

Regarding The Village Station Controversy

[This letter was received by DGPC and read to the membership at the regular monthly meeting on December 10. It is reprinted in its entirety as a service to those who missed that meeting.]

Due to the controversy in recent months regarding the admission policy at the Village Station, please allow us to clarify the issue.

The dress code in general is a very loose and comfortable one. There are only two restrictions:

1. Men must be dressed as men and women must be dressed as women. This does not preclude women from wearing women's jeans, but it does prevent men from wearing drag attire.

2. There will be no open-toe shoes allowed in the club at this time. This applies equally to men as well as women. This is a practical restriction for the protection of our patrons and for ourselves. There is currently a lawsuit pending against the Old Plantation in which a woman is suing the Old Plantation for \$35,325 for damages allegedly occurring from stepping on broken glass while wearing open-toe shoes.

In regards to I.D.s—Everyone is required to have a valid Texas driver's license or Department of Public Safety I.D. card with a picture on it. Out-of-state visitors may be asked for two I.D.s. Having proper identification is both for our protection as well as your own. In the wake of continued police visits to the clubs, anyone (regardless of age or sex) may be required to show identification. People without identification may be detained by the police. Please note that regular customers are not as likely to be carded as those less frequent visitors. This requirement is in no way intended to discriminate against any particular segment of our community.

In closing, we wish to reiterate that the Village Station is Gay owned and Gay operated for Gay people. We are pleased that you find the Village Station acceptable and entertaining enough to invite your straight friends. But let us point out the fact that they often revisit the club with other straight friends. At such time as we feel the Village Station coming to the same fate as did the Old Plantation, we will consider changing the structure of the club to

one for members only. This would be done to protect the clientele which support us regularly. Therefore, may we please ask that you limit the number of straight guests.

There are two other issues that disturb us at this time:

1. There appears to be a rise in crime in our neighborhood. Please lock your cars and walk on well-lighted streets when possible. We have installed street lights in front of a residence on Throckmorton as well as in the alley behind the Village Station. We recommend that you avoid this alley as well as others in the area.

2. The police continue to make regular visits. We urge you not to participate in any lewd activities in the rest rooms or anywhere else in the clubs. Beware of any clubs which permit this kind of activity as it surely will create more trouble for all of us.

Thanks for your continued support. May we encourage you to vote on January 19.

Sincerely,
Frank Caven and Charley Hott

dialog

Newsletter of the
Dallas Gay
Political Caucus

Volume 3, Number 12

January 1980

GAY ALIENS TO BE BARRED FROM U.S.

Even though the Chief of the U.S. Public Health Service says homosexuality is no longer considered a "mental disease or defect", Justice Department lawyers have concluded that the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) must enforce a statutory ban on the admission of homosexual foreigners to the United States.

John M. Harmon, assistant attorney general for the office of legal counsel, conceded practical difficulties in enforcement because the Public Health Service will no longer examine aliens for indications of homosexuality. Harmon stated the INS is statutorily required to enforce the exclusion of homosexual aliens because the policy has been decreed by Congress.

Charles F. Brydon, co-executive director of the National Gay Task Force, said he was "very disappointed". He hoped Justice Department officials would refrain from enforcing the ban until they had met with Gay rights advocates.

Dave Crosland, acting commissioner of the INS, said instructions to immigration officers would discourage "a lot of unnecessary questions" about an alien's

(See GAY ALIENS on page 3)

A CALL TO SERVE

The Dallas Gay Political Caucus is looking for persons who would like to serve in an administrative capacity for the Caucus. One position is that of Caucus official Secretary. This position is responsible for recording the minutes of all Board meetings and for general meetings. The Secretarial position is also involved in official correspondence on behalf of the Caucus. The other position to be filled is that of Parliamentarian.

This position also is to attend all Board meetings and monthly general meetings render official rulings on conflicts during the conduct of official business. This position must be familiar with Robert's Rules of Order or be willing to study and learn them. A Copy of Robert's Rules of Order will be provided.

These positions are temporarily being held by current board members. It would be to the advantage of the Caucus. However, if we could use the talents and skills of other caucus members who would like to contribute in either of these capacities to the Gay rights movement. The board has indicated that more than one person may serve in each position. If you are interested, or know of someone that might be, please write to DGPC, P.O. Box 35011 Dallas, Texas 75235 or call 528-4233 and leave a message.

Dallas Morning News Apologizes For "Mistake In Judgement"

Recently the Dallas Morning News rejected advertisements for "Nighthawks" the acclaimed gay film which ran as a DGPC benefit at the Granada Theatre Nov. 30. The Morning News informed Granada's management that the words "homosexual" and "gay" were utilized within the ads (in various critical excerpts praising the film), and THAT was the reason the daily refused to run the ads.

The Dallas Times Herald, however, carried the ads as submitted. Ironically, the Morning News reviewed the same film for which they had declined to print advertisements; the word "homosexual" appeared in the review.

Al Calkin, representing DGPC, met with Harry M. Stanley, Advertising Director for the Morning News, Tuesday, Dec. 4. Stanley reported that the newspaper's advertising policy and the ads in question had been reviewed and that a "mistake in judgement" had been made for which he apologized. He stated that "sometimes we over-react" in the interest of maintaining standards as a "family newspaper".

When questioned about the newspaper's policy regarding advertisements for other gay films that might be booked, Stanley replied that the same general "standards of good taste" as applied to non-gay films will be utilized (no obscenities in language, no references to sexual acts, tasteful graphics, the use of titles only for X-rated films, etc.).

Stanley added that the manager of the Granada would also be informed, and that ads would be permitted for the remainder of the run for "Nighthawks".