

Texas Bay Area Gays

NEWS LETTER

VOLUME IV, NUMBER 1

JANUARY 1982

F.B.'S FABRICATIONS

December was unofficially designated TBAG party month due to the arrival of the holidays. The festivities began early in the month with the first social meeting held at my apartment - complete with Christmas tree and various decorations. No stove damage was discovered this time, however, so I guess last month's threat worked.

Well, a lot of people thought it would never happen, but Chris finally hosted a meeting. It was not just any meeting however, but was the Christmas gift exchange held on December 17th. Great quantities of food disappeared from the beautifully arrayed table. Many very surprised and happy expressions appeared on various TBAGgers' faces as they opened their gifts during the exchange. Many old and new friends showed up and helped to make the evening a delightful success. Special thanks are in order for Chris and Greg who were such wonderful hosts.

Christmas rapidly approached, and before you could sing "Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer" backwards, it was time to cook the turkey and mix up the eggnog. Erwin hosted a four day open house starting on Christmas eve and lasting through the weekend. Food and fun were everywhere, and those of us who were in town over Christmas found ourselves savoring turkey and goodies while pondering the mental intricacies of "Clue" and "Scrabble". Was it Miss Scarlet in the study with the rope, or perhaps Erwin in the bedroom with the candlestick?

Not only did Christmas eve fall on a Thursday night, but New Years Eve also coincided with a regular social meeting becoming the TBAG New Years Eve party. Rohn prepared an immense buffet, and we wiled the hours away until midnight with delicious and tastefully arranged delicacies. At midnight, the champagne was opened and was merrily tossed down our gullets. Mikie (Jerry's "younger" brother) took over the job of DJ and added aural pleasures to the evening as well.

The business meeting on January 7th featured films of Gay Pride Week by Larry B. Those of us who were present at the festivities in June relived events including the band concert, softball game, and of course the parade. Those of us who have yet to experience a Gay Pride Week were given an exciting preview of what to expect this summer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- January 26th: I Changed My Sex & The Christine Jorgenson Story will be shown at 7:30pm at the River Oaks theatre (\$1 off the regular admission charge for cross-dressers)
- February 1st: Pier Paolo Pasolini's Salo, 7:15pm & 9:30pm at the River Oaks theatre (Pasolini's last film, completed shortly before his brutal murder by a "straight" hustler)
- February 17th: Those old standbys: The Ritz & Boys in the Band, 7:30pm at the River Oaks theatre

The TBAG third anniversary/birthday party will be held at the League City Civic Center on January 28th, 1982 at 7:30pm. Everyone is invited and guests are encouraged. Please contact Jim (F.B.) to lend a hand, or for more information.

The February business meeting will be held on Thursday, February 4th at the League City Civic Center. Elections for new officers will be held at this meeting, and those elected will take their office at the March business meeting. If you know anyone desiring to help TBAG by becoming an officer, please contact Donn as soon as possible. WE NEED A GOOD TURNOUT TO ENSURE SUCCESSFUL ELECTIONS - COME IF YOU CAN !!!!!!! Also, if possible, please bring an item of food or drink. Refreshments will be served at 7:30pm, and the meeting will begin at 8:00.

Attached you will find a copy of the TBAG budget for 1982. This budget can be met ONLY WITH YOUR SUPPORT. Dues are voluntary and are only \$30 per year (\$2.50/month). We can support many organizations and make our voice heard in the gay community with the support of our members. Help us meet these goals in 1982.

Texas Bay Area Gays

BUDGET 1982

DEBITS

Internal

Civic Center Rental (13 meetings)	\$260
Business cards	25
Pamphlets	50
Newsletter (Postage, Xeroxing, etc.)	100

Organizations

NGTF (National Gay Task Force)	\$ 30
GRNL (Gay Rights National Lobby)	50
IGLA (International Gay/Lesbian Association)	50
TGTF (Texas Gay Task Force)	50
HGPC (Houston Gay Political Caucus)	15

TOTAL	\$630

ASSETS

Carryover from 1981 treasury	\$300
Dues estimation for 1982 (\$30/year X 13)	390

TOTAL	\$690

Note: No provisions have been made for any special expenditures which will inevitably arise. Dues are voluntary and are only \$30 per year (\$2.50/month). This small assessment (much less than an average night out on the town per month) will enable TBAG to make its voice heard in the gay community and support many worthwhile organizations.

WITH YOUR HELP

Texas Bay Area Gays

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME IV, NUMBER 2

FEBRUARY/MARCH 1982

F.B.'S FABRICATIONS

TBAG's third anniversary party was held on January 28th at the League City Civic Center. It was a tremendous success with about 50 people in attendance, most of whom were newcomers. All of my worrying about not having enough food was wasted effort. People came through, and we found ourselves with enough food for three more anniversary parties. Everyone was treated to a great quantity and variety of choice goodies including a delicious birthday cake.

A quick rundown of the Jan-Feb social meetings: Jan 14 hosted by Doug W. at Erwin's, Jan 21 - Doug T., Feb 11 hosted by Peter at Erwin's, Feb 18 - hosted by Rom at Erwin's, and Feb 25 - Donn at the luxurious Camino South party room.

The River Oaks Theater presented some interesting gay oriented films in January & February which played to good sized crowds. On January 26 a double bill of The Christine Jorgensen Story and I Changed My Sex was offered with a \$1 discount given to cross-dressers. Christine was an unintentionally humorous piece of Hollywood trash that met with good humored cheers and shouts when George/Christine finally made it with the man of his/her dreams (in a rustic mountain home in front of a roaring fire, no less). I Changed My Sex (made in 1952!) dealt with transvestites as well as transexuals, and tried to elicit sympathy for their "plights" - but the lack of talent involved and the unbelievably cheap production values (the budget couldn't have been more than \$1.98)

made this film hysterical. The climax of the movie showed a transvestite (Glen/Glenda) and his fiancée confronting the problem. She decides to save their engagement by letting him wear her pink cashmere sweater which he has been drooling over all through the film. It's being billed as the Reefer Madness of the 80's and it's easy to see why. The whole film looks like the director was running a fever of 105 during the production. It's easily twice as funny as a good segment of Saturday Night Live.

On February 1, the curious, interested, or in some cases, unwarned filmgoers of Houston were presented with Pier Paolo Pasolini's Salò. The film was completed shortly before the director was brutally murdered by an 18 year old hustler who later claimed to be straight. The boy was acquitted and practically made a hero by the Italian Right Wing fanatics. The film itself is disturbing - extremely graphic in its depiction of sex, violence, and every combination thereof, Salò caused many viewers to abruptly walk out in disgust. While definitely not for all tastes, Salò is a very serious film which deals with the uses and abuses of power and oppression and with the way minds twisted with power can degrade everything, no matter how pure and uncorrupt. Several times during the film I had to look away, but on the whole it was a fascinating and very disturbing experience.

Not everything last month was quite so serious, though. The Kon Tiki in Galveston has opened their upstairs bar, and it's definitely worth a look. Complete with carpeting, a mirrored bar, juke box, and a TV room with giant screen TV, the KT upstairs is a pleasant departure from the usual bar offerings in Galveston. If Houston is beginning to bore you - check it out.

Plans for another picnic and for a garage sale were discussed at the March business meeting. The picnic is scheduled for Sunday March 21 at 1:00pm at Clear Lake Park on Nasa Road 1. Charcoal, lighter fluid, napkins, plates, and utensils will be supplied - everyone should make their own arrangements for food and drink. The garage sale is tentatively scheduled for the first Saturday and Sunday in May at Erwin's. Please start rummaging around for items to donate NOW and bring them to Erwin's house as soon as possible.

More entertainment notes: ✓ Stages in Houston will be presenting the play, Bent (dealing with the treatment of gay people in Nazi concentration camps) from March 11 to April 17. We would like to get a group together to attend - please contact F.B. if you are interested. Ticket prices range from \$5.75 to \$7.50. ✓ If you haven't seen Making Love yet - what are you waiting for? ✓ Coming soon to a theater near you is Personal Best (a story of two female track stars and their love affair) and Taxi Zum Klo (a West German film about gay life that has taken Europe and America by storm). ✓ On March 30, bring fans and ice cubes to the River Oaks because you'll need something to cool you off after you see Erotikus: A History of the Gay Male Cinema. ✓ The evening of March 21, ABC will present a special by the People for the American Way called "I Love Freedom". Be sure to tune in to hear what this anti-Moral Majority group has to say.

Next month's business meeting will be held on April 1 at the League City Civic Center (with business beginning a bit earlier) featuring Ray Hill, "the grandfather of gay activism" as guest speaker. Ray always has something interesting to say - so be sure to come early.



Texas Bay Area Gays

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME IV, NUMBER 3

APRIL/MAY/JUNE 1982

F.B.'S FABRICATIONS

March's social meetings began in the cozy comfort of Doug T's apartment on the 11th. Close to thirty people packed in, making socializing mandatory and fun. As usual, the kitchen remained "the" place to be. It never ceases to amaze me that narrow kitchens always seem to be the social focus of Thursday night meetings. Who knows - perhaps someone will decide the kitchen too large and everyone will chatter away in the bathroom.

Birthdays are always exciting and happy, and Erwin's was no exception. It just happens that Mother's B.D. fell on a Thursday night (March 18th - how did he arrange that). Even though he remained seemingly oblivious to the fact throughout the week (and the winner for best maintained appearance of disinterest is ...), several TBAGgers were busily preparing a small celebration in his honor. Mike and Garry hosted the affair, and even though the hitchhikers got away I think Erwin had a good time (he certainly gobbled up the cake fast enough). Mike and Garry took particular relish in explaining the various ghosts rumored to be haunting the house. Needless to say, I frequented the well-lighted and populated chambers.

The first picnic of the year was held at Clear Lake Park on March 21. The turnout was large, the food plentiful, and the fun without end (so much so that several people requested a picnic every month!). Erwin was crowned Homecoming Queen while the Society for Creative

Anachronism jousting nearby (I'm not making this up). Volleyball prevailed until Bonnie and several others organized a real softball game (which I got pictures of), and most everyone dragged their tired, sun-soaked bodies home around dusk.

On the next Thursday - March 25th - Hal and Doug hosted the meeting at their condo near Clear Lake. It was a very pleasant affair.

The April business meeting featured Ray Hill as the speaker and I would venture to say that he was one of the finer speakers we've seen in quite a while. Ray spoke on the needs of suburban gay communities and answered questions before being rushed back to Houston in time for the Wilde 'n Stein show on KPFT. Many thanks to Doug T. for organizing the program and for shuttling Ray back and forth.

The big event of April occurred on the 3rd when 25 TBAGgers descended on Stages in Houston for a performance of Bent. The play was a riveting experience and one that everyone seemed to appreciate. Perhaps the only disappointment of the evening was being caught off guard by the long-awaited nude scene (which I used as a hook to make sure people turned out for the play). No one seems to be able to remember exactly what he looked like. All kidding aside, I doubt that anyone left the theater unaffected by the tragedy and hope presented on stage.

April social meetings included: Apr 8th hosted by Mike P., Apr 15th by Chris, Apr 22 by John & Mike, and Apr 29th by Tim & David - all festive occasions.

Hal and Doug entertained TBAGgers at their beautiful Houston home on April 17th, coinciding with the Westheimer Arts Festival. The day-long festivities included swimming and volleyball in the pool, billiards, dancing, movies (what movies!), and delicious food expertly prepared by Brian & Doug. A wonderful time was had by all, many thanks to Hal and Doug for being such gracious hosts.

April's picnic was held on the 25th at Clear Lake Park and drew a sizeable turnout. Marathon volleyball and canasta games kept many entertained while various fleshy morsels sizzled on the barbeque grills.

Reports are circulating about an April boating catastrophe. The incident is perhaps better left undiscussed - except to say that emergency flares were in use, and half the Bay Area U.S. Coast Guard was summoned. Fortunately, no one was injured - save for some embarrassment. See Hal, Doug, Jerry, Chris, Doug S., Brian, or Russ for the gorey details.

The TBAG garage sale scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, May 8 & 9 was a moderate success mostly because Erwin voluntarily extended it through Tuesday selling as much on those days as on the weekend (\$155 was the final count). More participation and donations will be necessary to ensure future garage sales are more successful.

The first social meeting of May was on the 13th at Jeff K.'s in Dickinson, and unfortunately I was unable to attend. All reports indicated that it was a splendid affair.

May 20th - at Paul & Terry's - was the first social meeting of that month I did attend. It turned out to be an evening dominated by a superbly wicked punch (leaving some unable to stand up properly), good company, and great con queso! P & T's ever popular dog, Thayer, made numerous guest appearances and was probably wondering why all these people were making fools of themselves in his apartment.

The first annual TBAG swim party/mud wrestling competition/picnic was observed on Sunday, May 23rd. Despite the inclement weather and swamp-like surroundings, several unbending souls braved everything to enjoy a wet weenie or two. Yours truly stayed briefly but gave up after the first downpour. Of course everyone told me it was wonderful after that - but I'm not sure if they're telling the truth or just trying to make me feel bad.

For the final social meeting on May 27th, Donn graciously furnished the Camino South club room for our enjoyment. In between admiring the plush surroundings and avoiding the rather persistent roaches, everyone had plenty of time for socializing with old and new friends. A large turnout was not anticipated, but the host (and everyone else) was pleasantly surprised by the size of the crowd.

The business meeting on June 3rd featured psychotherapist Neill Scott speaking on the subject of starting and maintaining love relationships. It was an enjoyable and extremely informative talk. I'm sure everyone related to at least some aspects of the discussion and saw a little of themselves in Neill's description

of the different types of victims. So - are you a type I or a type II?

Coming up in the month of June is (of course) Gay Pride Week. TBAG is tentatively going to be represented by a float or vehicle in the parade, and we will also be helping out at the rally at Spott's Park on Sunday, June 27th. From June 17th to the 27th there will be numerous programs, parties, and festivities. Check one of the posters up all over Houston, or talk to Donn for more information. Don't forget to buy your Gay Pride Week T-shirt!

Next month's business meeting will be held on July 1st at the League City Civic Center featuring Chris Downs of UH/CLC. The topic for the evening will be "Sexual Development". Please bring an item of food or drink to contribute. Refreshments will be served at 7:30pm, and the meeting will begin at 8:00.

★ Film Notes ★

April 26th the River Oaks presented the film Sunday, Bloody Sunday. When this film premiered in 1974, people were supposed to be horrified by the sight of two men passionately french kissing. The film starring Glenda Jackson, Peter Finch, and Murray Head - dealt sensitively and positively with the predicament of a man and a woman sharing the affections of a young man.

The next night at the River Oaks was Raines Werner Fassbinder's study of a confused and mistreated transsexual, In A Year Of Thirteen Moons and his only film in English - Despair. Moons was a disturbing

look at a man who - out of a misplaced affection for a co-worker becomes a woman only to encounter humiliation and depression leading to suicide. While it may not sound like a particularly positive or light-hearted film, it was not without a great deal of humor and political insight. Society and individual selfishness were to blame for the main character's plight - not any psychological problem inherent in his transexualism. This was a definite "must see" for anyone enjoying serious and unusual films.

On June 11th, River Oaks presented a second chance to see I Changed My Sex (Glen or Glenda?). It's probably the craziest, funniest, and most ludicrous look at transexuality ever to grace the motion picture screen. It was made in 1952 or so, stars Bela Lugosi, and is supposed to be serious! This film was well worth seeing, especially since it showed with the only all midget western ever made, The Terror of Tiny Town and what is considered to be the world's worst film, Plan 9 From Outer Space.

Those in the mood for homophobia got two "I'm not lesbian" scenes for the price of one at River Oaks on June 17th. First, Rich and Famous in which Jacqueline Bisset was worried middle America might think she and Candice Bergen were lesbians because they kissed each other. She asked that the line "I'm not a lesbian, but I love you" be added to the script to set things straight. Then, Jane Fonda punched Meryl Streep's obnoxious brother when he insinuated that Jane and Vanessa Redgrave were "that way" in Julia.

June 29th marks the return of You Are Not Alone to the River Oaks. This film really shouldn't be missed. It's a heart warming and

erotic look at a Danish boy's school and a love affair between two of the students. At the last showing the theater was packed to the rafters with very pleased patrons, and there's every indication that this month's showing will be equally attended. Also playing that night is A Very Natural Thing, the first feature film about homosexuality for and by homosexuals. It's a classic, very much worth viewing.



TEXAS BAY AREA GAYS

BYLAWS

(FEBRUARY, 1982)

ARTICLE I

Name, Purposes, and Goals

Section A. This non-profit organization shall be known as the Texas Bay Area Gays, with BAG or TBAG as acceptable common usage.

Section B. The purposes of TBAG are:

1. To offer a place for men and women of the Galveston Bay area to openly meet and work together as gays.
2. To work actively with other gay organizations
3. To work actively with other Galveston Bay area organizations.

Section C. Future goals of TBAG are:

1. Establishment of a Galveston Bay area activity center for gays.
2. Establishment of a Galveston Bay area counseling service for gays.
3. Establishment of a Galveston Bay area referral service for business and professional needs of gays.

ARTICLE II

Officers

Section A. Officers of TBAG shall consist of:

1. A chairperson
2. A vice-chairperson
3. A secretary
4. A treasurer
5. A parliamentarian

Section B. Election and appointment of officers:

1. All officers shall be elected every six months at the business meeting by a majority vote of the active members present. The new officers will then take over their office at the business meeting of the following month for a six month term.

Section C. Duties of officers:

1. The chairperson shall:
 - a. preside at all business meetings,
 - b. be the official representative of the organization

2. The vice-chairperson shall:
 - a. perform all duties of the chairperson in his or her absence,
 - b. assist other officers and committees in the performance of their duties as deemed necessary.
3. The secretary shall:
 - a. record and keep the minutes of all meetings and perform such other duties as the office may require,
 - b. maintain and safely keep membership lists,
 - c. assist in the preparation of the monthly newsletter
4. The treasurer shall:
 - a. receive and safely keep all funds of the organization and other items of value,
 - b. make all approved disbursements,
 - c. make a report of receivables, disbursements, and balances at each business meeting.
5. The parliamentarian shall ensure that parliamentary procedure is followed at all business meetings.

ARTICLE III

Membership

Section A. TBAG membership shall be open to anyone interested in supporting the goals and purposes of this organization.

Section B. Membership shall consist of the following types:

1. Active Member - anyone who openly works for and participates in the organization's activities.
2. Supporting Member - anyone who works for and/or participates in the organization's activities, but does not wish to do so openly.
3. Contributing Member - an Active or Supporting Member whose payment of dues is current as of a particular business meeting. Only contributing members shall be permitted to vote on financial motions, including any finance-related changes to the organization bylaws.
4. Guest Member - anyone who wishes to attend a meeting but is not yet committed to the organization.

Section C. Membership lists shall consist of the following types:

1. Open - open to all members of TBAG to facilitate social and committee activities. This list contains the names, addresses, and phone numbers of all active members.
2. Closed - open only to officers of TBAG and contains the names, addresses, and phone numbers of all supporting members.

3. Newsletter - open to officers and internal activities committee to facilitate mailing of the newsletter. This list contains the names and addresses of all recipients of the newsletter.

ARTICLE IV

Finances

- Section A. So that TBAG can have a continuous and dependable source of income, the finance committee will prepare an annual assessment in support of the annual budget. This assessment may be paid annually or monthly.
- Section B. Requests for voluntary contributions in addition to budgetary requirements may be made from time to time. These may include additional contributions to causes or organizations which have already been included in the budget.
- Section C. No funds will be disbursed except as provided in the budget or as approved by a majority of contributing members in attendance at any business meeting.

ARTICLE V

Committees

- Section A. Work on all committees shall be voluntary, but all members are urged to serve on at least one committee.
- Section B. Committees shall consist of the following:
1. Executive Committee (consisting of the five organization officers) - which shall:
 - a. present an annual budget and dues assessment at the last business meeting of each fiscal year. These shall be adopted (with possible modifications) at the first business meeting of the new fiscal year,
 - b. propose any necessary modifications to the budget throughout the year.
 2. Internal Activities - which shall:
 - a. inaugurate and coordinate social activities within the membership,
 - b. prepare and disburse the newsletter,
 - c. serve as hosts for all meetings.
 3. External Activities - which shall:
 - a. coordinate activities and cooperation between TBAG and other organizations,
 - b. handle public relations and publicity.External activities shall be headed by the chairperson.
 4. Archives - which shall keep and maintain a history and record of all TBAG activities.

Section C. All members are reminded of the importance of working actively and openly to support the goals and purposes of this organization. It is a duty to both the organization and to our gay brothers and sisters in the Galveston Bay area.

ARTICLE VI

Meetings

- Section A. Meetings shall consist of the following types:
1. Business meetings shall be held on the first Thursday of each month at organization headquarters and shall be open to all interested persons.
 2. Social meetings shall be held on the remaining Thursdays of each month at the home of one of the members. These shall be open to all members and their guests.
- Section B. Organization headquarters shall be determined by a majority vote of the active members in attendance at the prior business meeting.
- Section C. Member's homes shall be offered voluntarily for all social meetings.

ARTICLE VII

Logo

- Section A. Logo - a 3/4 view of an open tea bag emblazoned with the initials: T.B.A.G.
- Section B. The logo may be displayed at any organization sponsored activity and may be displayed by any member at his or her choosing.

ARTICLE VIII

Amendments

These bylaws may be amended at any business meeting by a two-thirds majority vote of the members in attendance. Financial amendments, however, may be voted upon by contributing members only.

ARTICLE IX

Order of Business

- Section A. Unless this article is suspended in an emergency by a majority vote of the members in attendance, the order of business for the meeting shall be as follows:
1. Call to order by the chairperson
 2. Reading of the minutes of the previous meeting(s) since the last reading of minutes
 3. Questions and/or corrections to the minutes
 4. Announcements
 5. Officers' reports
 6. Committee reports
 7. Unfinished business
 8. New business
 9. Determination of place and time of the next meeting
 10. Program and/or guest speaker
 11. Adjournment
- Section B. All business should be expedited in order to leave sufficient time for the program, guest speaker and individual socializing.