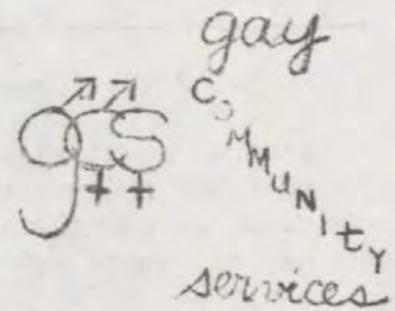


GAY AUSTIN



NUMBER 1

JUNE 1976

"The newsletter of Gay Community Services of Austin, Texas for its gay community."

GAY PRIDE WEEK CELEBRATION, 1976! (Wherein we march on the Capitol Itself)

To celebrate Gay Pride Week (June 20-26, as proclaimed by Austin Mayor Jeff Friedman) a parade, rally at the Capitol, and party/dance will be held Saturday, June 26, 1976. Lesbians, gay men, their children, parents, and friends are invited to join in the festivities.

PARADE: 10:30-11:00 A.M.--The parade will organize at 2nd Street and Congress Avenue (downtown). Participants will march to the Capitol grounds, and are asked to bring signs, friends, costumes, and pride.

RALLY: 11:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.--Gay and Lesbian speakers will address the massive crowd on such topics as law, politics, rights of Lesbian/gay parents, psychiatry, and religion. Music and poetry will provide the entertainment and the soon-to-be-annual Gay Pride and Prejudice Awards will be given. Rally participants are asked to bring food and drink for a picnic.

DANCE: 8:00 P.M. to 2:00 A.M.--Gay Community Services will sponsor a dance at the University "Y" Auditorium upstairs at 2330 Guadalupe to celebrate Gay Pride Week. Varied types of music will be available for dancing (including disco) and drinks (both alcoholic and non-alcoholic) and snacks will be served. A \$2.00 donation is requested at the door.

The Gay Pride Week concept originated in 1969 in New York City, when gay people first massed together in opposition to police harassment of their community. This week is celebrated annually to mark the anniversary of the now-famous "Stonewall riots".

The following year the Christopher Street Parade was held in New York City as the first commemoration of this event. Since then other American cities have held parades to show the pride we have in our lifestyles. Stonewall also marked the beginning of gay community services centers around the country. Austin's Gay Community Services first started operations in summer, 1975 and has since provided Austin gays with an ever-widening range of services.

Everyone is invited to join in our celebration (out-of-towners, see page 4). Organizations participating include Gay Community Services, Austin Lesbian Organization, Texas Gay Task Force, Women/Space, and Austin Metropolitan Community Church. For more information, call GCS at (512)-477-6699.

D.P.

DECRIMINALIZING LOVE

The United States Supreme Court . . . practically stymied the gay rights movement earlier this year when it refused to reconsider a lower court's holding that sodomy statutes do not conflict with any Constitutional provisions. Negative reactions to the decision were voiced not only by gay activists but by representatives of mainstream straight society as well. Editorials appeared in nearly all major newspapers and even in our own local American-Statesman expressing concern about the government's intrusion into the privacy of the bedroom.

Despite this widespread opposition to the court's decision, it still stands as the legal ruling on the issue. To regain the momentum of our movement

(Continued on PAGE 2)

REPEAL 21.06 (concluded)

towards equal rights for gays, we need to study the exact meaning of the decision, review the alternatives it leaves us, and unite our efforts for a common goal.

Despite the psychological impact of the Supreme Court's decision, it did not really say that gay people are perverts with no rights. In fact, the Supreme Court said nothing about gays at all. What it did do was affirm a lower court's ruling that the individual states could regulate sexual conduct without transgressing any provision of the Constitution. This partially explains why so many editors felt compelled to speak up--the decision applied not only to gays but also to heterosexuals who practice "deviate" sex acts such as fellatio or cunnilingus.

The real political impact of the decision, however, is to throw the issue from the federal courts back to the state legislatures. If we wish to conduct our sex lives without fear of government intrusion, we must now go to the legislature of our own state and get it to repeal all proscriptive laws relating to private conduct between consenting adults. Fifteen states have already repealed their laws against homosexual conduct and nullified the effect of the Supreme Court's ruling on their gay residents.

Section 21.06 of the Texas Penal Code still prohibits homosexual conduct however. Considering the law's potential threat to every gay person in the state and the Supreme Court's decision not to interfere with the enforcement of such laws, it is incumbent on every gay activist in the state to make repeal of this law top priority. The prospect of getting the Texas legislature to act may not seem encouraging, but neither did the legislatures of Arkansas or New Mexico seem promising, yet both have repealed their laws on homosexual conduct. Texas will too if we work for it and show the members how many people oppose such repressive laws. Let's take the initiative and regain the lost momentum in our movement towards

full equality for gays. Let's unite our efforts and get Section 21.06 repealed!

W.E.

GAY COMMUNITY SERVICES--

and some of the things we do

Gay Community Services of Austin offers 24-hour peer-counselling, referrals, and information over the phone. Walk-in peer-counselling and rapping are available from 4 to 10 P.M., Monday through Saturday, in the GCS office at 2330 Guadalupe, Room 7. Our lending library is open in the office during office hours. General business meetings are held on alternate Thursdays in the GCS office (call for time and date). Also available in the office are a community bulletin board and a gay calendar of events.

Men's rap groups take place every Friday at 7:45 P.M. in the University "Y" Auditorium, next door to the office.

Our women's rap group has been consolidated with the Women/Space Lesbian rap group, which happens every Thursday at 7 P.M. in the Women/Space office in the University "Y".

GCS maintains a Speakers' Service which provides speakers on gay-related topics to interested groups and classes.

Past social events have included a keg party in the park, a dance, and a coffee house (hopefully soon to be a regular event).

D.P.

GAY BARS IN AUSTIN

Pearl Street Warehouse, 1720 Lavaca (18th and Lavaca), closed Mondays, open other days 9 P.M. to 2 A.M. and after-hours. Cover charge (50¢) Fri. & Sat. Disco-bar. Phone 478-0176.

The New Apartment, 2828 Rio Grande (29th and Rio Grande), open every day, noon to 2 A.M. Cover charge (50¢) Fri. & Sat. Low-key bar with pool, pinball, some dancing. Phone 478-0224.

Austin Country, 600 E. 7th, (7th and Red River), open Sat. & Sun., 8 P.M. to 2 A.M. and afterhours. Cover charge. Phone 472-0418.

D.P.

EDITORIAL

Since its founding last August, Gay Community Services has had a dual nature; one part of our activity has been objective--disseminating information about the Austin gay community; the other part has been more subjective--our struggle against sexism both within and without our organization.

Gay Austin must, of necessity, represent both facets of our group's life: the impartial role of community newsgiver, and the more partisan role of "news-maker".

We are therefore compelled to publicize all activities of the gay community in these pages; we must also comment on these activities when we feel it necessary.

Individually we believe, and collectively we agree that the abuse or domination of one sex by the other should be confronted and vigorously fought.

Some examples of sexism are easy to identify and confront, as in the case of the recent film Snuff, wherein a woman is supposedly disemboweled by a group of men. Other forms are more subtle and may not even be recognized by the less aware populace, as when men are assigned to operate heavy machinery and women to plant flowers although both are hired under identical job descriptions and standards.

The examples we now confront are even less obvious and are likely to be debated. Certain events that we report, and others which have already occurred, have been restricted to "women only" or "men only". We realize that certain activities, such as encounter and consciousness-raising groups may need to limit their participants to one sex in order to accomplish their particular purposes. Other, more passive, activities such as viewing a film or listening to a concert present no obvious need for segregation.

Our dilemma, therefore, is whether to be strictly a disseminator of news or whether to apply our moral judgements and censor events which we believe are sexist. Which will better serve the community?

To resolve this issue, we invite our readers to send us their views. Vote pro and con will not be so important as the strength of the arguments presented. For this issue of Gay Austin, we have publicized all events we are aware of to help achieve a successful Gay Pride Week in Austin. Please mail your thoughts by the end of the month to Gay Austin, 2330 Guadalupe, Austin, Texas 78701.

W.C., W.E., J.J., D.P.

WANTED:

HELP FOR GCS, WELL-KNOWN AS A POOR BUT HONEST GROUP

Would you like to help build a community consciousness among the gay people of Austin? Or develop awareness and understanding of gay people by the rest of the community? Gay Community Services is working on these and other goals and would appreciate your support.

Women and men are needed to staff our telephone hotline to provide information, referrals, and peer-counseling. Volunteers to help with the Gay Pride Dance and Parade can also contribute to the success of these activities. Writers and artists are needed to publicize our activities and services.

AND, tax-deductible contributions made to the University "Y" may be earmarked for use by Gay Community Services. Money is desperately needed to fund and expand our range of services. If you wish to join or help us in any way, please call GCS at 477-6699 or drop by our office to see what we are doing. We are located at 2330 Guadalupe (upstairs through the door between Sommer's and Skillern's on the Drag), in Room 7. Our office is open between 4 and 10 P.M. Monday through Saturday. We would love to have you visit (there are usually some people in the office talking or something); you might even want to get involved!

W.E.

HETEROSEXUAL SCANDAL UNCOVERED!

The nation's capital is still reeling after being hit by the biggest bombshell since Watergate. Elizabeth Ray, an admitted heterosexual, landed a direct hit weeks ago when she accused Rep. Wayne Hays, D-Ohio, of various heterosexual escapades at the taxpayers' expense. Rep. Hays, known for some time to be a heterosexual, first denied having committed any heterosexual acts with Ms. Ray but later on, as evidence mounted, admitted having a heterosexual relationship with her but claimed it was not at government expense.

Ms. Ray also claimed to have carried on heterosexual liaisons with other members of Congress. News reports began to surface that FBI investigators had unearthed a large heterosexual ring operating in the Capitol corridors. The ring includes a close-knit group of political friends who have carried on their heterosexual affairs discreetly, so as not to alarm their constituents back home. Large parties attended mainly by heterosexuals were reported. Other low-ranking government employees began to come forward admitting their heterosexuality and claiming to have been given their jobs in return for certain heterosexual favors they provided for various congressmen.

Investigations are still underway at this time, with no final report having been made, leading one to suspect that heterosexual politics are rampant in the Capitol and that only the tip of the iceberg has been uncovered. Perhaps the final report will enable Congress to rid itself of those self-proclaimed heterosexuals who have indulged their satyric desires at the taxpayers' expense.

W.E.

GAY AUSTIN is:

Woody Egger, Joe Justice, Dan Puckett, friends, contributors, sympathizers, patient (and impatient) lovers, and fagsymp. If you have any gripes, suggestions, comments, questions, or axes to grind, write or call us at GCS, 2330 Guadalupe #7, Austin, Texas 78701. If you want to join us in producing this newsletter, PLEASE contact us NOW. We'll even be nice. Kiss, kiss.

GAY HAPPENINGS IN AUSTIN

This is an active month for the Austin gay community; along with the usual GCS activities we celebrate Gay Pride Week (June 20-26) with a parade, picnic/rally, and a dance. Please join us in the sixth yearly celebration of the Stonewall riots.

The Texas Gay Task Force and the Gay Academic Union will sponsor a statewide conference in Houston on the 18th, 19th, and 20th.

For Gemini gays, Lesbians, and friends: A costume picnic at Shoal Creek Park on Norland Street the 18th, 19th, and 20th.

Women/Space presents "Lavender", a Lesbian film, on the 25th at 7 P.M. Women only please.

Regular gay events for the rest of the month include: Sundays--Austin Lesbian Organization Rap Group, 7:30 P.M. at the ALO Center; Metropolitan Community Church of Austin holds services at 2 P.M. in the Congregational Church at 23rd and San Antonio. Thursdays--Lesbian rap group at 7 P.M. in the Women/Space office in the University "Y". Fridays--Gay men's rap group at 7:45 P.M. in the University "Y" Auditorium.

There will be a general meeting of GCS members and friends at 7 P.M. on the 17th and a Coordinating Council meeting at 7 P.M. on the 24th.

For more up-to-date information, call us.

W.C.

NON-AUSTINITES, PLEASE NOTE:

If you are planning to attend Gay Pride Week celebrations in Austin, you do not have to spend that lavender capital on housing! Gay Community Services is providing crash pads at its members' homes for Gay Pride Week participants. If you need a place to stay, please write or call as soon as possible. Let us know the number of people in your group and when you plan to arrive. Then, call 477-6699 when you get to town and we will have a place for you.

D.P.