statement by Bishop Wheatley stating his belief that "homosexuality is not a sin" is reprinted on page 8 of this issue.

POSTPONE NCC DECISION ON MCC: The Governing Board of the National Council of Churches has decided to wait till next May to decide whether to extend membership to the Metropolitan Community Church; they will study the issue during this time. Reverend Troy Perry of the MCC predicted recently that membership will not be extended. (*National NOW Times*, June/July 1982, p. 9).

TGTF UPDATE

The Board of the Texas Gay Task Force will meet in Dallas shortly after this issue goes to press. Members in the North Texas area have received invitations to the meeting, which will be held at the Metropolitan Community Church in Dallas, and to a fund-raising barbecue dinner Saturday evening at the home of Jere Hinckley. People active in many other organizations--political, religious, social, educational, athletic, etc.--have been invited also, from Fort Worth and Denton as well as from Dallas. We hope to issue a directory of those who attend so we can stay in touch for speakers, referrals, and general networking, as well as for entertainment.

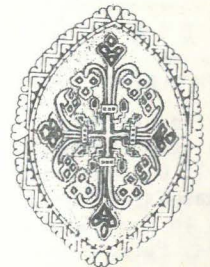
We would like to thank all those who attend and particularly to thank some of the workers: Charles Adler, who is doing the barbecue; Ray Hesse, acting as bartender; and Kendra Holt, who will provide live music.

TGTF was represented in the Dallas Gay Pride parade by a truck lent and decorated by Jere Hinckley and featuring some of his local friends, as well as Bob Palmer from Houston. A booth shared with the Gay Academic Union at the crafts fair sold buttons, shirts, and literature, and distributed free material both weekends. We would like to thank those who staffed it, too. An entry in the Houston Gay Pride Parade was also planned.

The next issue of *TGTF News* will appear in late August, as soon after the Dallas leadership conference as it can be printed. It will contain last-minute news of just what will happen at our own Texas conference, as well as news from the national leaders.

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The publication would like a new, distinctive name that would reflect its nature not only as a means of disseminating news about the Texas Gay Task Force but about the Texas gay and lesbian community in general, and in carrying articles which reflect on topics relevant to gay/lesbian life. A competition to select such a name (with prizes) will be announced in the next issue. Start thinking now!