

# insight

AUGUST 1981 - I  
VOL. I NO. II



## TEXAS GAY CONFERENCE VIII



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**INSIGHT**

4901 Rose St., Houston 77007

# insight

AUGUST 1981 - 1

VOL. 1 NO. 11

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### insight

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CLOUT, WHO'S GOT THE CLOUT?

"Former President Jimmy Carter, acknowledging the 'very profound effect' of the Moral Majority and other religious New Right groups on his election defeat last fall, nevertheless believes that the 'distortion' and 'prejudice' of the insurgent conservative movement will be its undoing.

"There is too much wisdom present in the collective body of Christians for distortion to prevail more than a short period of time," Carter told the Baptist Press, the official news agency of the Southern Baptist Convention. —Chicago Tribune from The Houston Post (June 2, 1981)

We gays are also a primary "target" of the Far Right, but we seem to have come out of the last election better off than our former President.

"The considerable publicity accorded the Moral Majority and related groups prior to the November elections tended to obscure the fact that these groups were unable to point to a single candidate who lost his or her race because of support for gay civil rights. Moreover, in several election contests, candidates were targeted for defeat for precisely that reason but resisted the challenges convincingly." from Capitol Hill, The News Letter of the Gay Rights National Lobby (Vol. 3, No. 1)

IN BRIEF

THE U. S. S. NORTON SOUND CASE (New York)—The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) reports in its June 1981 newsletter that in the Norton Sound case "the public got a chance to see how the Navy routinely conducts its witch hunts."

Susan McGreivy, staff attorney for the ACLU of Southern California's National Gay Rights Project, states "The Norton Sound case was an effort on the part of the American Civil Liberties Union to bring about an end to a long line of mass purges and witch hunts of gays and lesbians by the United States Armed Services."

Twenty-four naval women assigned to the Norton Sound were investigated by the Navy on suspicion of committing homosexual acts. Eight of them were charged. McGreivy defended them. Two were cleared; two were recommended for discharge; and charges against the others were dropped.

ACLU's appeal on behalf of the two discharged became moot when the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in another case that the Navy has "the right to keep gays out of the service for their status (of being gay)."

VENEREAL HERPES DRUG TESTED (Boston)—A new drug, acyclovir, has shown promising experimental test results against genital herpes (herpes are called "cold sores" when they appear about the lips and nose). The drug manufacturer hopes that federal government approval to market acyclovir will be forthcoming this year. The Center for Disease Control at Atlanta estimates 5-20 million Americans have this venereal disease.

IMMIGRATION BILL (NGTF—New York)—NGTF has been working for years to end discrimination in the area of aliens entering or living in the U. S. The NGTF staff and board fully support a carefully drafted bill just introduced into the U. S. House of Representatives by Democrats Julian C.

Dixon and Anthony C. Beilenson of Los Angeles, H. R. 3524 would, if passed and signed into law, explicitly remove "sexual deviation" as grounds for exclusion under the 1952 Act. On introducing the bill, Rep. Dixon told his colleagues that the present exclusion rule is "offensive to the basic American standards of justice and fair play" and that "an individual's private, personal sexual preference is utterly irrelevant to this issue (of fitness to enter the country."

**ROBISON VISITS (Houston)**—The homophobic Hurst, Texas TV evangelist James Robison was in Houston this month to organize a Houston chapter of his Far Right political/religious organization The Roundtable. Gays will recall that Robison's nationally televised religious program was dropped by the Dallas station where it then originated after Robison politicized statements about homosexuals and the gay movement.

During his Houston visit Robison lashed out at liberals. He called them "dull parasites," "vicious," "mean," and of "little intelligence."

Robison is the one to whom Anita Bryant went for spiritual reassurance following her move from Florida. She "cried" at his "understanding" and comfort in her hour of need.

*MaryLee* **DONUTS**

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corner of San Felipe & MidLane

Houston

## TEXAS GAY CONFERENCE VIII

SEPTEMBER 4-6 LABOR DAY WEEKEND

Houston

### PURPOSE

Texas Gay Conference VIII is designed as a forum for Lesbians, Gay Men and their friends to learn together through sharing ideas and experiences.

"Strength in Diversity" has been chosen as theme of the 1931 Conference. In keeping with this theme, TGC VIII will not represent any special group, ideology or political persuasion. All people interested in the well-being of Gay Men and Lesbians are urged to attend—both Gays and non-Gays, men and women, young and old, the physically challenged, all races, and from all economic and social stations of life. "We come together to examine our differences, to understand and learn, to seek renewed unity and to work for a brighter future for us all."

### PROGRAM

Highlighting the conference will be general sessions featuring well-known guest speakers, numerous workshops, social activities and exhibits.

Patricia Nell Warren, widely respected author of The Front Runner, The Fancy Dancer and The Beauty Queen will address the Saturday evening session.

Jack Nichols, author of Men's Liberation: A New Definition of Masculinity, will speak from his 20 years of active involvement in the Gay Movement.

Special Honored Guest at the conferences will be "Disco Grandma" Thelma Hansen. Grandma has been an inspiration to the Houston Gay Community for several years, and we want to share her warmth and love with the rest of Texas.

#### LOCATION

All Conference activities will be held at the First Unitarian Church, 5210 Fannin. This building is conveniently situated between the Montrose area and the Texas Medical Center, surrounded by Hermann Park and Rice University. Besides being an extremely usable facility, it is very convenient to several hotels, motels and restaurants, and, of course, the Montrose. All general sessions, exhibits, and the Coffee House and many workshops will be wheelchair accessible.

Saturday lunch sponsored by the Unitarian-Universalist Gay Caucus will be available at a reasonable cost.

#### INFORMATION

Call 529-7014 (Area Code—Houston (713)).  
Pre-registration form on p. 12.

## About Women

The National Gay Task Force (NGTF) recently announced a women's program with focus in two basic areas—public education and the women's movement. NGTF has retained a women's consultant, Charlotte Bunch, to oversee this major program within NGTF.

"We consider this an important step in the process of institutionalizing NGTF's commitment to education around lesbian visibility and to working in close liaison with the women's movement," Co-Directors Valeska and Brydon stated in a June/July Newsletter feature.

Eventually, NGTF hopes it will be possible to include a women's program position on its staff.

In the area of public education the women's program seeks to reach people "who through their institutional positions and affiliations influence the lives and opinions of others, such as teachers, health professionals, etc." Through the women's program, NGTF plans to assess the effectiveness of the NGTF Women's Caucus' educational outreach to national women's conferences.

NGTF expects its women's program to develop effective communication among lesbians active in the women's movement at a national level. NGTF thinks there is a need for a network that could influence action on lesbian and gay rights within women's organizations. The consultant will have the responsibility for establishing such a communication network.

## Tchaikovsky

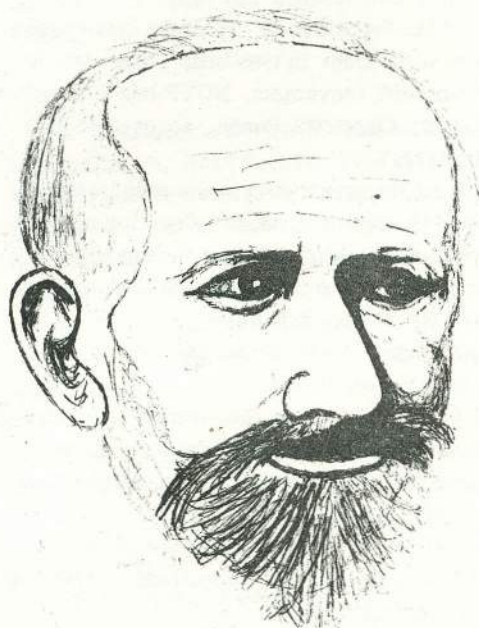
Houston music lovers have been enjoying a summer festival of Tchaikovsky under the auspices of the Houston Symphony. The festival has offered more than just the music of the master Russian composer of "Swan Lake," "The Sleeping Beauty" and "The Nutcracker." It has attempted to present also the man. It has never been a secret that Tchaikovsky was a homosexual. But this aspect of his life is often merely mentioned and left at that.

Earlier this year, however, a music professor at Sarah Lawrence University, Joel Spiegelman, published an unusual article about Tchaikovsky—so unusual that Spiegelman was invited to Houston in conjunction with the festival. In July he participated in a symposium on his published theory at the Rice University Shepherd School of Music.

Traditional biographies of Tchaikovsky list the official cause of his death in 1893 as cholera. A typical account is that on the jacket of the famous Ormandy recording of "The Pathétique Symphony"—Tchaikovsky's last composition (premiered October 28, 1893). "On November 1st, during the then current cholera epidemic, he drank a glass of unboiled water. Five days later he was dead."

Professor Spiegelman believes that his evidence points to a motive in Tchaikovsky's death. He thinks Tchaikovsky took his own life because his former classmates at the Imperial College of Law at St. Petersburg passed judgment on him in a court of honor and asked for his death by his own hand. Why? "Tchaikovsky was a homosexual in a society that loathed the idea," says Spiegelman. Specifically, there was a complaint that Tchaikovsky was having an affair with a young man of Russian royalty.

The August issue of High Fidelity magazine contains a rebuttal to Spiegelman's theory.



**ORGANIZATIONS  
& OUTREACH/HELP GROUPS**

**NGTF REORGANIZES STAFF**

On August 1st Charles Brydon, co-director of the National Gay Task Force (NGTF), resigned.

In restructuring the staff of NGTF, the Board approved a single directorship for the organization. It was Brydon's goal for several months before his departure to reorganize NGTF with a single directorship, instead of the two it has traditionally had. Brydon declined consideration of himself as the single director.

Lucia Valeska, co-director with Brydon, is the new single director.

"The concept of Co-Directors, one male and one female, was given up reluctantly," said Board Co-Chair Barbara Weirstock and Dick Cash. "The decision was made in the interest of both managerial and financial efficiency. The Board agreed that the new structure will increase NGTF's ability to respond quickly and decisively in the present period of political reaction."

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**TEXAS GAY CONFERENCE VIII**  
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**ADVANCE  
PRE-REGISTRATION**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is \$15 for my advance pre-registration for Texas Gay Conference VIII. (Please make check payable to TGC VIII. At the door registration will be \$25.)

Do not register me at this time, but please send me more information on the Conference as it becomes available.

If available, I would be interested in the following:

Child care  Housing  Signing for the Hearing Impaired

I would like to work with the following committee(s):

Publicity  Housing  Child care  Workshops  Signage  
 Transportation  Registration  Fund Raising

WORKSHOP SUGGESTIONS:

Do you know of available person(s) with expertise in suggested topic(s)?





# Guide



## Bars

BABYLON.....	300 Westheimer	526-6551
BADLANDS.....	304 Avondale	
BAJA'S.....	402 Lovett	527-9866
THE BARN.....	710 Pacific	528-9427
BRAZOS RIVER BOTTOM	2400 Brazos	528-9192
BRIAR PATCH.....	2294 W. Holcombe	665-9678
BUNKHOUSE.....	1704 Westheimer	520-1818
CHICKEN COOP.....	535 Westheimer	526-2240

COPA.....	2631 Richmond	528-2259
COVE.....	2912 S. Shepherd	524-0170
DIFFERENT DRUM.....	1732 Westheimer	528-8503
DIRTY SALLY'S.....	220 Avondale	529-7525
E/J's.....	1213 Richmond	527-9071
EXILE.....	1011 Bell	659-0453
GALLEON.....	2303 Richmond	522-7616
GRANT ST. STATION..	911 Fairview	528-8342
THE HOLE.....	109 Tuam	528-9066
JUST MARION & LYNN'S	817 Fairview	528-9110
KINDRED SPIRITS.....	5245 Buffalo Spdwy.	665-9756
LAMPOST.....	2417 Times Blvd.	528-8921
LOADING DOCK.....	1735 Westheimer	520-1818
MARY'S.....	1022 Westheimer	528-8851
MIDNITE SUN.....	534 Westheimer	526-7519
MISS CHARLOTTE'S...	911 W. Drew	524-9214
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MONTROSE PUB.....	1318 Westheimer	523-0035
OLD PLANTATION.....	2020 Kipling	522-2353
OUR PLACE.....	1419 Richmond	528-8903
PARADE.....	1416 Richmond	520-1646
PINK ELEPHANT.....	1218 Leeland	659-0040
RANCH.....	6620½ S. Main	528-8730
ROCKY'S.....	3416 W. Dallas	528-8922
TWINS.....	535 Westheimer	522-6058
VENTURE-N.....	2923 S. Main	522-0000
WILDWOOD SALOON...	1504 Westheimer	528-9040



## Restaurants

BAJA'S.....	402 Lovett	527-9866
BRASSERIE.....	515 W. Alabama	528-8744
HOUSE OF PIES.....	3112 Kirby	528-8816
STEAK & EGGS.....	4321 Montrose	528-8135
TEDDY'S.....	243 Westheimer	529-6584
TIM'S COFFEE SHOP..	1525 Westheimer	529-2289

Barney O'Reilly

Stories

- La Cucaracha • The Clone
- The Arcade—in Nov. INSIGHT
- Adonis • French
- SOS-The Orange Juice Lady's In Town

REPUBLICATION COMMENTS on the stories from editors of national and international gay publications

- "work of art"
- "beautiful" "interesting"
- "fluent and articulate"
- "stylish" "really enjoyed"
- "definite talent for writing"
- "express yourself well" "good sense of humor"

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Barney's World

BARNEY  
O'REILEY

"WE ALL KNOW SEX IS SIN"

When Henry Adams (descendant of our second and sixth Presidents) wrote the above line, I suspect his tongue was in his cheek just as Voltaire's obviously was when he wrote in *Candide*, "This is the best of all possible worlds."

Those two great but different writers were putting us on by echoing—each in his own time—a simplistic feeling from his society—a feeling that couldn't have been very closely analyzed or it could not have been widely held even by the society that spawned it.

Shallow? Yes, but we need go no further than our daily newspapers to read just as thoughtless expressions: Do you really believe Phyllis Schlafly when she says "ERA means co-ed toilets"? All right.

I think Adams' comment on sex and sin was Adams' way of telling us that we should think before we speak, for we might not really be saying what we believe, but, if we are, some thought into the matter might be a good thing, and, if we do not wish to think, then maybe we should not be saying whatever. For Adams' society, if they really believed that statement, were sure hypocrits: the products of their "sin" are still running loose and producing more "sinners"—in epidemic proportions!

I guess what Barney's really talking about is attitude, at least in part. Shakespeare put it this way: "Thinking makes it so." But he correctly did not mean that being "so" is being "correct" or "true." It merely means that if you believe something, then to you it's "so." (But don't ask me to believe you, if I think something else, unless you can give me reasons, and valid ones, that what you say is "so" actually is.)

Attitude—or whatever it is we're talking about—need never approach the truth, and, oddly enough, for some the truth is not desired, if ever considered. For the truth to MM, and others, would be a threatening thing. The truth would prevent them from being what it is that they are.

Gays are not perverts, it makes no difference how often Socarides or Geneva or MM say it's so, nor how many laws they have passed that say it's so, nor, in MM's case, how many times he asks for donations so he can keep on saying

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it's so. (We're good for his business I understand, so there'll be more of this "pervert" and "perverted lifestyle" business, I fear.)

In fact, what Barney has really been talking about is best summed up in a word censored from polite society, \_\_\_\_\_, but BS of a serious variety because it prevents society from looking as deeply into its issues as it might if it frowned on catch-all phrases that skirt the issues.

How's this for an example? "Those who disagree (with MM) 'believe the Bible is not the word of God'." Oh, yes! Or this "I (MM) have a divine mandate to go right into the 'halls of Congress and fight for laws that will save America." And quoted on the public record from his own brochure: "Just as God brought forth Adam, Moses, John the Baptist, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln in troubled times, he has now given the world Jerry Falwell."

The end! (Barney has an urgent need to upchuck. But first, one point I find most curious: precisely, WHO was causing trouble when Adam was brought forth? I have a gut-feeling that somebody's not thinking!)

("Barney's World" now originates from INSIGHT. Written for gays by long-established Montrose writer Barney O'Reiley, the column presents a gay viewpoint on gay topics in morality, religion, culture and politics. For syndication contact INSIGHT.



★ ★ ★  
VOTER REGISTRATION  
★ ★ ★  
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

VOTER REGISTRATION  
INFORMATION

In the coming months, volunteer deputy registrars will be set up in the Montrose area as a community service to register those who are not now registered to vote in Harris County. Those who have moved in from outside the county are eligible to register as soon as they have established a "permanent address" in the county without any waiting period. Also, those who have moved within the county may effect a change of address. No special papers are necessary.



(Editor's Note: INSIGHT urges everyone to make certain s(he) is registered. If you need additional information, contact the office of the Harris County Voter Registrar, County Annex Bldg., 1001 Preston at Main, Houston, TX 77002.)



**VOTE**