

COMMUNITY NEWS

March-April 1975

Dallas / Fort Worth

Number 7

Bill Introduced To Repeal State Homosexual Conduct Law

(Austin) Repeal of this state's homosexual conduct law is the aim of a bill introduced into the Texas House of Representatives February 17 by Rep. Craig Washington of Houston. If enacted, H.B.759 would repeal Section 21.06 of the Texas Penal Code, which reads:

Section 21.06. Homosexual Conduct

(a) A person commits an offense if he engages in deviate sexual intercourse with another individual of the same sex.

(b) An offense under this section is a Class C. Misdemeanor.

The bill has been referred to the House Committee on Criminal Jurisprudence, which is chaired by Washington.

House Bill 759 would simply repeal Section 21.06, which has been singled out by gay activists in Texas as the primary basic cause of most (if not all) of the discrimination gays face in employment, housing and dealings with the police.

The Texas Gay Task Force has been busy talking to the legislators to try to build support for HB759. Two co-sponsors have been added to the bill, but their names were not available at press time.

The main concern of the Task Force at this time is to get HB759 out of committee, which will take six positive votes from the eleven-member committee. The Task Force is arranging for a group of psychologists, psychiatrists, lawyers, ministers, educators and gay people to testify in Austin for the bill during the committees' open hearings which are scheduled for April 8. Professional and religious

support is being cultivated by the Task Force, and the Homosexual Counseling Conference, held in Dallas earlier this month, was the first non-gay body to officially pass a resolution calling for the passage of HB759.

TGTF is planning a major campaign throughout the state to build support for the bill when and if it gets to the floor of

the House of Representatives.

If Texas passes HB759, it will become the tenth state of the nation to repeal private adult homosexual laws.

More information concerning the current status of the bill may be obtained by contacting the Texas Gay Task Force, P.O. Box 7318, Fort Worth, TX 76111, or (817) 338-0128.

Suit Filed Against Fort Worth Police

KEN CYR FIRED FROM JOB IN AFTERMATH

(Fort Worth) Ken Cyr, director of AURA, filed a class action lawsuit February 26 against Fort Worth Police Chief T.S. Walls, Deputy Chief H.F. Hopkins, Capt. C.E. Hogue (head of vice and intelligence) and two unnamed police officers.

The day after the suit was made public by the local media, Cyr was fired from his job as a postal clerk at Texas Christian University. The only reason given was "inefficiency."

Filed in Federal Judge Eldon Mahon's court, the suit charges the police with invasion of privacy and deprivation of civil rights.

The suit specifically centers around an alleged incident last June 22 during the 1974 Texas Gay Conference, sponsored by the Fort Worth/Dallas Metroplex Gay Council at 4301 Miller in Fort Worth.

"On this occasion," the suit contends, "the two unnamed defendant police officers came to the location in question, circled the church repeatedly, and very obviously, for all to see, recorded the license numbers of approximately thirty-six automobiles (including plaintiff Cyr's) located at the church. Later on the same day, two and possibly more participants leaving the Conference were stopped by the same officers or other officers employed by the Fort Worth Police Department for questioning and a driver's license check. The license numbers and names recorded were later released for publication to Fort Worth reporters."

The suit goes on to say that "... this course of harassment and surveillance has included not only the above alleged con-

Continued on Page 9)

Counseling Conference Supports Gay Cause

(Dallas) One hundred mental health and helping professionals from three states attended an all-day workshop on counseling and homosexuality in Dallas on March 1. One of a nationwide series of such conferences sponsored by the *Homosexual Counseling Journal*, the Dallas conference aimed to sharpen counselors' awareness of the special problems of homosexuals and their families. The Community Services Division of Mountain View College of the Dallas County Community College District hosted the event.

Dr. Ralph Blair, psychologist and editor of the *Homosexual Counseling Journal* and director of the Homosexual Community Counseling Center, Inc., of New York City, gave the keynote address. Dr. Blair emphasized that mental health professionals all too often carry the same attitudes of the general public about homosexuality and have not been adequately prepared to deal with homosexual persons and their families. According to Dr. Blair, homosexuality should be viewed as a variety of sexual expression and not as a deviation which must be seen as sickness or sin.

The psychologist contended that the family of a homosexual person also needs counseling if they are "blaming" themselves and are distraught or rejecting. "They often ask how their son or daughter could possibly be happy as a homosexual. I often ask them how their homosexual son or daughter could possibly be happy as a heterosexual," stated Dr. Blair. "All that went wrong is the erroneous expectation that everyone will be a heterosexual person." He also believes that if the homosexual can cope with his or her homosexuality, the other unexpected things in life will be easier to handle.

Following Dr. Blair's address, a panel of local mental health professionals gave brief presentations and fielded questions from the audience. Panel members included Dr. Robert Dain, assistant professor of psychology at the University of Texas Health Science Center of Dallas; Dr. Bill West, psychiatrist; Dr. Dolores Dyer, clinical psychologist; Ms. Shirley Switzer, social worker; Dr. Perry Gross, a local physician in family practice; Rip Corley, registered nurse and specialist in crisis intervention; and Ms. Betty King, counselor and founding director of the "gay line," a

crisis intervention and information telephone.

During the afternoon session, the workshop participants formed small discussion groups on various topics such as aging and homosexuality, bisexual behavior, coming out, parents of homosexual children, homosexual parents, lesbian/feminists, gay couple counseling, gay social options and religion and homosexuality. Each group summarized their discussion and reported to the closing session. A compilation of these summaries will be published in the July issue of *Homosexual Counseling Journal*.

Final action of the conference was the unanimous passage of the following resolution:

"WHEREAS homosexually oriented persons have historically suffered from emotional and social stress due to the criminalization of the private homosexual acts of consenting adults, and

"WHEREAS all human beings, regardless of sexual orientation have the inalienable, fundamental right to engage in affectional-sexual relations with other consenting adults in private, therefore:

"BE IT RESOLVED that the assembled helping professionals (psychiatrists, psychologists, counselors, social workers, educators and others) meeting together at the Homosexual Counseling Workshop at Dallas, Texas, on March 1, 1975, hereby go on record in unanimous support of H.B. 759, the current effort to repeal Section 21.06 of the Texas Penal Code."

COMMUNITY NEWS



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AD RATES available upon request.

WANTADS: See Wantads section of this paper.

COMMENT

Editor:

I found Rip Corley's column on "What About Being Gay on the Job?" both amusing and terribly sad. It was nothing but an echo of the old straight maxim that "if you stay in your place, we won't bother you," i.e., second-class citizen.

Corley's statement that our need for protective employment laws was "probably true" indicated to me a total lack of understanding of the situation. If there were such laws, even the most closeted, paranoid Gay would not have to fear a "camp" remark being directed toward him or her. In any case, it seems that the employer should enter such a situation only when the persons involved fail to resolve any difficulties. I do not wish to under-emphasize discretion, but how one wishes to be treated is a personal and individual choice, and it is the individual's responsibility to communicate this to another, not the employer's.

Straights also use camp, and office morale will not be upset if camp statements, gay or straight, are taken for what they are: humorous.

I also was wondering if there is anything about Gay People that Mr. Corley does like. His first two columns seem to me to have been telling us how to be more like straights, and I don't think the straights

have been doing such a great job of running the world.

Also, has Mr. Corley forgotten his Gay Sisters? If his column is going to address itself to the entire Gay Community, it should stop condemning the Queens (for they are Gay) and ignoring the Lesbians (for they are Gay, too).

Ken Cyr

Dear Sir:

The "Rappin' with Rip (Corley)" column in your last issue ("What about being gay on the job?") trivializes the issue of employment discrimination against gays. Gays are not seeking the right to "camp" or "tell dirty jokes" on the job, but the right to *have* the job, free from the fear of being fired if their employers should discover that they are gay.

I have often heard the anti-gay argument: "sure you can be gay, as long as you don't flaunt it." Corley's argument comes dangerously close to this, with his distinction between "gays who are fired merely for being gay" and gays who are "provocative in their manner."

Would merely revealing oneself to be gay constitute a "provocation" in Corley's eyes?

It is unfortunate to see a gay commentator give so much ground to the anti-gay arguments used to justify the denial of our rights.

Name Withheld

GAY RAIDER

Dear Brother Allen:

About your paper. It's really nice; it gives information that is needed in the community. We need to become more aware of, and more in touch with our own community, since the Het media has blacked us out of view. I'm glad to see that many cities around the country are beginning to work inside the community, as well as outside.

Please keep me on your mailing list since I want to know all that is happening in your area, and it seems that can be done by reading the Community News.

In Gay Love,

Mark Segal, Executive Director
Gay Raiders

NEW TEXAS PUBLICATION FOR LESBIAN/FEMINISTS

(Houston) *Pointblank Times*, a new publication for lesbian/feminists, began publication in Houston this month.

The first issue includes articles such as "Plain Brown Wrapper: The Lesbian in Modern Novels," poetry, impressions, news affecting lesbian/feminists and more.

Subscriptions are \$3 for 12 issues from *Pointblank Times*, 1241 W. Bell, No. 4, Houston, TX 77019.

OPINION

Public Action vs. Private Lobbying

An issue confronting gays in the effort to repeal Section 21.06 and other discriminatory laws is the problem of public action vs. private lobbying. As we face a traditionally conservative public, we have to ask ourselves which of the two approaches will further serve the interests of gay people. Judging from the experience of other gay groups, the answer overwhelmingly would have to be public action.

We have seen in other states and regions campaigns which succeeded in removing offensive statutes through quiet, competent lobbying. But we have also seen these private successes overturned by all-too-public reactionary campaigns. Reinstatement of anti-gay statutes in Colorado and Idaho are the best examples of this.

The inadequacy of a campaign depending entirely on private lobbying lies in the fact that it does not reach the closet. It does not signal to anonymous and isolated gays — the majority of Kinsey's 10% — that they have brothers and sisters who are standing up for their rights. It should be our duty to aim our efforts towards these gays, as well as to civil libertarian public opinion. A public campaign will have a chance to reach these gays as well as public opinion, and — this is the important point for gays — it will have this effect even if the campaign is defeated by a political reaction from the right wing. We have

nothing to fear from such a defeat.

Suppose, on the other hand, that our efforts succeed privately but are reversed by a right-wing campaign. This is the sort of defeat which does only harm to the gay movement. The media, one of the few tools we have in reaching our brothers and sisters who must remain in the closet, would carry no news of the reform. And the public forum would be abandoned to the repetitious and familiar arguments of the right wing, which would only be too happy to seize the publicity we had foregone. The defeat in New York City to enact anti-discrimination ordinances was really a victory of sorts: at least we now know what weapons the reactionaries are going to use against us. The gays there came very close, and the next time they try they will likely succeed. But the gays in Colorado are in a more difficult position.

There is a place and a need for competent lobbying, which after all is simply the petitioning of government for a redress of grievances. But to assure meaningful results it should be coupled with a public campaign. Defeated openly, we could return again. And if we *succeeded* openly, drawing out the poisons from the right in the process, our success would more likely be permanent."

— Michael Merrill

ENCORE SHOWS OFFER VARIETY OF TALENTS

REVIEW BY ALEXANDER LANGHAM

The situation at the Encore has turned out wackily unpredictable. After an initial production of *Applause*, whose charms were for the most part primitive, Gary Shannon's series of semi-drag shows resumed in February with a *Cabaret* that really delivered. Then in early March came a reversion to amateurism with *Hello, Dolly*. I'm aware of the gallantry of a cast whose show goes on in the face of appalling offstage problems; but why did the producers add to the onstage travail by forcing the cast to lip-sync the dimly corrupt soundtrack album when the witty original-cast one is readily available.

Steve Weaver's choreography, the firebatons (during the "Parade" number) of Randy Sircy, an unexpectedly touching "It Only Takes a Moment" by Charlie Watkins and Dan Parmer, and the energetic presences of Parmer and Sally Marie (wearing moustache, sideburns, and pants

— and looking good in them — as Vanderghelder), and the charmingly nervous one of Bobby Huckabee (at last! a pretty chorus girl in the Encore line!) all helped out the show; the technical foulups and interminable introductory narration did not.

Cabaret, however, was different. As with any lip-synced show, its high points were achieved through inspired dancing and clever choreography — with one exception: Corky Lawrence's gum-chewing, sadly-out-of-condition chorus girl, certainly in no shape to compete with the rest of the line but gamely sweating to match the other lovelies step by laborious step, was a lusciously funny performance.

By late March or April the Encore will present *Purlie*. Will it be terrific, or something from which eyes are hastily averted? Whatever the result, it's bound to be interesting.

GOOD GAY BLOOD . . .

AURA's Blood Drive continues to pick up support with an article in *Agape* MCC's *Open Door* this month urging people to give. It's so easy (yes, I've done it), only takes a few minutes, really doesn't hurt . . . and could one day mean the difference between life and death for a brother or sister in need of blood. (Incidentally, in a blood bank the blood is used pretty soon after being given, so we actually have only a "paper" blood balance. This means that while we have been fortunate in not having to use any of the blood in our account so far, there are several "straight" Fort Worthians running around town now with good gay blood in their veins.) Donate to the AURA Pool at John Peter Smith Hospital Blood Bank any time, night or day. Call AURA, (817) 338-0128 if you have questions.

Correction: "Mr. Leather-Dallas '74" was incorrectly identified last month as Biff. Our apologies to Mike Harold who was actually "Mr. Leather-Dallas '74."

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BOOK REVIEW By Scott Stebelman

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Society and the Healthy Homosexual

Weinberg, George. *Society and the Healthy Homosexual*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1972.

Dr. George Weinberg is a New York psychotherapist who has been active in Gay Liberation for years. During this time he has counseled hundreds of homosexuals, whose problems have ranged from coming out, to telling their parents about their homosexuality, to coping with periodic loneliness. The product of this experience is *Society and the Healthy Homosexual*, a prescription for gay happiness and an analysis of why society denies it.

Society persecutes gays because of religious commandments, because of latent homosexuality within itself, because homosexuals enjoy greater sexual and emotional freedom than most people, and because gays aren't concerned with perpetrating the species. But none of these arguments can marshall the weight of orthodox psychiatry, which maintains that homosexuality is a sickness in need of a cure. Weinberg's book was written before the American Psychiatric Association removed homosexuality from its list of character disorders, but there are still a number of practitioners, notably Irving Bieber, Charles Socraides and Albert Ellis,

who subscribe to the sickness theory. Like others before him, Weinberg shows the inadequacy of their studies: a cross-section of homosexuals is never examined, only psychiatric patients who are emotionally disturbed; and conclusions are often arrived at deductively rather than inductively: if it is assumed beforehand that homosexuality is an illness, then patient behavior will be analyzed in this light. As to be expected, as soon as a cross-section of gays was studied (see Martin Weinberg's *Male Homosexuals*), it became apparent that they were just as healthy as their heterosexual counterparts.

Given this mandate of health, what does Dr. Weinberg advise? No gay should ever internalize the prejudices of straight society; that is, no gay should ever see himself as bigoted straights do. He should renounce the image of the cowardly pansy, of the insecure, guilt-ridden neurotic, of the flighty, promiscuous bar hopper who is incapable of permanent relationships. Nor should he mimic straight stereotypes or values: he doesn't have to arm wrestle, or play football, or tinker with cars to prove he is a "regular fellow." If he likes

(Continued on Page 8)

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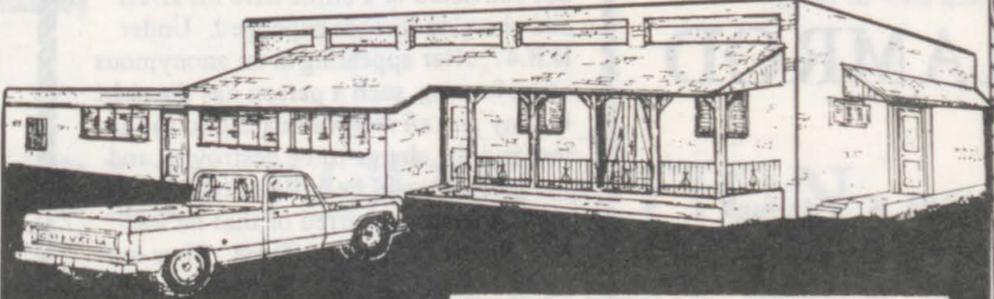
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Gay People & the Law

This Legislation Affects You!

By Randy Beitel

IN ADDITION to H.B.759, which would repeal the state's sodomy law, there are two other bills before the legislature that would enhance our freedom.

Anyone who has ever cruised (and who hasn't) should be interested in H.B.832. Introduced by Rep. Jim Mattox of Dallas, H.B.832 is a bill which would make all "Class C" misdemeanors "ticket" offenses. What does any of this have to do with gay cruising? Plenty. Most of the offenses which a gay person is likely to be busted on while cruising are "Class C" misdemeanors, such as the Dallas City Ordinance against loitering (§31-60), committing lewd acts in public parks (§32-4) and soliciting for gay sex (§§31-75 & 31-78). SINCE "CLASS C" misdemeanors carry only a maximum \$200 fine and no jail term upon conviction, often the real pun-

ishment inflicted upon a gay person is the overnight stint spent in the city jail where, while waiting for his lawyer or trying to post bail bond, he has to expose himself to the abuse of homophobic police and jailers.

H.B.832, however, provides that after being busted for a "Class C" misdemeanor the procedure would be substantially the same as a traffic ticket. The arresting officer would be required to issue a citation (ticket), ordering you to appear in court on a given date. After you signed the citation, the officer would then have to release you. Thus, under H.B.832, there would be no abusive rides down to the City Jail, no sleepless nights in the jail awaiting the arrival of your attorney, no need for expensive attorney's fees to get out of jail, no need to post bail bond, and no need to bother friends or family to come get you out of jail. Additionally, under H.B.832, when your trial date arrived, you could be represented by your attorney rather than having to take off work to appear personally in court.

H.B.832 would significantly reduce the amount of harassment inflicted upon us by the police, but harassment is not limited to the arrest and trial procedures: arrest and charging records are often released to prospective employers. Thus it behooves us to be concerned with another bill currently pending in the Texas Legislature, H.B.47.

INTRODUCED by Reps. Watson and Nichols, H.B.47 provides that a person not convicted of a crime have his arrest and charging records expunged. Under H.B.47, after appearing in an anonymous court hearing, such a person has the right for any and all records relating to the arrest and the charge to be destroyed, and the person would be entitled to deny that the arrest ever occurred or that he was ever charged with the offense. Thus one could legally respond to an employment application question which asked whether you had ever been arrested or charged with a crime, with an unabashed "no."

H.B.47 is important to gay people because for years it has been a customary police practice to harass gays by arresting

us and then either failing to file charges or dismissing the charges before trial. Thus there are many of us who have arrest and charging records, but no convictions. If police find they can't punish us with an arrest record, their motivation for hassling us will diminish.

THESE TWO bills, along with H.B.759 (see article on page one), are bills which if passed will directly benefit us. If we as gay people are at all serious about wanting a better life for ourselves in regard to the law and police activities, then we have a duty to support this legislation. The least we should all do is to write our State Representatives and let them know that their constituents are in favor of these bills. While it is hoped that such organizations as the Texas Civil Liberties Union and the Texas Criminal Trial Lawyers Association will join us in supporting these bills, the primary responsibility is upon us, those to be directly affected, to lobby for legislative approval of these bills.

WE'VE SAT BACK and let others decide the laws which govern us for too long; if we want some concrete change, we are going to have to make our own voices heard in Austin.

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NOTE: March marks the first anniversary of Community News. This combination issue is the result of too few people working on too many things: our staff is also heavily involved in the effort to repeal Section 21.06 as well as in Dallas and Fort Worth City Council elections coming up in April. We hope to be back on an early schedule with our May issue.

David Cassidy, too!

A German gay monthly magazine, *Du & Ich*, quoted pop music star David Cassidy as telling an interviewer, "I have many friends, men friends, whom I sleep with — and I enjoy it." He also was quoted as saying in regard to his career, "I wouldn't want to sing to audiences who did not like me just because I had slept with a man."

(Continued from Page 5)

to cook, sew, and box, all these options should be open to him. The emphasis here is on self-fulfillment rather than on role conformity.

In one of the most helpful chapters in the book, "Communication with Parents," Dr. Weinberg offers useful tips to gays coming out to their parents: don't talk about blame, don't apologize for your feelings, don't let parents give you the third degree. Above all, be patient and remember they will need time to adjust to the news. Coming out, he says, can be a time of intimate sharing of knowledge with a loved one. It can bind family members closer together; it can say we love each other enough to be honest about who we are.

Dr. Weinberg's book is a cogent explanation of why gays are persecuted and how they can overcome it. Its lucid, straightforward prose makes its ideas accessible to everyone; it would be of particular benefit to gays first coming out in the community or to their parents, to those beset by guilt, and to straight homophobes. For some reason the book is not widely distributed, so readers interested in buying it should write directly to St. Martin's Press, 175 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10010.

"Rappin' with Rip" by Rip Corley will resume in the next issue of CN.

WANTADS

WANTADS are \$.50 per line, minimum of \$1. (Each line of regular copy is limited to 35 units, including letters, spaces and punctuation. Boldface caps are limited to 22 units per line.) Payment should accompany your copy. Discount 10% for 6 or more insertions of the same copy, paid at the same time.

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EMOTIONAL moment as James expresses his thanks to all his friends at T.J.'s Back Door. Barbra, a cast member, accompanied him on stage.

(See "Scene West" on Page 11)

(Continued from Page 1)

duct on June 22, 1974, but also a course of conduct over the past several months before and since said date, involving surveillance and recording of license numbers at known gay bars and night clubs, raiding of said clubs without evidence of criminal activity or probable cause to believe such activity exists; and illegal surveillance of plaintiff Cyr personally."

The suit asks Judge Mahon to issue an injunction against the surveillance activities of police on gay groups and gay people generally and to issue a ruling that police have violated federal and state laws.

The suit also asks Judge Mahon to order police to destroy all their files and records on gay groups and gay people generally in this area.

At press time, Cyr was not sure what action he would take concerning his termination at TCU.

Because of the loss of Cyr's income, a special fund has been established to help him with the heavy legal fees which will result from the lawsuit. All donations may be sent to the "Ken Cyr Assistance Fund," P.O. Box 7318, Fort Worth, TX 76111.

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ALSO in Dallas . . .

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 821-9489
 Bachelor Quarter Baths, 3116 Live Oak,
 823-0432
 Club Dallas Baths, 2616 Swiss, 821-1990

FORT WORTH

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 Purple Lady, 3029 S. Main, 927-9881
 Regency Lounge, 1812 Hemphill,
 927-9416
 651 Club, 651 S. Jennings, 332-0417
 T.J.'s Back Door, 5536 Jacksboro Hwy.,
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 762-1165

(Readers: If any of these listings are not correct, please contact Community News.)

Organizations

Agape Metropolitan Community Church,
 P.O. Box 4589, Ft. Worth, TX 76106,
 Services at 2800 Purington, office
 (817) 534-9406

AURA (Awareness, Unity & Research
 Association), P.O. Box 7318, Fort
 Worth TX 76111, (817) 338-0128,
 meetings 2nd & 4th Mondays at 5536
 Jacksboro Hwy (T.J.'s Back Door)

Daughters of Bilitis, P.O. Box 1242, Dal-
 las, TX 75221, (214) 241-4118, meet-
 ings first & third Fridays

G.O.O.D. (Gay Organization of Dallas),
 3834 Ross Ave., Dallas, TX 75204,
 (214) 827-2798, meetings second and
 fourth Fridays

Dignity, P.O. Box 70, Euless, TX 76039,
 (metro) 469-6669. Call for meeting
 information

Metropolitan Community Church of Dal-
 las, 3834 Ross Avenue, Dallas, TX
 75204, (214) 826-0291

Hobos, a motor cycle social group for wo-
 men. For more information contact
 T.J.'s of Dallas

Wranglers, a motor cycle social group for
 men. For more information contact
 The Sundance Kids bar, Dallas, or write
 The Wrangler Motorcycle Club, P.O.
 Box 35853, Dallas, TX 75235

Dallas Crisis Line, (214) 241-4116

CALENDAR

REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday—MCC-Dallas Worship, 11 a.m.
 and 7:30 p.m.
 MCC-Ft. Worth Worship, 7:30 p.m.
 Sundance Kids, Sunday Nite at the
 Movies, 9 p.m.
 Bayou Landing, drag show, 9:45 p.m.,
 \$1 cover charge
 T.J.'s Back Door, drag show, 10 p.m.,
 cover charge
 Monday—MCC-Ft. Worth Bible Study,
 7:30 p.m.
 Terry's Ranch Slave Auction, 10 p.m.
 Tuesday—MCC-Ft. Worth Sign Language
 Class (pastor's office), 7:30 p.m.
 Wednesday—MCC-Dallas, A.A. Together
 Group, 8 p.m.

MCC-Ft. Worth Worship, 7:30 p.m.
 The Encore Dance Contest, 10 p.m.
 Bayou Landing, drag show, 9:45 p.m.,
 \$1 cover charge

Thursday—MCC-Ft. Worth Open Rap,
 7:30 p.m.

MCC-Dallas Bible Rap, 7:30 p.m.

Friday—MCC-Dallas Experimental Ser-
 vice, 7:30 p.m.

APRIL

Monday, April 7 — Agape MCC "Gay
 Sway" skating party, \$1.50 at the door,
 \$1 in advance, at Holiday Roller Rink,
 2920 Carson, Haltom City, 7:30—
 9 p.m.

"Purlic" — April production at The
 Encore; call (214) 526-9328 for dates,
 time and reservations

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ON THE SCENE

By Richard van Cleve

WATCH for changes in the Old Plantation. Soon, early in the spring, the Old Plantation will be opening to the outdoors with the addition of a Beer Garden. Work has been underway for the past few weeks towards its completion. Part of the landscaping is finished with bamboo planted along a new eight-foot wooden fence. Potted plants, lanterns and furniture will shortly be installed. The bar in the Western room is to be extended onto the patio for the convenience of the Garden's patrons, and the same nostalgic music provided in the Western room will be heard in the Garden.

The Western bar is also undergoing changes. The dance floor is being enlarged, and windows and a door facing the Beer Garden will be added. More shooting galleries and pinball machines for the arcade are on requisition.

SOME of the women at T.J.'s of Dallas are forming a motorcycle club to be known as the Hobos. The summer agenda will include camping outings and cycling excursions for state-wide trips — the first planned for March 23. If you are interested in joining, drop by T.J.'s or give them a call at (214) 526-9368.

FOR THE PAST month, the Sundance Kids has been showing movies each Sunday night at 9 p.m. preceded by a beer bust. So far, the movies have been good — a mix of classic camp and light comedy.

Yet, the future programming promises to be better — if you like horror and science fiction, and who doesn't after a couple of beers?

The date, place and event schedule of the Wranglers' annual Stampede are set. The date is June 20-22; the place is the Roanoke Dude Ranch outside of Grapevine; and the event schedule will be announced in the next issue of CN.

FOR THOSE thirsty nomads ever in search of a new palm-ringed watering hole, there is one in town — for women — the Olive Branch Saloon at 2827 McKinney. The Olive Branch is not exactly new, for it has been in business since late December; but what is new, and crucially so, is the soon-to-be-obtained liquor license.

Shane, the manager who is fresh out of hotel management, reports that he and the owners are drawing up an ambitious calendar for future months. As standard features the Olive Branch will celebrate each holiday with a ball and special drink prices, groups can reserve tables for anniversaries or birthdays, and there will be a weekly movie night showing gay female films.

Many of the Olive Branch's regulars are signing up for a packaged, Saloon-sponsored bus trip to San Antonio's April Fiesta. And those regulars who won't be on the trip are staying in Dallas to practice for the season's first baseball game in Dallas Softball League. Both the bus trip and

ball team are still open to more participants. For more information, contact the Saloon in person or call 824-2770 or 823-0921.

SWAMP TRASH, that classless but in style bistro, is having a parade of events. To lead off the parade will be a dandy, March 30, Easter Hat party. Stepping quickly up behind in April will be a Jockey Short party, a pageantry of sizes, shapes, and brand names — B.V.D.'s and Fruit of the Loom. This progression of galas will naturally climax in that show of shows, the Academy Awards presentation to be viewed (with buffet) via the color tube at the Swamp Trash. Free gin punch will be served every Saturday at 5 p.m. as a continuing attraction.

POLICE harassment of Dallas gay bars? Perhaps. It is not clear yet whether recent encounters between the police and the bars is intended by the police as selective badgering of gay bars or a change in police policy regarding all bars. But what is known is that the police are now enforcing an unused and forgotten city ordinance prohibiting after hours dancing and that police renewed enforcement of the ordinance has been both tactless and absurd. All the gay bars in the city have taken a wait-and-see attitude, suspending their after hours dancing.

GARY SHANNON of the Encore is now casting for his new production of "Pur-lie." Any interested person may contact him at the Encore.

THE BAR had a sex change. What was once women's is now men's. The Place is the name, and 3019 N. Haskell is the place. While Joe's Other Place was astrological and mystical, The Place is Polynesian and carefree.

SCENE WEST

By Allen Reid

IS COORS CHICKEN?

Game time was 2 p.m. March 8 at the Forest Park soccer field, and the mighty 651 Texans were panting for action . . . but, alas, their challengers — Coors Distributors — didn't show.

Well, there were fans to appease and please, so the "home" team, dressed in their cut-offs and pullover shirts, split into two teams of six each and played for three-and-one-half hours of the fastest, feistiest, funniest football ever seen in Ft.

Worth.

Final score: 30-26. Great game, fellas! This definitely should be done again. Meanwhile, those Coors people have some explaining to do . . .

A FRIEND IN NEED . . .

Who says there's no community spirit in Fort Worth. Gays in Fort Worth proved beyond any doubt this month that they care for their own.

When the home of James Norris burned; individuals immediately rallied to his sup-

port. Some of the 651 crowd got together with MCC and presented a special benefit show with proceeds going to assist James. The audience also helped by bringing clothes and household items to the show for James and his mother.

Customers at the Other Place made sandwiches and bought a keg of beer which they sold Sunday afternoon, and at T.J.'s Back Door, a \$1 charge for reserved tables went to the project. In addition, all performers donated all of their tips for the evening.

Praise to all the people who worked together in this endeavor. Let's keep on working together.

DO YOU WANT A BETTER GAY COMMUNITY?
ARE YOU INTERESTED IN WORKING FOR GAY EQUALITY?
THEN COME TO G.O.O.D.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Gay Organization of Dallas
3834 Ross Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75204

Membership — \$5/year check or money order payable to G.O.O.D. Circle of Friends

mens clothing and haircutting

UNION JACK

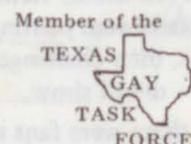
3918 cedar springs tel. 528-9600

AURA *Fort Worth's only Gay Organization*



Meetings are held every 2nd & 4th Monday at 7:30 p.m.
at 5536 Jacksboro Hwy. (T.J.'s Back Door)

Social / Political / Service / Educational



For more information call (817) 338-0128, or write AURA, P.O. Box 7318, Ft. Worth TX 76111