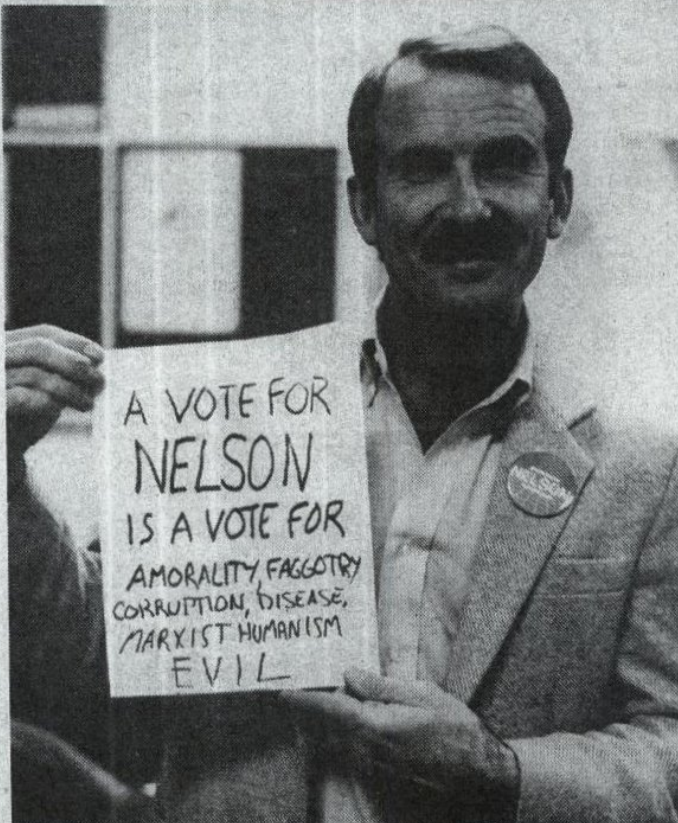


**NEWS, NEWS, NEWS**



Bill Nelson displays a copy of the homophobic flyer left on light poles in District 2 last Friday.

**Bigots launch smear campaign**

"A vote for Nelson", says the hand printed, photocopied flyer which adorned many Cedar Springs area light poles last Friday, "is a vote for amorality, faggotry, corruption, disease, Marxist humanism[... ]evil".

Bill Nelson, candidate for Dallas City Council from District 2 and owner of Crossroads Market, isn't particularly perturbed or upset by the flyers, which he considers ridiculous.

These are, he points out, "the kind of people that defeated the Houston referendum", adding: "They are not going to do it in this campaign."

Nelson shrugged off the term "Marxist

humanism" as self-contradictory and bluntly denied the allegation of "amorality", pointing out that his campaign has been run as an openly gay man and president of the Dallas Gay Alliance. He suggests that his integrity is, at least, superior to that of other, unnamed candidates who may not have openly revealed facts which could prove potentially detrimental to their campaigns.

Nelson has turned the back room of the Crossroads Market into his campaign headquarters until the April elections.

**Federal courts hold gays in limbo**

With the decision of the New Orleans federal appellate court to review the 21.06 *Baker vs. Wade* decision before the full panel of judges rather than before only three judges (as was done last September), some local leaders have expressed fears of our recent victory going down to defeat, although it appears that both sides are ready to appeal a decision against them to the U.S. Supreme Court.

And the Supreme Court itself will hear the first gay-related case to go before it in many years in the near future when the National Gay Task Force contends that an Oklahoma law that allows the firing of any school teacher who is openly gay or presents homosexuality as a viable alternate lifestyle is unconstitutional. NGTF says this will be a landmark case which could influence the life of every gay man and lesbian in this country.

In the meantime, another federal court will be listening to arguments concerning whether a gay/lesbian support group should be allowed at Texas Tech University.

In a favorable decision recently at the local level, an attempt by two nieces of the late John

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Dear Editor:

Over a year has passed since the Dallas Police Department began its Fall, 1979 offensive against the gay community, culminating in raids on gay bars and the arrest of dozens of persons on charges of public lewdness, homosexual conduct and public intoxication. This time, rather than simply plead guilty and bargain for lighter sentences, several of these victims of police harassment chose to fight and prove their innocence in the courts.

The first of the victims of the October, 1979 Village Station raid went to trial early in 1980. The result was a victory for the gay community. The Honorable Chuck Miller, Judge of County Criminal Court #7, rejected the contradictory and sloppy testimony of the DPD officers, and, in turn, accepted the testimony of several openly gay witnesses that the defendants had not engaged in lewd behavior. Rather than risk future acquittals of the remaining Village Station defendants, District Attorney Henry Wade, in a blatant and disgraceful abuse of his power, dismissed the remaining cases out of Judge Miller's court and refiled them in other courts. Wade's forum-shopping, although loudly denounced by the criminal defense bar and the county criminal court judges, achieved its ultimate goal. This summer two of the remaining Village Station defendants were convicted of public lewdness. The District Attorney's office took full advantage of the delay - arising from Wade's forum-shopping - to polish the testimony of the DPD officers. Judges Brashear and Orvis chose to believe the testimony of the same DPD officers who had been discredited in Miller's court.

This brief and partial account of the social injustices inflicted on our community over the past year underscores the importance of the judicial races in the upcoming general election. Gay men and lesbian women will never be accorded the full and equal protection of the laws until our courts are headed by men and women who will not buckle under political pressure from the likes of Henry Wade and company, but will treat us in the same manner as any other citizen who comes through their courts.

We as co-chairs of the Social Justice Committee of the DGPC urge your readers to follow the DGPC's endorsements in the judicial races. We, in particular, urge your readers to vote for Rick Danna and Michael Byck, candidates for two county criminal court positions. Danna and Byck have gotten to know members of the DGPC Board of Directors and members of our committee and have expressed a genuine appreciation for the prejudice and injustices gays and lesbian women endure on a daily basis. Danna and Byck have committed themselves to treat gay men and lesbian women in a fair and impartial manner.

Please, vote to protect gays and lesbians from further miscarriages of justice.

Campbell Read, Ph.D.  
Peter Brooks, Attorney at Law  
Co-Chairs of the Social Justice Committee  
Dallas Gay Political Caucus

*Dear Reader:*

*Please read this letter - and act on it. I believe this is important to every one of us. See you at the polls.*

*Roy G. Hall*  
*Editor + Publisher*