Because

INTEGRITY HOUSTON

We Care

August 10, 2016

This scrapbook was obtained by Larry Criscione from Gregory Shelton following the death of Shelton's partner, Steve W. Brown. Steve Brown becamed involved with the Botts archive/library at Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection (MCCR) following the death of Charles Botts. It was at this time (1994) that a committee was established at MCCR to continue the work of Charles Botts in regard to the library/archive. Steve Brown was the first president of the library committee and Larry Criscione was vice president. A few years later, Larry Criscione became president of the committee.

Larry Criscione remembers this scrapbook being in the library at the time (1994). When the church moved from Decatur Street to a new church on 11th Street in 2000, Steve Brown took this scrapbook home for safekeeping. There the scrapbook resided for some sixteen years until it has now been returned to the Botts Collection of LGBT Material.

Material in the scrapbook dates from 1973 to 1982 and is mainly concerned with the organization Integrity/Houston. Note that the cover is labeled 'Because We Care/ Integrity Houston.'

WARNING!

BROTHERS & SISTERS

CAN YOU BE CERTAIN THAT YOU DON'T HAVE SYPHILIS?

INTEGRITY/Houston

3512 Travis 528-0423

A HOMOPHILE SERVICE-FELLOWSHIP IN COOPERATION WITH THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPT. WILL BE GIVING FREE BLOOD TESTS

SUNDAY, MARCH 11 '73

FROM 11am UNTIL 2pm

3512 TRAVIS

SAFE — CONFIDENTIAL

DON'T LET PRIDE DESTROY YOU!

BE RESPONSIBLE

Dear Sir or Madam: Integrity/Houston requests your kindness and assistance in posting this notice in a conspicuous place in your establishment where it can be viewed by your customers. We hope that this ve y important program will be well received and given the full support of the Gay Community.

Thank you,

The Board and Membership of INTEGRITY/HOUSTON

Your sympathy and thoughtfulness will always be gratefully remembered and deeply appreciated

Houston Post Sep. 8, 1973 Church Fails, Co

DIGNITY/HOUSTON

SEPTEMBER 1972

VOL I, No. 1

3512 TRAVIS
528-0423

Newsletter

The Newsletter is published monthly by DIGNITY/HOUSTON. All, or parts thereof, may not be reproduced in any form without permission of the publisher

HELLO, PEOPLE, I'M YOUR FIRST ISSUE!

WRONG EMPHASIS: AN EDITORIAL — THINK ABOUT THIS.

Call someone a homosexual and you have singled out his sex life as the focal point in viewing him. For some, this implies the negation of any positive values in that person's life; he is viewed as morally and spiritually corrupt. For the gay lib homosexual, however, accenting his sexual activity generates a fierce pride in him that makes him impervious to all attack.

Too many straights see the homosexual as nothing but the source of a queer sexual activity. And it is the opinion of this editor that too many gays put too much emphasis on sex. This does not mean to say we should not be proud of our sexual orientation. It does not mean we should consider sex unimportant in our lives. Nor does it imply we become voluntary celibates or refrain from fighting for our rights.

Sex between two gays who relate is beautiful. It is decidedly an important aspect of our lives. It is natural, fulfilling and meaningful. Its exercise is our right. And our present social circumstances demand that we fight for the preservation of our rights. But much the same can be said of exercising our right to take in food and drink, to use our intellect, to give expression to artistic drives. All of these aspects of our life are important. They are all interrelated. Of themselves, they are amoral. How we use any of them determines their morality.

The individual whose life revolves around sex is immoral. When sexual activity becomes the immediate purpose of all social contact, when sexual desires constitute the sum-total of his desires, when sex becomes the focal point around which all else must revolve, there is for that person an imbalance which, when accepted and cherished, becomes immoral.

Homosexuality has no more claim to enthroning sex as the god in our life than does heterosexuality for straights. We are human beings--all of us. Our being is many faceted, each facet in balance with the other. To ignore other facets of our life, other needs and other activities, is to transform our essential beauty and goodness into a comedy of errors. We violate the integrity of our natures. We become immoral.

Our intellects have a natural hunger for truth. To confine the search for truth to the realm of sex or to see all truth as related as corollaries to sex is a tragic distortion of truth. To see beauty and goodness only in terms of the physical and centered in the genitalia, is to be pitifully myopic.

Our spirit tends to rise above the physical but cannot separate itself (until death) from the physical. When we allow the spirit to expand and seek its own horizons, the physical in our life is not destroyed but raised to a higher beauty. So, when a personal relationship is experienced with God, when the world of art is no foreign land to us, sex becomes far more beautiful and meaningful.

Our heart craves human relationships in varying degrees. But when we use those relationships to satisfy our own needs with no real concern for the immediate and ultimate needs of others, especially in the area of sex, we become misanthropic hypocrites--for all our altruistic protestations.

ADVOCATE 6-6-73

Houston Gays aid health department with VD program

HOUSTON—Integrity Houston, a gay rap and service group, recently assisted the health department in a venereal disease detection program among Gays. As a result of this program, Fred Ard of Integrity was invited to speak to the health department trainee program regarding gay problems.

The Houston Health Department says about 40 per cent of the city's VD cases involve Gays. During the Integrity program the anonymity of those coming for testing was carefully preserved. Among those tested, two active cases of VD were found, and Integrity volunteers contacted the persons themselves. Each person tested was known to the health department only through assigned code numbers.

Health department trainees received the talk on gay problems with interest and expressed concern as to the best methods they could use to help the community. Most concern seemed to center around the question of whether gay relationships were as lasting as those of heterosexuals.

It is anticipated that this will open the door to future liaisons with other city departments, and Integrity spokesmen have been invited to continue their talks with future health department trainee groups.

CHRONICLE 8-21-73

Chief Short Urges Parents to Assume More Responsibility

Police Chief Herman Short says parents should assume more responsibility in the upbringing of their children and find out more about their activities.

Short said parents have learned the need to exert more effort to know where their children are, what company they are keeping and what they are doing since exposure of the sex murders of 27 young males in Houston.

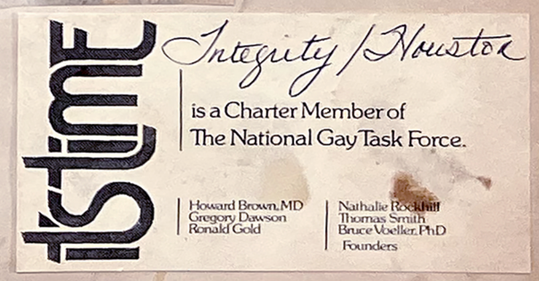
He made his comments on "Q&A" — a panel interview show Monday night on KUHT-TV.

Short, discussing criticism of police handling of runaway children, said he wants legislation giving police more power in dealing with runaways. Police, he said, lack authority to go after and return runaways under present law.

"We look for runaways as a public service," said Short. "Being a runaway is not a criminal offense. It seems the public can't comprehend that."

Short said he did not "intend to lie down" and take criticism of police handling of runaways, some of whom were victims of the sex slayings.

He said homosexuals need not fear police reprisals because of the murders, adding that many sex deviates would not resort to murder.



tstime

Integrity/Houston is a Charter Member of The National Gay Task Force.

Howard Brown, MD
Gregory Dawson
Ronald Gold

Nathalie Rockhill
Thomas Smith
Bruce Voeller, PhD
Founders

Homosexuals gather for 'Integrity'

Religion

'Men are filed under headings of heterosexual (good) or homosexual (bad) and the church has taught each group to hate the other one'

By CHARLENE WARNKEN
Post Religion Writer

A group of homosexuals, which presently numbers more than 200 members, has been meeting at a Roman Catholic church in central Houston for the past three years.

"The priests have been very kind to us," said Francis Thompson, a spokesman for "Integrity," which is an outgrowth of a national Catholic organization of homosexuals entitled "Dignity."

"Our group began as 'Dignity,' but we felt we should expand and open the meetings to all faiths," Thompson explained.

A baptized Catholic who left the church, Thompson said most of the leaders of Integrity are Catholics. But the group, which meets once a week, is not religion oriented like the Metropolitan Community Church gay Bible study group which has met at the Montrose Gaze Community Center.

"We don't want the name of the church where we meet publicized because the priests would be harassed," Thompson said. "People in the parish would get upset if they thought we were meeting there."

Members of Integrity, most of whom are middle aged, have mixed feelings about any church, he admitted.

"The church has failed not only gays, but all people regarding sex," he said. "Nowhere in the words of Christ do you find any condemnation of homosexuality. But by following the words of Paul, the church has condemned all sex.

"The Catholic church even excommunicates gays, although many priests are gay."

The church has divided men into two categories, Thompson charged.

"Men are filed under the headings of heterosexual, "good," or homosexual, "bad." Through this tactic, the church has taught each group to hate the other. Straights hate gays because the church says homosexuality is bad. Gays hate straights because of their oppression."

'People in the parish would get upset if they knew...'

The church's ideal is the family man, said Thompson, who himself once fitted that ideal.

"I was married for seven years," he recalled. "My wife was a Catholic, so I was baptized when we got married. We were very happy for five years. We had two daughters, but the last one was jaundiced because of the RH factor. We didn't want any more children, but the priest told us we couldn't practice birth control. I wasn't going to confess what I didn't believe was a sin, so I left the church."

Thompson also left his wife and daughters — and became an active homosexual, which he had been before his marriage.

"My wife won't allow me to see the girls," he said pensively. "She threatens to tell them about me, but when they are older I hope to tell them myself. Maybe they will understand . . ."

Thompson believes that gays should be accepted by the church as part of the regular congregation, but he is realistic enough to realize that this may never happen.

"The gay church is growing fast," he said. "But the mother church in Los Angeles has been burned twice. There has been a tremendous amount of damage done by the church's attitude and persecution. I don't see why gays should be treated any differently. God is for all people if they obey Christ's command to love."

The church very slowly is changing its attitudes toward gays, added Thompson, who is working with Montrose Gaze to establish a gay church in Houston within the next three months.

"One Protestant denomination has accepted a gay as an ordained minister and an Office of Gay Affairs has been created by the Unitarians," he pointed out.

'I don't see why gays should be treated differently'

"A number of ministers are accepting us, but their congregations are something else. If they know you are homosexual, they shun you. I feel God loves homosexuals as much as heterosexuals—maybe more."

The Houston area has a population of at least 300,000 active homosexuals, according to Thompson.

"Approximately 10 to 20 per cent of the country's population is actively homosexual," he claimed. "Ninety per cent of the gays I know have had heterosexual relations — and a good number of them are married."

'By following the words of Paul the church has condemned all sex'

Thompson described himself as a "very deeply religious person."

"Since I came to accept myself, thanks to Gay Lib, I have accepted God and my fellow man. My main interest now is in helping Gay Lib — and I think faith in God is a very necessary part of it."

"If anyone thinks that being a homosexual makes you any less of a man, he hasn't met Troy Perry," he added.

Perry is the founder of the Metropolitan Community Church, which opened its doors in Los Angeles six years ago. He also is the author of the book "The Lord is my Shepherd and He Knows I Am Gay."

Thompson knows he is gay — but he doesn't pretend to know the reasons why. He doesn't accept what he calls the "usual myths" about why gays are gay.

"All the old myths are being dispelled," he said. "It used to be said that gays had a dominant mother and a passive father. Well, my father is no mouse and my mother is not domineering. They have a very good relationship.

"I am one of five children — and am the only one who is homosexual. I don't hate women, although I know some gays who do. But I know some hetereosexuals who do too," he laughed.

"I think it was born in me," he mused. "If anything, gays are overly sensitive. I always loved art and classical music. But Eisenhower and Churchill liked art — and they weren't gay."

Thompson has admitted his homosexuality to his family and has been accepted by them, he reported.

"I am very open," he said. "My father is not gay, but he is involved with Gay Liberation. I am his son and he says "Your fight is my fight too.'"

Thompson does not believe homosexuality is a mental illness.

"Back in the '50s, gays all thought they were sick and were freaks. We have been called 'sinners' by the church and 'sick' by psychiatrists, but we are neither sinners nor sick. We are just people who love differently.

"Men are the last minority group, but I think all people need to be liberated sexually — and need to accept each other. Bigots wear their bigotry as a symbol of pride, but I don't understand how anyone can be proud of hating. We are not made to hate.

"Jesus said to love your neighbor," Thompson concluded. "That doesn't mean you have to do what he does, but it means you recognize his right to do it."

'Church has failed,' says priest who meets with gays

The assistant pastor of the Houston Catholic church that allows 200 homosexuals to meet there each week calls himself the chaplain of the group.

"I sit in on all the meetings," he explained. "I maintain an interest in them — and I think it does count. It gives them moral support."

The church has failed to minister to homosexuals in the past, the priest said.

"The church has adopted a kind of ostrich head-in-the-sand attitude, hoping they will go away, but they don't. The individual parish has some sort of obligation to the community, so the pastor here has given them the use of the hall."

The bishop of the Galveston-Houston diocese, John L. Morkovsky, is aware that the group meets at the church, the assistant pastor said.

"He walked in on one of our meetings one time — and several of the Catholic members recognized him. He wasn't attending the meeting, but came in by mistake. He knows that we are there."

The priest said he knows "several priests who are homosexuals."

"I am sure many of us priests have homosexual tendencies, but we seem to be scared of anyone finding out, especially since we work with altar boys.

"The impression is that every last homosexual is a child molester, but this is not true. We have had no problems with the people who have met here."

The priest said the church group "seems to be the only organized gay group here in Houston."

"The Gay Lib at the University of Houston folded — and now Montrose Gaze no longer has a place to meet. These people need something there to maintain them. I thought they might want to meet only once a month, but they come week after week. It serves a purpose."

The number of homosexuals in the Houston area has greatly increased since the opening of NASA, the priest maintained.

"Not that NASA has a lot of them, but it has brought tremendous growth to the city," he explained.

The homosexuals who meet at the church do not have religious services there — and are ministered to only by the presence of the priest who attends their meetings.

"They must concentrate upon themselves — and develop their own personalities," the priest said.

"Gays shouldn't undersell themselves, as they so often do. There is a lot of talk about Gay Lib, but it has to be the person himself who liberates himself. It is this that I find greatly lacking among gays: A sense of personal responsibility."

Counseling homosexuals individually rather than through groups urged

Roman Catholic priests here have been advised by their bishop that counseling of individual homosexuals is preferable to group ministry.

In response to a Houston Post story about homosexuals who meet at a Catholic church here, Bishop John L. Morkovsky sent a letter to all priests ministering in the diocese of Galveston-Houston.

"I have serious doubts about the pastoral usefulness of meetings of large groups of homosexuals," the bishop wrote.

Morkovsky acknowledged that "alcholics are helped in their efforts to overcome their impulse to drink by meetings and mutual support," but added "An apostolate to these people (homosexuals) might best be exercised by way of counseling of individuals."

The assistant pastor of the church where the homosexuals meet each week said he has not been notified to stop the meetings. The gay group calls itself "Integrity."

The assistant pastor sits in on all the meetings of the homosexuals to "give them moral support." He said he is doubtful the bishop will remove him from his post because of this.

"I question whether that can be done in this day and age," he said. "It would make a martyr of me."

The priest claimed the bishop has received a lot of comment from people who are in favor of a ministry to homosexuals."

"I think maybe in the final analysis it was good that it came out in the paper," the priest said. "The gay community of Houston is quite different from those in other cities. It is terribly fragmented and closeted."

In his letter to the priests, the bishop commented:

"Some of you and some of the people intrusted to your care surely read the recent article in the Houston Post about an apostolate to homosexuals. My name was mentioned in it. I do not recall the incident mentioned, but that is beside the point.

"The point is that our apostolate is to all the people, including those who need help the most, the 'sinners,' those with immoral inclinations, to help them to overcome these, or to bring them repentance and forgiveness if they have failed to overcome them.

"This is the thrust of our apostolate to the alcoholic, to the drug addict, to those inclined to greed, to hatred, to injustice, to pride, to fornication and adultery.

"Let there be no doubt in anyone's mind — and unfortunately, some people even in responsible positions have left the opposite impression in the minds of some — drunkenness and greed and hatred and homosexuality and adultery and fornication are evil inclinations, and to follow them is immoral, sinful.

"We do not condemn people for their evil impulses," the bishop wrote.

"We know that some of these are involuntary. Some may be so strong that they negate free will. We do condemn sin in order to save the sinner."

There has been much progress in the study of human behavior in recent years, the bishop admitted in his letter.

"Our apostolate is to those who are not by nature inclined that way. Jesus said, 'I have come to call sinners, not the just.' It is these who need help to overcome their sinfulness."

You are cordially invited
to attend the Dedication of the
Metropolitan Community Church
of Dallas
on Sunday, the twenty-seventh of May
in the year of our Lord
nineteen hundred and seventy-three
at eleven o'clock in the morning
at
3834 Ross Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75204

R.s.v.p. Rev. Richard Vincent, Pastor

INTEGRITY/Houston

P. O. Box 16041
Houston, Texas 77022

PRESS RELEASE August 13, 1973

This organization of homosexuals deplores the recent atrocity of murder, madness, violence, drugs and rape by the individuals, Dean Croll, et al. Since some local news media has branded this a homosexual crime, our organization decided to come forth. In meeting tonight, we unanimously voted to release this statement to the press:

We believe that these crimes mentioned above are heinous crimes, whether they be heterosexual, homosexual or not sexual at all. These crimes are committed often, but seldom by homosexuals. The principal could have performed similar crimes as a heterosexual and we believe that his sexual orientation is not of significance.

Here these crimes were combined with Croll's madness; indeed a rare combination. So many other atrocities have been performed by heterosexual madmen that we believe that his sexual orientation is passive compared to his homicidal, manacial, violent nature.

Thousands of Americans have worked long and hard to bring about understanding and acceptance of the homosexual community and now because of the vile and abhorrent acts of only a small handful of individuals, we stand to lose all we have worked so very hard for.

We appeal to your sense of justice to not let this happen.

Our hearts cry for the helpless victims and their survivors, and for a world and society that breeds even one such person or even one such infamous act.

Integrity/Houston

INTEGRITY/HOUSTON A HOMOPHILE SERVICE-FELLOWSHIP
IN COOPERATION WITH THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPT.
IS SPONSORING
FREE BLOOD TESTS
TO DETECT SYPHILIS
SUNDAY, MARCH 25TH - 11AM till 2PM
3512 TRAVIS
VD PRESENTATION BEGINNING AT 12 NOON
LEARN THE SYMPTOMS — ASK QUESTIONS
YOU DO NOT GIVE YOUR NAME TO HEALTH DEPT!

Gay-backed candidate wins mayor's race in Houston

HOUSTON—Attorney Fred Hofheinz Jr. defeated City Councilman Dick Gottlieb for mayor of the South's largest municipality by a margin of only 3027 votes, less than two per cent of the total vote cast in the Dec. 4 election.

Hofheinz received wide support in the gay community while Gottlieb was generally regarded with indifference. The black community apparently gave Hofheinz his greatest support.

The size of the gay vote is difficult to estimate but is generally thought to be well in excess of the 3027. The gay vote may have been around 20,000 of the total of 244,243 votes cast.

There were several instances in the campaign of gay support of Hofheinz. Integrity, a local gay activist organization, circulated a flyer urging a vote for Hofheinz.

Integrity reported that Hofheinz had appeared before them during the primary campaign and "endorsed gay rights."

The organization also claimed that Hofheinz told them he would seek an end to police harassment of Gays. "He is receptive to establishing a liaison between the police and the gay community in order to eliminate some of the harmful misconceptions which now exist," according to the group.

In another instance, Farmhouse Club co-owner Gene Howle announced his endorsement of Hofheinz over his club's sound system on election eve. The club was packed with about 500 customers at the time.

One of Hofheinz' major campaign promises was to replace Houston Police Chief Herman Short. Gottlieb had been expected to retain Short.

Short was not very popular in the gay community. In October 1972, when transsexual "Tony" Mayes was seeking a meeting with him, Short responded, "I don't talk to queers." Mayes was trying to get Short to instruct officers to sto their frequent arrests of Mayes wearing female attire.

THE HOUSTON POST
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1973

Heights parents ask state aid to keep center open

By FRED BONAVITA
Post State Capital Bureau

AUSTIN — Faced with a heavy deficit and what they say is a lack of concern by City Hall and local sources, a group of parents from the Heights area of Houston turned Monday to the state for help to keep their neighborhood center open.

The center was opened Aug. 22 in the wake of Houston's mass murders of young boys and has been operated on a volunteer basis as a haven for runaways and as a community center to give idle youngsters a place to go.

But pleas for financial help from City Hall in Houston and from the city's major philanthropic organizations have, for the most part gone unanswered, said W. L. Mayhew, executive director of the Heights Parents Community Center at 633 West 19th.

"ALL WE have been getting from anybody is a lot of noise and no action," declared Mayhew.

Mayor Louie Welch could not be contacted to comment on the claims.

Mayhew said a meeting with James M. Rose, director of the Division of Planning Coordination for the governor's office, on Monday was the first positive response the group has had in weeks.

"We told him our problems, and he is going to cooperate with us," Mayhew said of the meeting with Rose. "Any help he can give, he will give us."

Mayhew; State Rep. Ron Waters, D-Houston; the Rev. Alan Abraham, pastor of the Heights Christian Church and a member of the board of directors of the center; and R. C. Burns, service officer of a Veterans of Foreign Wars chapter, were extremely critical of what they said was a lack of concern and interest in the center from Houston and particularly from outgoing Mayor Louie Welch.

"WE CAN'T GET cooperation from the present city government," Mayhew continued. "They have done nothing. We have asked them several times, but it was made clear to us in a round-about way that they are not going to do anything for the Heights area."

He said the city removed playground equipment from the few parks in the area and balked at the idea of replacing it.

"We get the word, 'Well, they'll just carry it off,'" Mayhew said he was told.

He estimates the center will need about $50,000 for operational and planning expenses for the coming 12 months. At the present, he said, it is about $2,000 in debt with parents paying many of its bills from their pockets.

The building it occupies was donated by Houston businessman George Polk, and other interested persons and businesses have contributed some amounts to the project, he said.

"UP TO THIS point, there has been an outpouring of sympathy on the city and state levels, but finally today we got some kind of assurances from the governor's office that we will get something done," Waters said. "We stand 30 days away from closing it down and forgetting about it."

Mayhew indicated that had the center been open and had the area's youth had a place to go, they might not have fallen victim to murder.

"If they had had a swimming pool to go to and had recreation to go to and had some place to go, they wouldn't have taken up with just anybody," he said of the victims, most of whom came from the Heights area. "When they have nothing to do and no place to go then they are going to find something to do."

HE INDICATED the Heights area is being neglected by design and because helping is not a politically correct thing to do.

"This is an election year, and nobody is going to do nothing or say nothing. After the election, it is going to be the same," Mayhew said.

"The City Council can't do anything because the city is run by Louie Welch," he said. "I hold him directly responsible for the lack of services."

Waters said a part of the reason the Heights is being neglected by city hall is that downtown business interests are eyeing it for expansion as a commercial area and want residents out.

"It is the next close to downtown that is exploitable," said Abrahams. "It is within the 610 Loop, and it is very close to downtown. There are no traffic bottlenecks from there into downtown."

MAYHEW, WHO said he is a former constable, investigated allegations of "molestings" of children more than a year ago before the homosexually related murders became public in August. He said he documented a situation then and turned the information over to city officials who failed to follow through on it.

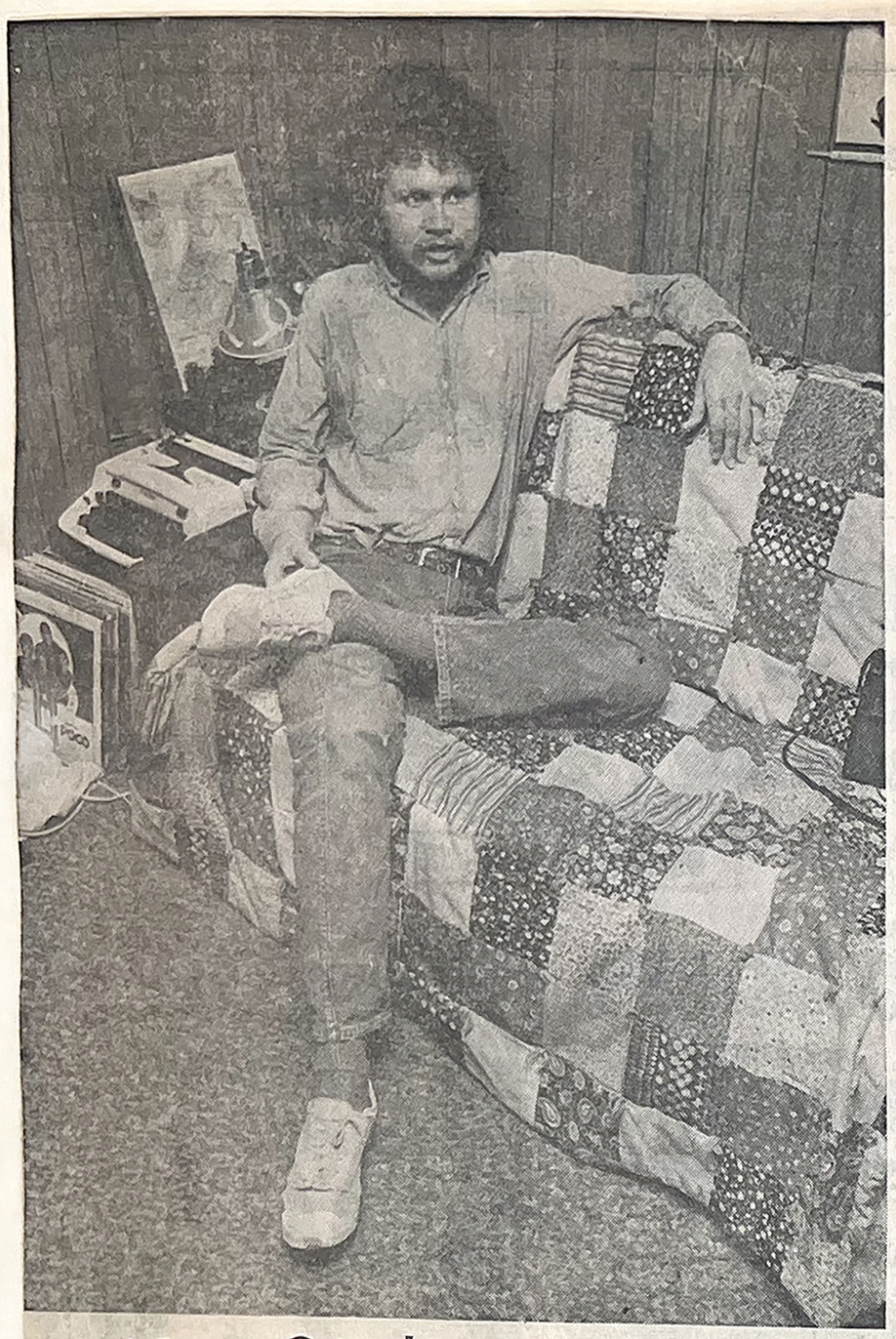
Since then and since the recent discovery of the murders, he said, parents in the area have been suggesting to suspected homosexuals and alcoholics that they move out of the area. He denied the formation of a vigilante group, however, but said the suspected persons were told "we would put the heat on" if they didn't move.

"Our streets are safe now," he said.

3512 TRAVIS ST. P.O. BOX 16041
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77022

INTEGRITY/HOUSTON
Service/Fellowship

MEETING EACH THURSDAY 8:00 - 9:30 P.M.



AP Photos

When Dennis Milam told his mother he was a homosexual, he knew she wouldn't disown him. She was liberal, progressive, he says. "Besides she gets a lot of strength from her children. I knew she would hurt herself if she rejected me."

'The Sexual Image of Gays Has Been Talked About Far Too Much'

BY CONNIE LUNNEN
Chronicle Staff

(Last of Two)

There is no welcome mat, but a verse on the wall that reads: "I do my thing and you do your thing. I am not in this world to live up to your expectations . . ."

Four years ago, when Dennis Milam was 16, he told his mother he was a homosexual; he knew she wouldn't disown him.

"My mother was too liberal and progressive to throw me out. Besides she gets a lot of strength from her children. I knew she would hurt herself if she rejected me. We had a lot of trust in each other," says Dennis.



He is 20, a junior at the University of Texas. He wants to be a teacher or a counselor.

His apartment is small, like a trailer house. Everything has a place. The plant on the refrigerator. The purse on the kitchen table. The only trace of color is the patchwork quilt on the sofa.

He has finished the breakfast dishes, taken out the trash, let a restless cat outside.

Dennis sees his mother Mary, who lives in Houston, every few months. Sometimes she comes to Austin, going with him to gay bars or dances at night.

"I take her to gay bars just to let her see a whole variety of gay people, from wild, long-haired radicals to conservative businessmen. She can see drag queens and the most feminine looking women dancing together," he says.

Most gay men aren't "effeminate hairdressers who see analysts and cry all the time," Dennis says.

He feels he is not that way.

"I wish to emphasize those things about gay people that usually don't come up, the cultural, political and social things. The sexual image of gays has been talked about far too much. Sometimes we feel like some women must feel when they're defined simply as sex objects. It's an ugly feeling."

Tall and lean, he has a mustache and beard. Big round eyes are set in a wide face. He has curly hair. His mother thinks he dresses like a hippie these days. He wears jeans, a shirt and tennis shoes. Until he left for college, she bought his clothes.

Has he ever felt like a woman? "That's a ridiculous question. I am a man," he snaps. Between sociology classes, he attends a "men's awareness" class sponsored by the campus YMCA. He wants to see how much of a man he is.

"I have a feeling of myself as a man, with the word 'gay' in front of man. I want to know how much I am like other men. I've already discovered that most men in the group have the same worries and fears. Even though I am the only gay member, the same things make us lonely and happy."

Dennis says he is a "multiplicity" of qualities, like the patchwork quilt his sister made. Strong and independent, weak and emotional. "Some days I feel really together. Other days I need someone to comfort me." Roles don't restrict him; he doesn't believe in them.

"I would like to see women become more powerful and independent and men more sensitive," he says.

Dennis' older brother lives out of state. As children, they weren't close. Now Dennis sends him piles of information on gay liberation, hoping he'll understand.

(See DENNIS, Page 2)

Life Style
THE HOUSTON CHRONICLE
MONDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1973
SECTION 2

Memorial fund tops $7200

As of noon, Aug. 9, the ADVOCATE had recorded $7260.24 in the National New Orleans Memorial Fund, for which it is acting as custodian.

The contributions since noon, July 26, the day of the last previous report, are:

From individuals	$582.71
From organizations, benefits, and companies	$1687.17

The latter figure breaks down as follows:

Tantalus (Boston)	$25.00
MCC/Detroit	$156.20
Integrity (Houston)	$25.00
MCC/Tampa, additional donation (bringing their total to $384)	$50.00
United Metropolitan Community Church (Tulsa)	$100.00
MCC/Los Angeles	$443.58
MCC/Long Beach	$146.00
MCC/San Fernando	$28.00
Congregation Beth Chayim Chadashim, MCT	$52.28
MCC/Atlanta	$372.00
Fund-raiser, B.J.'s bar, Los Angeles	$71.00
Dignity	$50.00
Gay People's Union (Milwaukee)	$75.00
MCC/Baltimore	$23.75
Boulder (Colo.) Gay Liberation	$69.36

Disbursements of record to date have been $200 to establish a petty cash fund in New Orleans for day-to-day expenses.



Television

THE HOUSTON POST
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1974

Marcus Welby gets some 'minor' welts

By C.W. SKIPPER
Post Television Editor

There is a bit of a flap about, of all things, the Marcus Welby, M.D. episode being shown tonight (9 p.m., Channel 13).

A handful of ABC affiliates has canceled this Tuesday's Welby, mostly because of criticism by homosexual groups. The plotline concerns a 14-year-old who is sexually assaulted by his junior high school science teacher while on a field trip.

The homosexual groups, trying to bring pressure on the network (rejected) and the affiliate stations, say the show affronts them and their cause by stereotyping images of homosexuals on television.

Five affiliates have canceled the show. They are the ABC affiliates in Boston, Philadelphia, Springfield, Mass., Lafayette, La., and Corpus Christi.

KTRK-TV, Channel 13, the Houston affiliate, reported the station had received two letters of complaint. One was a stereotyped letter from a group called the National Gay Task Force. The other was from Houston, and purported to be from Integrity Houston. It was signed with a man's name, and gave three phone numbers.

Ken Johnson, KTRK-TV general manager, said the station had called the three numbers attempting to reach the man whose name was signed to the letter, but at one number the person answering had never heard of the name. Nobody answered at the other two numbers.

"Channel 13 definitely will carry the program," Johnson said. "In my judgment I felt it should be shown."

Officials of the National Association of Broadcasters' Code Authority office viewed the show and found it acceptable. ABC rejected the complaints and a spokesman said, "Our standards and practices department looked at the film and found it suitable. The National Association of Broadcasters' code also found it suitable for airing."

The show, titled "The Outrage," goes out of its way to state that homosexuality is not involved. A detective says, "There's nothing homosexual about this. It's a case of violent child molestation. A guy with severe mental and emotional problems. He's often married, middle-aged with a crummy marriage, a crummier sex life or both. We call him a pedophile, a child molester."

This episode is not quite the blockbuster ABC apparently had hoped it would be, and its 9 p.m. starting time is well past the bedtime for the smaller children.

The disturbing thing about the matter is that with all the restrictions and censorship facing networks and the TV stations, even one station found reason to cancel such a show, denying the majority an opportunity to see and judge while appeasing a minority.

'The Gun' report

Universal City Studios, Inc. is working on a television film to be titled—until it's changed—"The Gun." The original idea was to make a film about two police officers following a gun, a murder weapon, across the country. Then it was decided to drop the policemen and the murder, and concentrate on one particular .38 as it passes from hand to hand, touching people's lives in transit.

The studio says, "After writing the script we decided not to use any 'name' actors in the film . . . we also eliminated any kind of musical score, as well as makeup for the actors."

Universal points out that there are about 200 million guns in the U.S., nearly one a person. That 20,000 Americans are killed by guns each year, and that the .22-caliber pistol used to assassinate Robert Kennedy had passed through five hands. The studio says, perhaps nervously, "The subject of guns, of course, is an emotional one. Legitimate gun owners, hunters, and collectors resent what they feel are governmental encroachments on their personal liberties."

Undoubtedly, Universal has its sights on big returns with small overhead, but I think the reports will be bad.



Marla Adams plays the mother of a boy (Sean Kelly) who has been criminally molested on Marcus Welby, MD at 9 p.m. on Channel 13.

First Shock, Then Acceptance

Mother Stands Beside, Not Behind, Gay Son



Photos by Larry Evans, Chronicle Staff

Mary Milam, 55, says parents of gay children should "stand beside them to help them achieve their rightful place in this world."

BY CONNIE LUNNEN
Chronicle Staff

Four years ago, Mary Milam's younger son Dennis, then 16, told her he thought he was a homosexual.

Every nerve in her body snapped.

Dennis had said, "Surely you must know. You must have suspected. Bill means more to me than just a friend. I care for him in another way."

Mrs. Milam hadn't known; the events of the last few weeks flashed before her.

Dennis hadn't heard from Bill, his best friend. He waited for letters and phone calls that never came. He was depressed and even morose. No matter what she did, she couldn't pull him out of it. He continued to cry in his room.

"I remember how I cried when certain women friends hurt me because I trusted them. I thought this was happening to Dennis. I didn't realize he was grieving for this boy," says Mrs. Milam, 55.

Sitting in her Houston apartment, she flips through a gay liberation magazine, one of many her son sends her. There are articles on "Accepting My Uniqueness" and "Getting Straight About Gays" and the picture of a woman waving a sign that says, "Parents of Gays Unite in Support of Our Children."

Mrs. Milam waves her own banner.

"I don't condone homosexuality. I wish my son weren't that way. But because he is, I'm not going to stand for anyone calling him a pervert. He isn't. I want a place for him. I want him to fit in," she says.

She has two other children, both older than Dennis.

The recent multiple slayings here have made her sensitive: "My son doesn't sit around all day planning to seduce men. He is as normal as any other man, except for his sexual preference."

Dennis, 20, is a junior sociology student at the University of Texas in Austin.

His mother couldn't be prouder of him.

"He is a warm and considerate young man. He's on the honor society, has been awarded scholarships and grants and despite all the prejudice and intolerence he has experienced, he is still an idealist with faith in his future," she says.

When Dennis told his mother the truth about himself, however, she didn't know what to say or do.

The news splintered her feelings. She wanted to ignore him, think of his confession as a phase, and berate him at once. "I didn't want to reject Dennis, because he was all I had. His father had died a few months earlier and my other children live out of state." Hiding her shock, she said only that "Bill turned you this way."

Even as Dennis talked of feelings for other boys he had experienced since he was 10 years old, his mother refused to believe him. "Girls were always crazy about Dennis. I saw the way they looked at him. A mother notices those things," Mrs. Milam says.

She thought he would outgrow his feelings for other boys.

For almost two years, she said little or nothing to Dennis about the subject unless he brought it up.

She thought about it day and night, recalling every encounter with a homosexual she had ever had. Most had been pleasant. If her son were gay, she would accept it, she decided.

When Dennis was a senior at Spring Branch High School, he told his mother he felt sure he was gay. Her disappointment showed. What would she tell her other children, and her friends? What would Dennis' father have thought? "My Lord, you'll never have a child. All the things a mother looks forward to," she told her son.

She suggested he see a psychiatrist. He said he didn't feel he needed one. He said he hadn't changed, that he was the same person she had known all along.

"I thought, my God, he's right. He's my son and I love him. He's not going to go out and lie and cheat and steal because he's a homosexual. Being gay doesn't make him a monster, Mrs. Milam says.

She realized how hard life would be for him. There would be insults, much abuse. Loneliness. He might never find a lasting relationship.

Could he be bisexual, she wondered. He told her he could care deeply for a girl as a friend, but that's as far as it could go. "My son, as they say, isn't turned on by girls," Mrs. Milam says.

Friends and relatives had a collage of reactions when they learned about Dennis.

One relative said she wanted to hire a woman "who really knows her stuff" to have an affair with him.

Another said he would do all he could to talk Dennis out of it and that he would pray for him.

One of Mrs. Milam's friends said, "It's a disgrace, an abomination. How can you stand to be around those disgusting people?"

A relative said, "Thank God Dennis' father is dead. He never would have accepted this."

Some days Mary Milam felt she caused Dennis to be a homosexual. She read books, and they blamed the mother. Yet in digging through the past, she found nothing to indict her.

Certain memories of her son's childhood stand out:

- Dennis didn't like to play with some boys because they were too rough. He didn't like sports, especially football. "My husband didn't push him because he didn't care for football, either," Mrs. Milam says. Dennis preferred to play with girls, to color, skate or read.
- He was neat, always cleaning his room without being told. Everything had a place. His father said Dennis reminded him of "an old maid in pants."
- Dennis and his father didn't get along. Mrs. Milam doesn't know why. "It was something subtle," she says.
- On picnics to the beach, Dennis ate inside to avoid the bugs. His father always got mad and tried to make him come outside.
- Dennis was friends with many girls, but the relationships were always casual.

Mrs. Milam can't put her finger on any one thing; she still silently wonders what went wrong.

Dennis was born in Victoria, Texas. His brother was 6 and his sister was 14 when he was born. Mrs. Milam was 35 and her husband, a government financial analyst, was 46.

The boy grew up in New Braunfels and San Antonio. He was a Cub Scout and later worked on the school newspaper and in the drama club. When he was 16, his father died and he and his mother moved to Houston.

"Dennis has always been a thoughtful young man. He loves to read. He wants to do something to help people. He's interested in politics, all social things and reform. And he eats his heart out for the underdog. He was a conscientious objector. He's always been a non-violent person. He's very masculine looking. You'd never guess he's gay."

Mrs. Milam, trying to understand her son's lifestyle, has gone with him to gay bars and gay dances.

At times, she has had to fight the tears.

"At one gay dance, everything was okay until the music started. Seeing two girls dance together didn't bother me. But when I saw two men dance together, I felt as if I had been stabbed. I thought to myself, my God, is Dennis really like that? Then I thought that was an awful thing to think."

She worried about what to wear to gay functions; she didn't want people to think "I was strange."

She was the center of attention at gay meetings. "The kids couldn't believe I knew about Dennis and hadn't thrown him out." Many gays asked her to talk to their parents.

In talking to some parents, Mrs. Milam found they think of their gay children as blind or crippled or give them allowances to keep them away.

"If schools, churches, family and friends would accept and support our gay sons and daughters, we might be able to eliminate some of the prejudices and misunderstandings about homosexuality. We shouldn't stand behind our gay children, but beside them to help them achieve their rightful place in this world," Mrs. Milam says.

Tomorrow: Dennis Milam's story.

> "I don't condone homosexuality. I wish my son weren't that way. But because he is, I'm not going to stand for anyone calling him a pervert. He isn't. I want a place for him. I want him to fit in," Mary Milam says.

Catholic opinion on homosexuality remains divided

THE HOUSTON POST
SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 1974

By GEORGE W. CORNELL

NEW YORK (AP) — Homosexuals "can express their sexuality in a manner that is consonant with Christ's teaching," says a recently formed Catholic organization seeking rights for homosexuals in the Roman Catholic Church.

However, guidelines newly issued by United States Catholic bishops say homosexual acts "are a grave transgression of the goals of human sexuality and of human personality, and are consequently contrary to the will of God."

Although conflicting in their conclusions, the two statements point up an increasingly open concern in the churches to the status of homosexuals, a formerly sidestepped, taboo issue.

It is a "social and moral phenomenon that the church has yet to tackle," says the Rev. John F. Havey, a theologian-psychologist of Alexandria, Va., who is organizing the first Catholic center for counseling religious personnel on the problem.

Challenges to the traditional negative church attitude toward homosexuality have surfaced in Protestant denominations in recent years, and since last fall, have emerged explicitly in Roman Catholicism.

At its annual meeting last week in San Francisco, the National Federation of Priests' Councils authorized a task force to "formulate a critical and contemporary theological analysis of homosexuality."

The group is to include several "gay men and women" as consultants. The objective is to develop recommendations for the church "in forming practical attitudes toward homosexuality and homosexuals."

In taking the step, the federation of 130 affiliated councils, including two-thirds of the official diocesan priest senate in the country, dropped a previous committee's report treating homosexuality as an acceptable pattern.

It had been prepared by a study group headed by the Rev. Ramon Wagner of Milwaukee. It termed the bishops' approach to homosexuality as "at best, inaccurate and insensitive; at its worst, it is a misrepresentation of data and a cavalier disrespect for human lives and dignity."

The report was quashed by the federation's executive board as incomplete, and the further study authorized. However, the federation urged repeal of "all civil laws which make consensual homosexual acts between adults a crime," and opposed discrimination against homosexuals in employment.

What has sharpened the issue in Roman Catholicism was a letter sent last fall to U.S. bishops by an organization called Dignity, made up of homosexual Catholics and others concerned with their situation.

Contending that homosexuality could be expressed in keeping with Christian teaching in an "ethically responsible and unselfish way," the letter called for "recognition of the right of gay Catholics" to collectively voice their views within the church, for an increased ministry to homosexuals and for steps to "eradicate false stereotypes and prejudices" against them.

Although the guidelines recently used by Catholic bishops reaffirmed the church's traditional view that homosexual acts are immoral, the statement asserts that individuals do not "will to become homosexual" but come to realize it as a condition.

The statement discusses various degrees of homosexuality, suggesting approaches for counselling about it, and emphasizes the importance of helping persons find deep relationships of love and friendship not involving homosexual acts.

It "represents a new pastoral approach" to the matter, says the Rev. Thomas Kelley, associate general secretary of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

However, some Catholic theologians have urged a re-examination of the former church arguments against homosexuality.

City to get gay church, pastor says

By CHARLENE WARNKEN
Post Religion Writer

Houston soon will have its first gay church, the founder of the Metropolitan Community Church, the Rev. Troy Perry, has announced.

Perry visited Houston last week to help organize the Houston Metropolitan Community study group into a mission. It will be only a short time before the mission becomes a church, Perry said.

"We establish a mission when we have 25 committed persons — and a church when we have 35," Perry explained. "Most of our churches have close to 100 members."

Sixty three Metropolitan Community churches with more than 15,000 members

Catholic opinion/page 15AA

have been started in 28 states, Canada, Great Britain, Australia and New Zealand.

Perry founded the first Metropolitan Community Church, known as the "Mother Church," in Los Angeles in 1968. Although aimed primarily at homosexuals, Perry said 15 per cent of its members are heterosexuals.

An admitted homosexual himself, Perry is the author of the book, "The Lord is My Shepherd and He Knows I'm Gay." He was granted his first license to preach at age 15 by a Baptist church in Winter Haven, Fla.

Perry later left the Baptist church, married and fathered two sons. After five years of marriage, Perry admitted his homosexuality to himself and to his wife and the couple separated. His wife has since remarried.

In his book, Perry writes about the decision to separate:

"We knew that we were tearing up five years of our lives together. And we were dissolving our family. My oldest boy, 'little Punkin' we called him, kept asking why we were doing this, why we were moving, and most agonizing, why we were crying . . . packed them up in the car and took them to the terminal so they could take a bus back to the Midwest . . . There was to be no more future for us together . . . I kissed both of my boys goodbye . . . I went back to my car and got in and just went all to pieces. I had closed a chapter in my life that is, even now, painful to recall."

Since that time, the husky "patron saint" of the gay lib movement has helped establish not only gay churches, but gay synagogues as well.

"There now are three Jewish gay temples in the nation," Perry reported. "One is in Los Angeles, one in New York and one in Boston."

A seminary for gays also has been founded, the Samaritan Bible Seminary in Los Angeles, which has 40 students. And, despite its name of "Metropolitan," the Metropolitan Community Church has opened new churches in several smaller towns.

"The Bible belt has been a great area for us because of



REV. TROY PERRY

the oppression of our people there," Perry said. "Our church started as the result of a need. Your church says you cannot love me because I am gay."

"We are a Christian church," Perry, 33, emphasized. "One third of our members nationally are from a Roman Catholic background, but we are a Protestant group movement in the mainstream of Christianity.

"We believe in the Baptism of the Holy Spirit — and have many charismatics in our congregations. We are the third largest Protestant church in the city of Los Angeles, where we have four MCC churches."

MCC churches have opened in Dallas and Fort Worth, and soon may open in El Paso and Corpus Christi, Perry reported.

"We are aiming for 20,000 membership nationally, so that we can join the National Council of Churches," he said. "Two of our pastors have been named to the Council's National Gay Task Force."

Although four MCC churches have been burned to the ground, Perry is encouraged by several recent developments in mainline denominations.

"The Catholic church has come out with new confession guidelines for homosexuals," he explained. "The bishop of Boston has named a priest to work with homosexuals — and in Los Angeles, gays have been given the use of the Newman Center on a week to week basis.

"The United Church of Christ knowingly has ordained a homosexual in California. Unitarian Universalists have made a statement accepting both homosexuals and bisexuals.

"United Presbyterians and United Methodists are studying the issue. And the Episcopal diocese of Michigan has made the most progressive report I have seen, calling for the admission of gays to the ministry and other areas of church life."

The Metropolitan Community Church has established its own board of evangelism and world missions — and receives 51 per cent of the tithing in local churches. It also has begun a radio program in Los Angeles and soon will branch into television, according to Perry.

"We used to sit around and hope that someday we would be accepted as gays by churches, but that day will never happen," Perry mused.

"MCC says two things to the dying churches of America. We are a stench to the nostrils of God, who sees the white church, the black church and the gay church all separated. And we are a testimony to other churches, because we take the words of Christ literally, 'Come unto me all ye who labor and I will give you rest.' Christ didn't say, 'Come unto me, all ye heterosexuals.'

"The established churches have become country clubs for saints, not churches for sinners. You may own a million dollar church, but be on the wrong track."

Perry's mother, who reared five children (Perry is the oldest), admits in his book that she once had a "traditional reaction" to homosexuality, but now is "with him all the way."

"The real sins are hate and being inhuman to each other," she wrote in her foreword to the autobiography. "That's how we all sin against the homosexuals."

Of his own two sons, whom he still visits, Perry said:

"I want my children to be happy. It is irrelevant to me whether they are heterosexual or homosexual. If one of them should be a homosexual, I hope I will have done something to help so he won't have to suffer the things I have."

Houston's Metropolitan Community Mission meets at 7 p.m. Wednesdays and 1 p.m. Sundays at 2020 Waugh Drive.

You are cordially invited to a brunch to be held by

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Premium beer	45¢	Wine cooler or other	50¢
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Integrity/Houston
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Meetings:
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urgent!

On April 29, the Assad campaign distributed different versions of a political "newspaper" in the Heights and Montrose areas. The Heights version attacked RON WATERS for his support of Gay Rights, leaving the clear impression that Gays do not deserve representation with "decent folks." The Montrose version carefully avoided any mention of the issue.

In view of the Corll impact on the Heights, this constitutes inflammatory pandering at its worst. The fact that Mr. Assad withholds his views from the Montrose community is shameful duplicity.

An excerpt from the Assad propaganda is reproduced below.

Mr. Assad poses the question: "Does this (Ron Waters) represent you?" Our reply is an emphatic YES.

Mr. Assad clearly cannot.

Do You Support the Homosexual Cause?

Waters said, "If I'm elected, I'll represent ALL the people."

Waters also said, "There are lots of gays who are conservative, who voted for me, who worked for me. Because I'm committed to the gay cause, I can be open and public about it—to say in an official capacity that there's nothing wrong with gay love. To admit that I have gay friends, gay people on my staff, and to introduce them as such, should have a radicalizing influence."

DOES THIS REPRESENT YOU?

The above quote was made by Ron Waters and was published in the Texas Monthly, April, 1973, Volume 1, Issue 3.

PLEASE TELL A FRIEND!

Inquiries:

INTEGRITY/HOUSTON

P. O. Box 16041
Houston, Texas 77022

Friday, October 18, 1974 HOUSTON CHRONICLE Section 1, Page 17



Entitled 'The Outrage' --And It Certainly Was

From Dale Carter, P.O. Box 16041.

Imagine the following:

It is 1924. Leopold and Loeb are being tried for the kidnap-murder of Bobby Franks. Anti-Semitism is widespread. Then a national radio network airs a primetime drama in which a Jew kidnaps a gentile and tortures him in a bizarre ritual. Inflammatory? Prejudicial? Of course.

Now it is 1974: David Brooks is to be tried for the Houston mass murders. Homophobia is rampant. Then a national television network airs a primetime drama in which a male high school teacher forcibly rapes a young male student. Inflammatory? Prejudicial? ABC and its local affiliate, Channel 13, don't seem to think so.

This program was protested nationally by the American Psychiatric Association, the American Federation of Teachers and the National Gay Task Force. Four major sponsors withdrew support. ABC affiliates in Boston, Philadelphia, Corpus Christi, Springfield and Lafayette refused to broadcast it. Nevertheless, ABC and KTRK exercised the poor taste and poorer judgment to present it in Houston Oct. 8 as a segment of the "Marcus Welby, M.D." series.

If, as ABC claims, it was only concerned with a portrayal of child molestation, it could easily have featured a female student. Instead ABC chose to reinforce the unfortunate and inaccurate stereotype of homosexuals as child molesters.

The segment was entitled "The Outrage". It certainly was.

Youth agency responds to 'Gay Caucus'

The Texas Methodist - Jan. 18, 1974

ATLANTA (RNS) — A proposal that homosexuals be accepted as candidates for the United Methodist ministry was issued here at the semi-annual meeting of the national United Methodist Council on Youth Ministry.

Adopting a resolution submitted by its Task Force on Life Styles, the Youth Council asked that homosexuality "not be a bar to the ministry" and that "homosexuality in itself not be in any way synonymous with immorality."

Two members of an unofficial "Gay Caucus" within the denomination will attend the Youth Council's August 1974 meeting to help draft proposals on homosexual concerns for the Church's 1976 General Conference.

The Youth Council also endorsed a "U.S. Coalition for Population Year" in 1974, designed to involve young Americans in the planning of U.S. population policies, and pledged not to discriminate in hiring staff members on the basis of "sex, marital status, sexual orientation, personal appearance or matriculation."

The Council rejected a request for funds for a junior-high ministry but assigned one staff member to work part-time with such young people.

Criminal justice provided a heavy emphasis for activities at the meeting.

Two Stations Drop Homosexual Episode Of 'Marcus Welby'

• • •

ABC Affiliates in Philadelphia And Boston Cite Protests By Gay Groups, Show Itself

By a WALL STREET JOURNAL Staff Reporter

NEW YORK—The American Broadcasting Cos.' television network said two of its largest affiliate stations—one in Philadelphia and one in Boston—had dropped the controversial Oct. 8 episode of "Marcus Welby, M.D.," following protests from homosexual organizations and others.

The network said four advertisers had also dropped their advertisements during the episode: Colgate-Palmolive Co., Shell Oil Co., Sterling Drug Inc., and Thomas J. Lipton Inc., a tea and food subsidiary of Unilever N.V.

This was the first time major television stations had ever canceled a show, and that major advertisers had ever canceled national television commercials, following pressure from the homosexual community, Bruce Voeller, executive director of the National Gay Task Force here, said. The episode in question deals with a high school teacher who rapes a 14-year-old male student.

An ABC spokeswoman said she believed the homosexual campaign against the episode was "the main reason these stations are dropping the show—very definitely."

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL. Monday, Sept. 30, 1974 9

The Boston and Philadelphia affiliates say they were influenced by the protest but also found the show offensive on their own.

"If it weren't for all this mail, the show would have run like any other show," said a spokesman for station WPVI, the ABC affiliate in Philadelphia owned by Capital Cities Broadcasting Corp. "Who checks Marcus Welby? That's like attacking Young Dr. Kildare," he said. Following the "unprecedented amount of mail for a show that had never been shown," the station decided to preview the episode and decided it was offensive, he said.

The station said in a public statement it was "especially concerned about the additional burdens of prejudice" that the episode would "doubtless lay upon a newly emerging minority in our society."

Station WCVB in Boston, which also dropped the show, was influenced by the "quality of the letters" protesting the show, but acted mainly because it found the show objectionable, Robert M. Bennett, vice president and general manager, said. He said he feared the show would reinforce the notion that homosexuals are commonly child molesters. "That isn't true, but that's what would come through to an audience," he said. This is also the principal reason that homosexual groups object to the show.

Church supports 'gay' pastor's bid for restoration

TM/UMR Staff Special

SAN ANTONIO, Tx. — A former United Methodist minister whose ministerial orders were suspended in 1971 after he publicly announced he is homosexual has been supported by a local church here in his bid to have his credentials restored.

St. Stephen's United Methodist Church, meeting as a charge conference April 13, voted 20 to 4 with one abstention to approve the character of self-avowed homosexual Gene Leggett and recommend to the annual conference that his ministerial orders be restored.

The charge conference action places Mr. Leggett's petition on the agenda of annual conference. If approved by the annual conference, Mr. Leggett would be permitted his ministerial title and could administer the sacraments and carry on other ministerial functions under the supervision of St. Stephen's UMC. The action would not restore his conference membership or make him eligible for appointment to any other United Methodist Church.

Mr. Leggett has tried unsuccessfully since 1971 to have his full conference membership restored by the annual conference.

Following the action at St. Stephen's UMC, Mr. Leggett said that for the first time "a local (United) Methodist church has placed qualifications for ministry on a basis other than sexual orientation."



As the New Year opens before us, we begin it with special thoughts of you.

During this past year, it was your friendship and support on which we drew to bring more dignity and justice to all.

We wish you a Happy New Year.

And though the forecast is that times may get hard, we hope for a spirit of peace. justice. and dignity for all.

Ron Waters
Ann Lower
Lisa Rogers

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Name_____

Address_____ Zip_____

No: of tickets_____ Amount enclosed $_____

Wednesday, October 9, 1974 HOUSTON CHRONICLE

TV Scene

'Marcus Welby' Episode: From Gay to Zzzzzzz

BY ANN HODGES
TV-Radio Editor

The Gay Lib activists who protested about "Marcus Welby's" case study of a male rape of a teen-age boy surely accomplished one thing: Welby's Tuesday night audience probably was his biggest in a couple of ABC seasons.

And the fact was, Welby's medical melodrama wasn't worth the trouble it caused.

Homosexual activists pressured the network to drop the show, and when ABC refused, they went to individual stations. Four of the 185 affiliates dropped out, including one in Corpus Christi.

But now having seen it, I'm confounded if I can see what the uproar was all about. Given the usual run of regular tune-ins, this Welby episode would have stirred up little more than a basic irritation that it treated such a subject in such an abysmally shoddy script.

Not content with the problem at hand — the mental and physical injury to a teen-age victim of perverted child molestation — writer Eugene Price pulled in every hokey old gimmick he could think of. Including a set of parents so neurotic that they needed psychiatric counseling far worse than their injured son.

As usual, Welby and his disciple Kiley were the only two around with sense enough to cope.

The show wasn't guilty of bad taste — just of being bad.

And regarding the homosexual charges that it might reinforce old stereotypes if the pressure groups hadn't made such a point of gilding that issue, it would have seemed to the average viewer a clear case of perversion.

The argument they might better have used was that to deal with a subject like this on a show like "Marcus Welby" is pure and callous ratings exploitation anyway. If such things are to be tackled in the guise of TV entertainment, surely there could be a better framework than the regular old stable of fictional medical father figures.

Protests come and go, and nearly always find themselves reflected in the ratings. Witness the Italians over the "Untouchables" to Catholics objecting to "Maude's" abortion programs, Jewish groups down on "The Merchant of Venice" and the Polish pressures on "QBVII" and even "Banacek" with his pitiful proverbs.

Where attempted prior censorship is involved, however, the issues broaden. And in most cases, I'm convinced, the causes concerned would be better served by not giving impetus to the kind of prepublicity that merely builds a curious audience.

10 p.m.

THIRD ANNUAL FALL MONTROSE BLOCK PARTY

Sunday, Sept. 30 1973
Noon 'til..

Grant at Welch
10 Speed Bike Raffle
Free Live Music
Presented By:
Anderson Fair Retail Restaurant
W.C. Wrye
Ron Waters
Tim Leatherwood
The Montrose Gallery



A Blue Squirrel Production

Page 4/A
**

THE HOUSTON POST
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1974

Hofheinz vows to get Houston federal funds

Post Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Houston Mayor Fred Hofheinz, making his first trip to Washington since taking office, said Thursday night his administration wants to obtain every federal dollar for the city it can lay its hands on.

"There's not a single (federal aid) program I'm not interested in," Hofheinz said shortly before hosting a cocktail party for fellow urban officials who are attending the mid-winter meeting of the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

"If we're eligible for the money in Houston, we want it," he claimed.

Hofheinz was sharply critical of the reluctance of his predecessor, former Mayor Louie Welch, to actively seek federal funds.

Houston "never got a dime" from the federal government prior to 1970, largely because of Welch, who defeated him in the 1971 mayor's race, Hofheinz told newsmen.

The city never applied for financial help from the Justice Department's Law Enforcement Assistance Administration during the Welch administration because the mayor and then-police chief Herman Short claimed federal funds would result in federal control of local affairs, Hofheinz said.

In addition, he said, Houston has been slow in obtaining federal funds for pollution control, mass transportation, housing and urban development projects and "practically everything."

Hofheinz, who attended a breakfast for the newly-organized Democratic Mayors Conference here Thursday morning, also indicated he will have a more partisan political profile than his predecessors in the mayor's office.

He said local elections should still be non-partisan, but Democrats like himself would be foolish not to use what influence they can exert on the Democratic majority in Congress to win approval of programs favorable to the nation's cities.

"I intend to be the mayor of every person in Houston, regardless of party affiliation," Hofheinz claimed. "But I'm a Democrat, I've always been a Democrat and I always will be a Democrat."

He accused Welch, who was a delegate to the 1968 Democratic National Convention but a supporter of President Nixon's re-election in 1972, of being "a closet Republican."

"You can quote me on that," Hofheinz told newsmen. "He's a closet Republican. The Harris County Republican Party went all out to support him every time he ever ran for office."

The newly-inaugurated mayor scoffed at speculation that he may someday be a candidate for governor or the U.S. Senate in Texas. "That's very premature," he smiled.

'Very Natural Thing' has nice, natural premiere

by JEANNE BARNEY

A Very Natural Thing had its West Coast premiere Thursday, Sept. 19, at Westwood's Picwood Theatre as a benefit performance for the San Francisco-based organization, the Whitman-Radclyffe Foundation. "Swell," one says. "Big deal. Another porno pic. So what else is new?"

Well, the movie itself for openers. In the first place, it's *not* a porno pic. In the second place, it's really not a "gay film" but a film with a gay theme.

In a rather radical break with tradition, Christopher Larkin has presented what is perhaps the first honest and non-exploitational look at a gay relationship since James Baldwin's *Giovanni's Room*. Like the Baldwin book, this film lets us share a love relationship between two people. And like the Baldwin book, the only difference between this relationship and any other is that the lovers happen to be of the same sex.

A Very Natural Thing is a far cry from the bitch-desolation of *The Boys in the Band*, the dreary bar crowd of *Some of Your Best Friends*, or the shot-through-a-shroud hints of a Bergman epic.

But enough. This is not a review of the movie. For that I would refer readers to Harold Fairbanks in Issue 142 of this newspaper. Those who live in Los Angeles might also have seen the review by Kevin Thomas in the *Los Angeles Times* Sept. 20. That, too, was something new: an empathetic and favorable review of a touchy topic by a major writer for a paper that is still very conservative in many respects. Heavens! The review even says "homosexual" and "gay," words which were once disallowed by the paper in either editorial or advertising matter. Indeed, the *Times* rejected a particular illustration for an ad for the movie.

'Names' on Hand

A kleig-lighted, celebrity-studded opening is also something new for a film with a gay theme. Yet the lights were on and so were the notables. Jack Albertson was truly Sunshine Boy as Master of Ceremonies. His wife, Wallis, an important person in Democratic politics, accompanied him. City Atty. Burt Pines was there. Councilman Joel Wachs was there. Dr. Evelyn Hooker was there. So were state attorney general hopeful Bill Norris, Councilman Ed Edelman, and Assemblyman Alan Sieroty. Chief Ed Davis was absent.

Nor did our community go without representation: Larry Townsend, Newt Deiter, Betty Berzon, the Rev. Robert Sirico, Frank Zerilli—the list could go on and on.

Certainly, though, the most important people present from the community were those whose names are not well known or who would not want to be identified. Like the fellow who said, "I'm really nervous. I've never been in a gathering like this before." "What do you mean, 'a gathering like this'?" "Well, there are so many people. And they're all so *open*. It's not like being in a bar or at church. I mean, this is *public*."

Yes, it was public and unfortunately not everyone was willing to go public. One friend, a well-known actor, didn't feel that he wanted to "identify" himself with "that crowd." Another commented that "with all of fairydom there, the place is sure to be raided." Huh?

Explaining the Tubes

There were a few small areas of confusion. Like the man who had to explain to his female escort the humor in the purchase of two tubes of K-Y. Or the celebrity-stalker who approached a distinguished looking gentleman and asked, "Haven't I seen you somewhere before? Aren't you in the movies?" To which the distinguished looking gentleman replied, "I've been your psychotherapist for the last month." Or the little old lady who wandered down from Junior's to attend what she thought was the opening of the newest Walt Disney nature flick.

And I must admit that I was a bit disconcerted by the post-picture panel, the purpose of which seemed to be to reassure the audience that yes, boys and girls, it's okay to be gay.

The title of the film is taken from a remark made by a young woman at New York City's 1973 Gay Pride celebration: "Being gay is a very natural thing." With some luck we'll see the day when society realizes what a very natural thing gayness is.

Quiet Push

And when that day comes, it will be due largely to the efforts of such films as this and, even more importantly, to the efforts of the Whitman-Radclyffe Foundation, which so quietly sponsored this premiere.

Whitman-Radclyffe always works in a quiet and dignified fashion, and it's nice to see their work rewarded for a change. A bit better than $5000 was realized financially, and what was gained in terms of public relations was worth $5 million.

The foundation dedicates itself to the principle "that every person in this country, regardless of sexual orientation, is diminished by the denial of civil and human rights to any one person."

Dealer gets term for pornography

A Houston man who has pleaded guilty to participating in a mail order business here dealing in pornography was sentenced in U.S. district court Monday to six years in prison and a five-year suspended sentence.

Leonard Edward Cunningham Jr., 29, was sentenced by Judge Carl O. Bue after the judge inspected several magazines dealing with homosexuality which Cunningham allegedly helped distribute.

Cunningham was indicted with Roy Clifton Ames, who was sentenced last week to 12 years in prison for being a national distributor of pornography.

Cunningham and Ames allegedly filmed and photographed Houston-area boys as young as 13 participating in homosexual acts and then distributed the pictures through the mail.

Contact
The Gay Newspaper of the Gulf States
25¢
MARCH 74

Houston's Mayor in there with Gay support

HOUSTON - Mayor Fred Hofheinz attained his political position apparently with the support and backing of the city's Gay community.

Hofheinz received wide support among Gays while his runoff opponent, City Councilman Dick Gottlieb, was generally the subject of indifference.

The size of the Gay vote is difficult to estimate but is generally thought to be well in excess of the 3000-vote margin by which Hofheinz won.

The Kinsey report applied to Houston gives the city a minimum Gay population of 80,000 and a maximum 300,000, depending on how you interpret Kinsey and depending on how you define a homosexual.

A total of only 244,000 votes were cast.

There were several instances during the campaign of outright Gay support of Hofheinz.

Integrity/Houston, a local Gay activist group, circulated a flyer urging votes for Hofheinz.

Integrity/Houston claimed that Hofheinz appeared before them and "endorsed Gay rights."

The group said Hofheinz promised to seek an end to alledged police harassment of Gays and promised he would work for equal opportunity for Gays in hiring and promotion in the city government.

"He is receptive to establishing a liaison between the police and the Gay community in order to eliminate some of the harmful misconceptions which now exist," the group reported.

NEWS COVERAGE HIT

SEPTEMBER 12, 1973 THE ADVOCATE

Gays fear backlash in killings

Gay organizations and spokesmen in Houston and around the nation have been unanimous in asserting that mass murderer Dean Corll was not representative of homosexuals, and in expressing indignation over what they see as an over-emphasis in the news media on the homosexual aspect of the killings.

Integrity/Houston said in a black-bordered press release addressed to the media that Corll "could have performed similar crimes as a heterosexual, and we believe that his sexual orientation is not of significance . . .

"Thousands of Americans have worked long and hard to bring about understanding and acceptance of the homosexual community, and now because of the vile and abhorrent acts of only a small handful of individuals, we stand to lose all we have worked so very hard for.

"We appeal to your sense of justice to not let this happen.

"Our hearts cry for the helpless victims and their survivors, and for a world and society that breeds even one such person or even one such infamous act."

'Prejudicial Terminology' Hit

The Chicago Gay Alliance, in an Aug. 10 telegram to the Houston bureau chiefs of United Press International and the Associated Press, said:

"We feel deep concern over language in new reports linking homosexuality with Houston mass murders. Nothing inherent in homosexuality leads to such crimes, and we urge that Houston Bureau avoid prejudicial terminology suggesting otherwise to readers. Without widespread oppression of homosexuals, a twisted mind might not feel need to cover his sexuality by murder. Please help stop such oppression."

The telegram was signed by William B. Kelley, vice president and acting president of CGA.

The telegrams were followed up with letters to AP President and General Manager Wes Gallagher and UPI President and General Manager Roderick W. Beaton, both in New York, expressing the same sentiments.

On Aug. 17, CGA issued a general press release asking, "Why is it that the chain of mass killers from Jack the Ripper to the Boston Strangler have never been called 'heterosexual murderers'?"

In Dallas, the Circle of Friends put out a press release saying, "It is our sincere hope that this tragedy, brought about by pathetically warped and twisted minds, will not cause blanket indictments against millions of socially productive and responsible homosexual citizens . . ."

Two Disastrous Major Deaths

New York Gay Activists Alliance President Dr. Bruce Voeller recalled the recent fire deaths at the Up Stairs Lounge in New Orleans in saying, "I feel it is tragic and terribly dismaying to all of us that there should be two such disastrous major deaths of large groups in such a short period of time in the gay community . . . This [the Houston murders] is a tragedy for the gay community as well as for the straight young people some of whom were

Continued on Page 20

INTEGRITY/ Houston

3512 Travis 528-0423

P. O. Box 16041
Houston, Texas 77022

May 7, 1973

Dear Legislator:

The enclosed questionnaire is intended to explore your attitude toward the right of privacy and freedom of conscience for adults. We write in the belief that human law is meant to protect life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness--that it is not the property or the benefactor of the rich, the few or an instrument for the religious or moral convictions of one segment of society as against those of another. We hold that, while actions involving injury to person or property must be regulated for the protection of all, morality is a private matter and not the legitimate province of the State.

Nine States: Illinois, Colorado, Oregon, Connecticut, Florida, Hawaii, District of Columbia, Delaware and Ohio have officially recognized this principle and have abandoned the illegitimate, pointless and profitless regulation of private sexual behavior among consenting adults, and as a result, their crime rate is lower, not higher. Such laws against victimless acts are, at best, unenforceable and, at worst, subject to the most arbitrary application. They undermine respect for the law in general because they make felons or miscreants of people whose only offense is their participation of alternative in their enjoyment of conjugal relations or a harmless difference in their choice of partners.

The overwhelming majority of citizens affected by these laws are in all respects responsible and productive members of their community. Those who pursue a different life-style often do so more because of the persecutory laws and social prejudices than because they are inherently promiscuous or "degenerate." The argument that these laws protect society is baseless. How can an act performed in private by consenting adults harm society?

The current law makes oral or anal intercourse a felony whether performed by persons of the same or different sexes, whether the couple is married or not. Clearly absurd. The proposed revision makes homosexual conduct a Class C misdemeanor punishable by fine of $200.00. It is less severe, but no less absurd. It still turns the State into a peeping Tom, exhibiting a perverse prurient interest in the private conduct of its citizens. It reflects a self-righteous moral bigotry unworthy of the respect for person required of a free society.

We urge you to vote for deletion of the section on homosexual activity in the revised penal code and to vote for repeal of the current sodomy statute. We are not asking for a favor or a privilege; we are asking for our civil rights and we are prepared to pursue the same course as other minorities to obtain them should it become necessary.

May we ask your assistance in completing the attached brief questionnaire, which information and compilation will be held in strict confidence and will be disseminated only in working with other State Legislators to achieve our ends. No public statement will be made regarding the specific replies from individual legislators. For your convenience, we have enclosed a stamped, addressed envelope for your reply.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Monday, June 18, 1973 HOUSTON CHRONICLE ★★ Section 1, Page 11 INTEGRITY/HOUSTON

EDITOR Viewpoints

Most Legislators Didn't Answer

From R. Francis Thompson, 3957 Kirby Dr.

Results of a survey conducted by Integrity/Houston, in which the legislators of the State of Texas were asked their opinion on civil rights in general and homosexual rights in particular, pointed out the attitude of our representatives far beyond the questions asked. These people, elected by the voters of the State of Texas, did not even bother, for the most part, to answer the questionnaire. Indeed, the vast majority didn't bother to return it, even though a stamped, return envelope was enclosed.

This is a situation which goes far beyond the issue of homosexual rights. It should be the concern of every thinking citizen in this state. For these men to totally and contemptuously ignore our legitimate questions is a situation beyond belief. It is their right and duty to vote in the legislature as their conscience directs, if they have one, which at this point I believe we have good reason to question. It was also their right to answer the questionnaire either in the affirmative or the negative.

But to not answer at all or to totally ignore it was a gross breach of the trust the people have placed in them.

Theologian speaks on homosexuality

The Houston P
SAT., AUG. 16, 1975

A Cambridge theologian has developed a "theological approach " to understanding homosexuality," which he explained during the recent international convention in Dallas of the Metropolitan Community Church, which has a major outreach to gays.

Dr. Norman Pittenger, an Anglican professor at King's College, Cambridge, told his audience that "the world in general has missed the point on sexuality and Christianity."



Dr. Pittenger

"The point is not the physical aspects of sex, but the dynamics of human love and its expression," said Pittenger, who termed human love "very Godlike."

"We must stop thinking of sex as either good or bad," he said. "Any sexual expression that doesn't hurt anyone is good. Sexuality that expresses deep human emotion is better — and sexuality in the context of meaningful relationships that include God is best."

Most discussion of homosexuality has been undertaken from a psychological, sociological or ethical stance, the theologian pointed out.

"I have sought to base my argument for acceptance of the homosexual man or woman on theological considerations, from a Christian understanding of the meaning of human sexuality in all its various expressions."

Pittenger, who has lectured at the Institute of Religion here, described God as "the cosmic lover."

"This cosmic lover and his love are the strongest and most enduring of all powers, despite the appearance that force or coercion is more effective than love," he said.

"God not merely is love, he is ceaselessly and unfailingly in action as love. To be truly human is to be a human lover, nothing more and nothing less. As men move in that direction they are moving toward the fulfillment of the divine purpose for them..."

God is open to and ready for an illimitable variety of modes and ways of acting and loving, Pittenger asserted. "The man who loves God must love his brethren — and conversely, the man who genuinely loves his brethren is truly loving God. Why is this? Because God is love and (in Tolstoy's words) 'where love is, there God is.'"

Man is a psychosomatic being, a complex unity of matter and mind, stuff and spirit, body and soul, Pittenger said. "Man's bodyness is as much his manhood as his rationality or spiritual capacity. And in consequence loving and learning to love involves literally quite as much as his spirit."

The majority of persons, perhaps some 85 to 90 per cent, direct their sexual desire to persons of the other gender, but between 10 to 15 per cent direct it toward the same gender, Pittenger said.

"For that minority, which would mean perhaps 20 to 25 million Americans, for example, or five to eight million Britons, the natural tendency is toward another man or boy, girl or woman.

"Hence whatever we say theologically about human sexuality must have its relevance for these people, as well as for the majority who are heterosexually built," Pittenger said.

But are not homosexually inclined persons abnormal or deviant?

"Who is to establish what is truly normal for men and women?" the theologian answered. "In my own view, it is normal for them to express their sexuality in a desire to love another of their race through mutual giving and receiving, through as much personal relationship as is possible and through a concern for others in every area of their personhood.

"It is abnormal to hate, to be cruel and hurtful, to treat persons as things, to act irresponsibly toward them and with them," Pittenger added.

"To act in this latter fashion is indeed deviant. It is to act subhumanly and to violate the very nature of the love toward which men are meant to be moving. But that is not the same as saying that love for persons of the same gender, sexual interest in them and desire for sexual contacts with them is abnormal or deviant."

And what about the Biblical passages which are taken to condemn homosexual contacts as inherently sinful?

"I can only reply that we must read the Biblical material in the light of its context, with regard for the conditions prevailing at the time and in recognition of the ideas of sexuality prevalent then.

"In the New Testament, St. Paul is plainly a representative of the tradition he inherited as a faithful Jew. So far as I know, nobody but a Biblical fundamentalist would claim that every word of the Apostle is divinely inspired and hence authoritative for all time."

—CHARLENE WARNKEN

Sit-in reported at church

Sixteen members of Houston's Metropolitan Community Church staged a "sit-in" Sunday at the Waugh Drive Baptist Church in protest to anti-homosexual pamphlets the church has been distributing throughout Houston.

"They came and were very quiet and did not disturb the service," said the pastor of the Baptist church, the Rev. Harold T. Pultz. "It is a criminal offense to disturb the service."

Pultz admitted that members of his church had been engaged in distributing the church's July bulletin, which contains a message from him condemning homosexuality.

"We will continue to distribute the pamphlets," Pultz said. "We believe that homosexuality is one of the grossest sins a person can commit — and no homosexual has the right to be a member of a Bible-believing, Bible-preaching church."

Pultz said he does not regard the Metropolitan Community Church, which has a major outreach to gays, as a "real church."

"It is an organization of gays, not a church," he insisted. "You cannot have a church that is based on a direct opposition to the Bible."

Pultz complained that he had received "several rather vicious phone calls and letters" protesting his church's stand on homosexuality. "But we will continue to preach about the danger of it becoming popular, as it is today," he said.

The Rev. Robert Falls, pastor of the Houston Metropolitan Community Church, said his members had visited the Baptist church "in the love of Christ."

"We went strictly to worship with our Christian brothers. We decided that if they abused us, we would take it and would leave if they asked. But there was no clash."

Falls reported he had received three calls from members of the Baptist church who told him they were unaware of the pamphlet distribution. "Two of them inquired about membership in our church," he said.

Falls was one of 3,000 gays attending the international convention of his church recently in Dallas. He was named chairman of a commission to study the feasibility of religious orders within the church. He also is directing plans for a retreat house for gays to be established in Snyder.

first time. He has established a Citizens' Action Center and a Senior Citizens' Advocate. He has expanded park services and under his administration the need for public art is finally being recognized.

And, working hand in hand with City Controller Leonel Castillo, he has made Houston the most financially healthy major city in the United States.

Fred Hofheinz has been good for Houston, and he has been especially good for our neighborhood. Under the progressive leadership of the Mayor, Montrose/ Fourth Ward/Heights can continue to thrive as a neartown home for cultural and social diversity.

We urge you to work for the survival of the New Spirit in our City.

Reelect the Mayor November 4.

Rosemary Scott
Dem. Exec. Comm., Pct. 38
John Alexander
Don Sanders
Leland G. Marsters
Dem. Exec. Comm., Pct. 34
Bailey Swenson
Ted Weisgal
Sylvia Garcia
Jim Shannon
Gary Van Ooteghen
Robert Rodriguez
Ann K. Lower
State Dem. Exec. Comm., Dist. 15
Thorne Dreyer
Bob Riegel
Udder Delight
John Zipprich
Dem. Exec. Comm., Pct. 200
Rev. Samuel Smith
John & Jan Pierce

State Rep. Ron Waters
Mike Noblet
Lenna Wickes
Dem. Exec. Comm., Pct. 55
Pokey Anderson
Danny Samuels
Chairperson, KPFT Advisory Bd.
Jerry Miller
Mary Nell Reck
Dem. Exec. Comm., Pct. 40
Bill & Lucille Cade
Bill Buie
Integrity Houston
Don Snell
Marie Allen
Dem. Exec. Comm., Pct. 402
James T. Evans
Marini's Empanada House
Jack Gwin
Barbara Lopez
Dem. Exec. Comm., Pct. 39

Barbara Dillingham
Bette Graham
Gertrude Barnstone
Al Leal
State Dem. Exec. Comm., Dist. 15
Ed Mallett
Rev. S. J. Gilbert
Ada Warwick
Dem. Exec. Comm., Pct. 53
Honey Beeman
Ned & Laverne Hogan
Andy Vasquez
Dem. Exec. Comm., Pct. 37
Peggy Hall
B. G. Burns
Dem. Exec. Comm., Pct. 58
Annie Mae McKinney
Dem. Exec. Comm., Pct. 340
Mrs. Birdie Simmons
Andrew Hagan
Debra Danburg

Richard Poston
Jackie Macaulay
KLOL Radio
David Crump
Robert B. Goldstein
Hugh Crell
Integrity Houston
Las Brisas Mexican Restaurant
Katherine E. Gresham
Diane Lokey
Anderson Fair Retail Restaurant
Martha Diaz
Dem. Exec. Comm., Pct. 2
Pearl & Gary Chason
Richard Stout
Dr. Milton Lower
HRCPC Comm., Dist. 20
Dorothy Hood
Ann Wharton

*Affiliations for identification purposes only

Here's where to vote November 4:

Montrose/Fourth Ward/Heights needs Fred Hofheinz.
Call 224-3305 to find out how you can help.

Precinct No. 2 — Fire Station No. 6, 901 Henderson Street
3 — Hogg Junior High School, 1100 Merrill St.
4 — Travis Elementary School, 3311 Beauchamp Ave.
30 — Gregory Elementary School, 1400 Wilson St.
32 — American Legion Post 52, 3006 Brazos and Anita
33 — Wharton Elementary School, 900 W. Gray
34 — Felix Mexican Restaurant, 904 Westheimer

Precinct No. 37 — American Legion Post 416, 2715 Waughcrest Drive
38 — Woodrow Wilson Elementary School, 2100 Yupon St.
39 — S. P. Martel Auditorium, 3511 Yoakum Blvd.
40 — Poe Elementary School, 5100 Hazard and South Blvd.
53 — Harvard Elementary School, 810 Harvard
55 — Jones Chapel Methodist Church, 302 W. 8th
57 — John R. Reagan High School, 13th at Arlington St.

Precinct No. 58 — Helms Elementary School, 503 W. 21st St.
59 — Field Elementary School, E. 17th and Studewood
123 — Montrose Elementary School, 4011 Stanford
200 — Harris Cty Center of Retarded, 3550 West Dallas
209 — Mt. Sinai Baptist Church, 908 West 8th St.
340 — West End Civic Club Bldg., 4617 1.2 Katy Freeway
402 — Harper Elementary, 3200 Center



Last year we worked for what we believed. At noon on January 14th, 1975 in the Chambers of the House of Representatives, we get our second opportunity to further our beliefs. Hope you have a Happy New Year and that we will see you at the Inauguration.

Ron Waters
Marjon Bryan
Ed Burton
Mitch Green

COMMUNITY NEWS

SERVING THE GAY COMMUNITY
Fort Worth/Dallas
October 1974 Vol. I, No. 3

Coalition of State's Organizations

TEXAS GAY TASK FORCE FORMS

Delegates from 23 organizations from throughout Texas met August 2 at the Gay Community Center in San Antonio and gave birth to bright new hopes for Gay People in Texas – the Texas Gay Task Force.

The organizational meeting had been called by a resolution adopted June 22 during the Texas Gay Conference in Fort Worth by a caucus of representatives of 18 Texas Gay Organizations.

The resolution, introduced by AURA and seconded by Integrity/Houston, stated:

"Because there is no statewide Gay organization in Texas, and there is a serious lack of communication between the existing organizations, AURA proposes that a coalition of the state Gay organizations be established as soon as possible at a statewide meeting of delegates to be held at a time and place to be determined by this Caucus."

Statement of Purposes

After two days of constant and sometimes gruelling talks, a seven-point Statement of Purposes emerged from the San Antonio meeting:

1. To Bring together the various organizations in the State of Texas interested in working for the betterment of the Gay Community and to promote and assist the individual organizations and unify them for the advancement of their common goals.
2. To establish a network of communication for member organizations.
3. To encourage and promote a topical action committee for the development of a positive self image through specific self-growth experiences.
4. To socialize, thereby creating a unified collective spirit among all Gay People.
5. To abolish laws which discriminate against Gay People and to implement beneficial legislation with adequate judicial enforcement.
6. To insure human and civil rights of all Gay People.
7. To develop a program of public education concerning the structure and realities of Gay Life.

TGTF Structure

The structure of the Texas Gay Task Force was also established at the San Antonio Caucus. The first item of business was to make the 23 organizations present charter members. The state was then divided into four regional areas: the Northern Region, consisting of Dallas and Fort Worth; the Eastern Region, consisting of Houston; the Southern Region, consisting of San Antonio; and the Western Region, consisting of Austin and Lubbock.

A Coordinating Council was established to be responsible for the implementation of the Purposes. The Coordinating Council will act as the "executive" body of the TGTF and will be comprised of one woman and one man from each region. The House of Delegates will consist of one delegate from each organization and will act as the "legislative" body of the TGTF.

The next meeting of the TGTF Council has been scheduled for October 5 in Austin.

1975 Texas Gay Conference

The TGTF plans an active campaign to educate the public concerning homosexuality in addition to trying to encourage the repeal of oppressive laws. The Task Force will also sponsor the 1975 Texas Gay Conference which will be held in San Antonio June 20-22.

GAYS PROTEST ABC SHOW OF BOY-RAPE

PSYCHIATRISTS AND TEACHERS JOIN IN PROTEST

Fort Worth – AURA has joined in the growing national protest of a *Marcus Welby, M.D.* television segment entitled "The Outrage" and has called upon the member organizations of the Texas Gay Task Force to "immediately expend as much time and energy as possible" to try and convince local ABC affiliates to black out showing of "The Outrage" in their areas.

"The Outrage" deals with the rape of a 14-year-old boy by his male science teacher and has been unanimously condemned by gay organizations and individuals across the country.

ABC Negoitations Break Down

The gay community first learned about the program in early July when ABC sent the script to Ronald Gold in compliance with an agreement by all TV networks to submit scripts dealing with homosexuality for comment by the Gay Media Task Force of which Gold is a member. Gold ruled that the script was entirely unacceptable and should not be produced. ABC refused to listen and the protest was on. Negotiations with ABC were held in Los Angeles and New York, and major changes were allegedly made in the script until negotiations broke down in August.

AURA joined in the protest on September 13 when AURA's director, Ken Cyr, learned from the Gay Media Action in Boston that ABC had approved an air date of October 8 for the program over the objections of its West Coast executives. Members of the ABC Broadcast Standards and Practices Division in Los Angeles voted to "scrap" the program as unfit to be broadcast. However, executives Richard Gitter and Alfred Schneider of the New York Broadcast S&P overruled the West Coast division and set the air date.

Damaging to Gay Rights

Cyr immediately sent a letter to Mike Shapiro, general manager of ABC's affiliate station in Dallas, WFAA-TV, protesting the airing of the show and pointing out the division the program has caused within ABC. Cyr also pointed out that "Gay people are trying only to protect themselves from prejudices which will be reinforced after the program is seen. We are doing the same as the Black Movement did in the sixties. We do not want censorship, but some things must not be aired publicly until our rights are protected by law."

Cyr also pointed out that although he personally had not read the entire script, he had been assured by reliable sources that the program is very detrimental to the gay civil rights movement, that it plays upon the sensationalism of the Houston mass murders and may leave an impression of "go out and kill a fag" with the less intelligent members of the public. It also creates a great deal of distrust of all single teachers no matter what sexual orientation they may have. WFAA-TV contacted Cyr on September 16 and said they would contact New York to learn more information and would then meet with him to listen to gay complaints.

A national boycott of all products advertised on "The Outrage" will be launched should the program reach the air.

Non-Gay Protests Spread

Outside of the gay organizations, sever-

(Continued on Page Two)

You have encountered a homosexual.
If I have been kind to you, please be kind to my Gay brothers and sisters.

Selected Texans may soon receive one of these cards from one of the secret Gays among them.

Area Gays Launch Unique Public Relations Project

Operating on the theory that even one changed attitude is an improvement, individual Gay People in Texas will soon start announcing their gayness to unsuspecting strangers in a unique way.

Many Gay People, not unlike their non-gay counterparts, often befriend strangers . . . give a hitchhiker a lift, help a stranded motorist, give directions, or help with a heavy load. Now some of these people will be made aware that they have been helped by a homosexual. At the point of departure, the stranger will be handed a small card on which is printed: *"You have encountered a homosexual. If I have been kind to you, please be kind to my Gay brothers and sisters."*

Hopefully, this revelation coming in so unique a situation may cause some heterosexuals to reevaluate their stereotyped attitudes toward homosexuals. Only one changed attitude would be an accomplishment.

(Editor's Note: Up to ten of these cards may be obtained free by writing to Community News, P.O. Box 7367, Fort Worth, Texas 76111.)

CODSPELL, TO BENEFIT THE 1975 MCC BUILDING FUND, IS PRODUCED BY A DEDICATED GROUP OF PEOPLE FOR NO PAYMENT BUT YOUR ATTENDANCE AND APPLAUSE.

A presentation of The Metropolitan Community Church
December 10 and 11, 1975 9:00pm
at 2020 Kipling, Houston
Tickets $2.

Live, Onstage!



Your kind expression of sympathy
is gratefully acknowledged
and deeply appreciated

Aug 16, 1975
Theologians on Homosexuality

Television

Pressure Groups Are Increasingly Putting The Heat on TV

By JOHN J. O'CONNOR

THIS Tuesday evening, courtesy of a "Marcus Welby, M.D." episode called "The Outrage," the most significant scenario concerning a prime-time program will have already been played off camera. The name of the power game can be called "Powerful Networks Versus Increasingly Powerful Pressure Groups."

In this case, the network is ABC. The pressure groups are organizations representing the causes of homosexuals, most prominently the National Gay Task Force. It all began several months ago when David Victor, creator of the "Welby" series, approached ABC executives with a proposal for an episode involving child molestation. Mr. Victor was armed with what the network refers to as "significant" statistics on the problem compiled by the Los Angeles police department. He was told to commission a "proper" script.

The script, written by Eugene Price, was sent to the National Gay Task Force for advisory "input." Task Force leaders exploded. They refused to suggest "positive" changes and flatly declared that the program should never see the light of a TV tube.

In the script, a 14-year-old boy has been raped by his science teacher while on a field trip. The focus of the story is kept on how the incident affects both the boy and his family. ABC insists the program involves not homosexuality but pedophilia in the form of an erotic desire for children. The Task Force maintains that, no matter the intentions, a story using the rape of one male by another can't help but have a "chilling effect" on pending legislation in several cities and states that "would protect gays from discrimination in employment and housing."

The group also questions the accuracy of the program's basic details. A 14-year-old, they say, would fall outside the range of the typical pedophile, who is likely to prefer children under the age of 10. And, they add, key statistics, including those gathered by the Kinsey Institute, indicate that incidents of sexual child molestation are almost exclusively heterosexual.

Despite the protests of homosexual organizations, ABC proceeded with the project, but not without incorporating careful script changes. Several, though not all, references to violations of "manhood" were eliminated. And it is specifically stated that the case "has nothing to do with homosexuality," that the guy has a "severe mental and emotional problem," and that the typical pedophile is "often married and middle-aged."

Homosexual organizations, however, show little inclination for compromise on the issue. Instead of maintaining negotiations with the network, they have gone to affiliate stations, the direct source of network power, in a campaign to have the stations refuse to carry the program. At deadline for this article, at least two major stations, in Philadelphia and Boston, had expressed agreement with the pressure groups. Another station won't carry the episode because it simply objects to the subject matter. It couldn't be less concerned with homosexual rights. And ABC indicated there could be further station defections.

Irresistible force would appear to have met immovable object, but the issue is complex, and the cast of characters cannot be neatly assigned to black hats and white hats. Both sides are treading on genuinely sensitive issues.

For its part, ABC made a mistake in attempting to force this subject, with its obvious potential for controversy, into the rigid format of "Marcus Welby, M.D." The script and the production are dreadful. If the network was determined to pursue the subject, it had the responsibility to provide the care and attention that generally can be offered only in a special production, much as was done with the portrait of a juvenile detention home on NBC's "Born Innocent."

Suppose, though, that a network did devise a serious and effective production dealing with sexual child molestation, a problem that does exist. And suppose the central incident did involve two males. "Almost exclusively heterosexual" does not mean "never homosexual." At what point does the understandable anxiety of homosexual groups become censorship or prior restraint?

That is the key issue underlying the role of all pressure groups: the Catholics objecting to the abortion episodes of "Maude," the Jews objecting to any production of "The Merchant of Venice," the Poles objecting to "QBVII," and so on to weekly infinity.

Within the context of their own special and inevitably narrow interests, many of these groups present arguments that cannot and should not be ignored. The National Gay Task Force is no exception. In a letter to ABC in January, 1973 (this is not the group's first run-in with "Marcus Welby"), the Task Force explained: "Our point is that gay people in our society are where blacks were not so many years ago, just emerging from media invisibility. Greater caution is needed at present to avoid giving offense."

Homosexual groups have undoubtedly won a measure of "greater caution" from broadcasting. Offensive "fag and dyke" jokes have been reduced. Mincing stereotypes are examined more closely and are beginning to be supplanted with touches of more authenticity ("That Certain Summer").

The greater caution is a direct result of pressure on broadcasters, and the pressure has to continue. But, given the "committed" nature of a pressure group, the demands can become unreasonable or even counterproductive.

Eventually, the pressure begins to generate polarization. For one executive at ABC, the demands have become political, exacerbated by the defeat of a "gay rights" bill in New York City. "No," is his message to homosexual organizations, "you may not use me to get your legislation passed." In his contacts with these organizations on specific projects, he is looking for advice rather than censorship, appraisal rather than prior restraint.

The balance is undeniably delicate. But in attempting to replace the old and frequently abusive stereotypes of homosexuals with only "positive" non-abusive stereotypes—even if only until the "prejudice balance" is redressed—the homosexual groups are veering toward an unreality of their own. That unreality is as objectionable as any other.



The New York Times/John Soto

Organizations such as the Gay Activists Alliance have helped reduce the number of offensive TV stereotypes. All well and good, says a critic, but 'such demands can become counterproductive.'


The National Gay Task Force is putting pressure on ABC's affiliate stations not to broadcast Tuesday night's episode of "Marcus Welby, M.D." The episode, called "The Outrage," stars Sean Kelly, above, as a boy who is molested by a teacher. Marla Adams plays the boy's mother. The Gay Task Force fears the episode will set back pending legislation affecting homosexual rights. ABC, on the other hand, insists the show has nothing to do with homosexuals.

Gay libbers meet here


CAROLYN INNIS, Morris Kight speak at Texas Gay Conference

By JACK HANDEY

The battle for Gay Liberation won't be over until "gay" is no longer an issue.

So declared Morris Kight, the "Dean of the Gay Liberation Movement," during a press conference Saturday.

Kight and other national, regional and local gay leaders are attending the three-day Texas Gay Conference II in San Antonio.

Although "enormous victories" have been achieved by the Gay Liberation Movement, said Kight, "The battle won't be over until gay is a non-issue."

He said the biggest victory to date for the movement has been to dispel from the minds of most gay people the notion their homosexuality is something to hide or be ashamed of.

Organizer

Liberation Front and helped organize the first Gay Pride Parade in Los Angeles.

He is now director of the Los Angeles Gay Community Center.

Also attending the conference is Carolyn Innis, a founder of the Gay Nurses' Alliance, the largest of the gay professional associations. "Our society is not comfortable with sexuality, period," she said, adding with any deviation, "You've got a whole lot of turmoil and fright and trouble." Gene Leggett, a self-avowed homosexual who recently lost his bid to be reinstated as a Methodist minister, is coordinator of the conference. The conference, sponsored by the Texas Gay Task Force, ends Sunday. It was scheduled to coincide with the beginning of National Gay Pride Week, the last week in June.

San Antonio EXPRESS-NEWS —Sunday June 22 1975

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to INTEG

integrity/ho
Po box 16041
houston, texas

77022

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The Rev. R. M. Falls
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Falls said clergymen

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to INTEGRITY/HOUSTON which will begin its 4TH year February 13, 1975!

integrity/houston
po box 16041
houston, texas
77022

member of
Texas Gay Task Force
National Gay Task Force

JANUARY 1975 NEWSLETTER

A super HAPPY NEW YEAR to all of you. All of us at Integrity wish each of you the very best--may we realize our dreams, individually and collectively.

On December 6th, Hugh of Integrity and Pokey of NOW spoke to a class of medical students at the UofT Medical School in the Medical Center. The professor said it was the first time the class had applauded guest speakers. Our ER speakers bureau has added three more speakers to the ranks and the first of the year we hope to establish guidelines and, perhaps, produce a booklet for use by persons interesting in speaking.

On January 2nd, Integrity is pleased to show the Unitarian filmstrip, "The Invisible Minority," through the courtesy of Mr. Den Milam and GPA, Integrity, expresses its appreciation for their kindness.

On Thursday before Christmas, Integrity held its annual Christmas buffet. It was a grand affair and well attended. The membership outdid themselves. The table should have been photographed by Better Homes. We had every imaginable dish on the table and on the hoof.

The Sexuality and Lesbian Task Force of NOW has purchased 150 ER brochures and has undertaken the task of mailing them to the media in the region. Integrity is presently mailing them to schools and colleges. We hope to gain most of our speaking engagements through the brochures.

I/H is currently negotiating with New Line Cinema in New York to arrange a showing of "A Very Natural Thing," the new Gay first-line feature. We have talked to Interstate Theatres and will be holding discussions with the Tercar chain to obtain a house and hope to show the film sometime in March. If all goes as planned it will be a great fund raiser--if not, those of underwriting the project can be contacted at the City Pea Farm (debtors prison). We understand the film has been shown in San Antonio and Austin and would like to hear reactions from those who have seen the film.

We are looking forward to our upcoming meeting the end of January in Dallas. I will be happy to bring your monthly mailings back, so try to have them ready. If the communications people will give them to your coordinators or delegates to bring it would be appreciated.

Has ANYONE seen an Integrity advertisement in any Gay newspaper, magazine, or whatnot (tea room wall, etc.) We have gotten numerous inquiries from as far away as Reno, Nev., which is great. By and large they have been legit, but we have gotten some calls that left a great deal to be desired. Several inquiries appeared to have been informed of us through "swingers" publications and were apparently under the impression that we are featuring weekly "bangs." The majority said they had seen our ads--WE haven't. We have not purchased any ads anywhere, nor are we aware of any, other than through our mystery callers. At times we feel like "Dial A Stud." Let us know--by all means.

As I have a "Bitch is Beautiful" award, I can feel free to be aggressive, blunt, competitive, demanding, independent, pushy and stubborn, so if you don't get busy with your mailings--you'll get yours! Thanks to the beautiful people at Dallas MCC. Our best to you all. Onward and upward.

Bill

MEETS EACH THURSDAY, 7:30pm, 2020 WAUGH DRIVE

INTEGRITY/HOUSTON

August 1975 (not a complete accounting for month)

8/28 balance by phone		$ 86.21
deposit 8/27		40.00
deposit 8/30		33.00
		$159.21
phone service	$18.99	
Sept. rent	20.00	$120.22
Balance carried forward 9/1/75		$120.22

Fixed Monthly Expenses

all figures estimated

Rent ($5.00 per meeting)	$25.00
Telephone service	19.00
Calendar mailings	6.00
Miscellaneous (coffee, cups, stationery, etc.)	10.00
Total	$60.00

Projected Expenses (Plans and Projects)

(Estimated figures)

Integrity brochures	$30.00
Annual dues (National Gay Task Force and Texas Gay Task Force)	40.00
Incorporation as Non-profit Organization	45.00
Reserve funds (for unexpected expenditures)	50.00
Purchase of telephone answering device	80.00
TGC III "T" shirts (subject to membership approval) (designed as fund raiser)	50.00
	$ 295.00
	$155
	$450 ÷ 12 = 38
	≈ $100/m

allow special projects

September 3, 1975
Houston, Texas

HOUSTON CHRONICLE

HOUSTON, TEXAS, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1975 ★★★

Ban Bias Against Gays, Cleric Asks

The pastor of a church that caters to the gay community asked City Council to ban discrimination against homosexuals in housing and city employment in Houston.

The Rev. R. M. Falls of the Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection, 2020 Waugh Drive, also urged council to include a course in human sexuality in police training.

Falls said clergymen should be permitted to counsel homosexuals in the city jail "without being ridiculed."

Ray Hill, a free-lance writer and publicity director for the church, told council he was arrested Saturday in the Montrose-Westheimer area for allegedly interfering with an officer.

Hill said he did nothing to warrant his arrest. He said he was released Monday after the charges were dismissed.

★ The Houston Post THURS OCT. 9, 1975 17A

Council hears complaints about hospital conditions

Complaints of overcrowded and understaffed conditions at facilities in the Harris County Hospital District were aired Wednesday by eight speakers appearing before the Houston City Council.

The speakers were told by council members that the City Council lacks jurisdiction over matters in the hospital district.

Bonnie Adkins, one of the speakers, said the council members ought to work to change the law so the city can make improvements at Ben Taub and Jefferson Davis hospitals.

"The county claims they have no money. We believe it is the city's responsibility to begin providing medical care for every person who needs it," she said.

She and others in the group are members of the Committee Against Racism.

The council took no action on the complaints.

Another speaker, Hugh Crell, warned the council the Gay Political Caucus expects to have 5,000 qualified registered voters for the Nov. 4 election to support candidates who believe the civil rights of homosexuals should be protected by a city ordinance.

"I think you need psychiatric treatment," Councilman Frank Mann told Crell.

Assertions of police brutality by Samual D. Hall, 2807 Newhoff, and his wife were referred to the Harris County grand jury, the city attorney and the police department for investigations.

Hall said he was shoved into a glass window by a police officer and then arrested on a subsequent charge of resisting arrest. He received cuts on the chin, a finger and on his back which required medical treatment, he said.

Councilman Jim McConn said: "This case seriously concerns me. I think it might be the Halls are telling the truth. If so, it was a sorry mess that took place."

Houston Post
Aug 16, 1975
Theologians on Homosexuality

Page 2, Section 4 HOUSTON CHRONICLE Sunday, July 13, 1975

★★★★

Their Goal: Political Power

Homosexuals Seek to Win New Laws By Influencing All Candidates Here

BY JAN JARBOE
Chronicle Staff

Not too long ago, most homosexuals in Houston wanted only one thing from the rest of the community: to be left alone.

Suddenly, they want to be a political force.

A local group has organized a Gay Political Caucus with specific goals for breaking the stigma of gays as second-class citizens.

Ray Hill, one of the organizers, said questionnnaires will be sent to all candidates in the November city election as an attempt to get them to take stands on gay issues.

What are gay issues?

- Repeal of the state law that makes homosexual acts a misdemeanor tops the list. Hill said that though the law is rarely enforced, homeosexuals are in the position of acting illegally on a regular basis.
- State legislation outlawing job discrimination against homosexuals. The caucus will push, specifically, for the removal of the local ban on hiring gays to be police officers.
- Federal legislation giving partners in a homosexual marriage the right to file a joint income tax report to benefit from tax incentives.
- Inclusion of the homosexual perspective in sex education classes in the public schools.

Hill, who has spoken for gays here since 1965, said there are several reasons why the political organization was not formed previously.

"Up until now I was the only faggot with a face and name in town," Hill said. "There was a time when I was a freak show at city hall. But now we have people who don't mind going to the mayor's office every day."

Jerry Miller, another leader in the caucus, said a number of gays with conservative political leanings have recently made their sexual preferences publicly known and are ready to become involved in the "movement."

"In the '60s if you were a gay activist you were a political radical. The community is more broad-based now," he said.

Nevertheless, getting guys to "come out of the closet" is one of the major hurdles the caucus faces. Hill estimates they make up 10 per cent of the city's total vote but he has no solid figures to back up that estimate.

There are about 10 informal homosexual organizations in Houston and Hill said there are more than 30 gay bars where homosexuals congregate.

But for the last two years the non-denominational Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Church, which operates out of a storefront location at 2020 Waugh, has served as the focal point for organizing gays.

Its pastor, the Rev. Bob Falls, said that about 100 persons attend weekly services.

Falls said fear keeps many homosexuals from attending services: fear of public exposure and loss of jobs.

Falls understands the reluctancy to make public one's homosexuality.

Two weeks before he was to be ordained as a Roman Catholic priest in 1947, Falls confided to a superior that he may have homosexual tendencies. He was told to leave the monastery.

"At that time I had never laid a hand on a man," he said, "and I spent the next five years trying to cure myself."

He worked as a hospital administrator and did not practice any form of organized religion until, 25 years later, he affiliated with the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Churches.

Though Falls said he will not hesitate to relate candidates' stands on homosexual issues from the pulpit, he is quick to point out that the church has a Christian, not political, mission.

One of the caucus leaders who is not a member of the church is Pokey Anderson, a lesbian and free-lance secretary.

Women members of the caucus, Anderson said, will be seeking reforms that are related to their particular problems.

"We will concentrate on the child custody problem," she said. "The courts do not think lesbians can be fit mothers. They seem to think we are dangerous around children — that we are going to pervert them or something."

Both Hill and Anderson indicated that the caucus will also work on changing the public's image of homosexuals through the mass media.

Hill said the group will press for "positive" treatment of homosexual-related news events by local television stations through appeals to the Federal Communications Commission. He said the caucus will also monitor hiring practices of local newspapers.

But, by and large, the major thrust of the caucus will be an attempt to get political candidates to deal with gay causes.

"Not too long ago I called a candidate for justice of the peace and asked him what his stand was on repeal of the sodomy laws and other gay issues," Anderson said. "He told me that those are the kind of things he wouldn't discuss in public or in private — especially with a woman."

She admits that, in the past, political candidates in Texas have not catered to the homesexual vote because it hurt their chances to get elected.

However, Anderson and the other gay leaders hope that the caucus will give gays here enough clout to make them respected politically.

They point out that homesexuals in other areas of the nation are making major inroads into politics.

In San Francisco, the gay groups are a prime source of financing for campaigns and even conservatives woo the homosexual vote.

When U.S. Rep. Bella Abzug, D-N.Y., introduced a bill last year prohibiting job discrimination against homosexuals, it attracted more than 20 cosponsors in the U.S. House.

A homosexual was elected to the state legislature in Massachusetts in 1974 and, in Minnesota, a state senator won widespread support when he announced he was a homosexual.



Chronicle Photo

GAYS ORGANIZE POLITICALLY
Leaders From Left, Falls, Hill, Miller, and Anderson



From left, Falls, Hill, Anderson discuss gays' plans
—Post photo by Fred Bunch

The Houston Post 3A
TUESDAY, JULY 1, 1975

City's gays seek to gain acceptance

Representatives of t he city's gay organizations took their case for community acceptance to the public for the first time Monday and warned reporters they are launching a campaign to scrutinize media employment practices regarding homosexuals.

A longtime gay advocate here, Ray Hill, also said the gay groups will be checking on the media's response to coverage of stories involving gay issues.

Hill said at a press conference there are existing court test cases to back up their project.

The press conference, at the Metropolitan Community Church, 2020 Waugh Drive, marked the end of gay pride week in the city.

Pokey Anderson of the Gay Political Cauc us said they hope to play a bigger role in upcoming elections.

She said homosexual acts are still illegal in Texas and they would bring this up in meetings with candidates in the city election. Anderson said 22 cities have passed civil rights ordinances covering gays. She said there are at least 100,000 gay persons in the Houston area.

Hill said there are still minor problems with police harassment of homosexuals but the problem improved under former police Chief Carrol Lynn who appointed a liaison officer.

"We were sorry to see him go, " Hill told reporters.

The Rev. Bob Falls, minister of the Metropolitan Church, said gays in the area would be focusing on outreach programs to promote community understanding.

Falls, who said he once studied for the Roman Catholic priesthood, said the Metropolitan Church hopes to secure a larger building that also will serve as a gay community center.

Hill said the gay community here is one of the largest in the country and "we aren't going to stay under the carpet anymore."

He said a year and a half ago only one gay organization existed in Houston but now there are eight, including the church.

Sociology invites Gay Caucus to speak Tuesday

Four members of the recently organized Houston chapter of the Gay Political Caucus have been invited to speak at a symposium held by the Sociology Club, Monday, Nov. 3 at 12:30.

Guest speakers will be Jerry Miller, vice president of the Integrity Organization of Houston; Hugh Cerell, secretary of Integrity; Gary Van Ooteghem, president of the Caucus; and tentively, Polky Anderson, vice president of the Political Caucus.

Miller is one of the founders of the Gay Political Caucus and one of the incorporators of the Gay Community Center.

Cereel, a graduate of Rice University, is on the Board of Trustees for the Gay Political Caucus and also an incorporator of the Gay Community Center.

Van Ooteghem is a former Trustee of the Comptroller of Harris county and is credited with the re-vamping of the accounting procedures of that office, but was fired due to his homosexuality. He is now a CPA and a personal friend of Sgt. Matlovich, the man who raised the contraversy of homosexuality in the Air Force.

It is tentative whether Anderson, office holder for the Sexuality Task Force of NOW, will be present. She is currently a writer for the magazine Point Blank Times.

The meeting will be held in room 2A of the student union bldg. and everyone is welcome.

22A The Houston Post
SAT., AUGUST 2, 1975

Homosexual county aide fired after resolution try

Harris County commissioners refused to take action on a resolution Friday which would have had the court actively resist all discriminatory practices against minorities including homosexuals.



VAN OOTEGHEM

The resolution was offered by Gary Van Ooteghem, who, until he was fired Thursday by County Treasurer Hartsell Gray, was comptroller of the treasury.

Van Ooteghem, a 38-year-old certified public accountant, announced before the crowded commissioners courtroom that he was a homosexual and asked that his resolution be adopted.

He said that across the country there is a growing movement of homosexuals who are beginning to "realize that we no longer must suffer the intimidation and persecution placed on us by others.

"We are realizing only now that we have rights, too, and should be demanding them if, when, and where they are not freely offered to us," Van Ooteghem said.

Commissioner Tom Bass said that the court had adopted a resolution in June 1974, against minority discrimination in hiring and promotion practices.

Van Ooteghem said there are an estimated 200,000 homosexuals in Harris County who formed a minority not easily recognizeable.

Gray called Van Ooteghem the "best accountant I've seen in local government," but he said he would not allow a non-elected official to take advantage of his office "to advance his politics."

He said Van Ooteghem's reputed homosexuality was not a factor in his dismissal.

Homosexual files suit on county over firing

The Houston Post
SAT., AUG 30, 1975

The former top assistant to the Harris County treasurer filed a federal lawsuit Friday against the county Commissioners Court, the treasurer and deputy treasurer, alleging he was dismissed because he is a homosexual.

The suit, filed by the American Civil Liberties Union, charges that Gary John Van Ooteghem, 33, of 1736 Marshall, was dismissed last July 31, after refusing to be restricted to his office during working hours.

According to the suit, county officials sought to prevent Ooteghem from addressing county commissioners on homosexual rights.

The suit alleges County Treasurer Hartsell Gray signed a letter that sought Ooteghem's consent to remain in his office during working hours. The suit states that Deputy Treasurer Don Brown delivered the letter to Ooteghem, who refused to sign it.

In his suit, Ooteghem alleges that the letter, sent only days after he had informed Gray and Brown of his homosexuality and his intention to speak publicly, set restrictions that would have deprived him of his constitutional rights.

Ooteghem is seeking $150,000 in damages and $2,166.67 in lost pay, along with injunctions against county officials from any similar actions in the future.

At a press conference Friday, Ooteghem also claimed he is owed 88 hours overtime pay and 40 hours of vacation time.

Neither Gray nor Brown could be reached for comment on the suit, but County Judge Jon Lindsay said he does not think Ooteghem has a case. "I understood that it was made quite clear that he was let go for other reasons, not because of his sexual habits," Lindsay said.

Talking minds,

...s Fight

Homosexuals are organizing to fight for their rights as individuals, a founder of gay movements in California said Saturday at the Texas Gay Conference II being held in San Antonio.

The three-day convention, which concludes Sunday, was attended by 100 members of the Texas Gay Task Force, a statewide coalition of gay organizations and individual members.

Morris Kight, founder of the Los Angeles Gay Liberation Front, said in a press conference at the convention that gays will "no longer stand for oppression and discrimination."

Kight heads the Los Angeles Gay Community Service Center, which recently received a $1 million federal grant for venereal disease and alcoholism programs among gay people.

"In Nazi Germany millions of gay people were exterminated and turned to cinders in death camps," Kight said. "Today we are being forced out of jobs and forced to play a secondary role in life. No longer will we play this role. The gay issue should never have been an issue at all, but since it is an issue, we will fight to win it."

Kight said that being born homosexual is as "natural as being born left-handed."

Ken Cyr, Fort Worth, said the Texas Gay Task Force is

Talking changes minds, attitudes

You can read all the books and hear all the lectures you want on homosexuality and you won't learn as much as if you listened to a homosexual speak, asked questions and heard the answers.

Books and lectures change very few minds. Personal understanding through communication does.

Some minds were changed about homosexuality at the Sociology Club's forum Monday, which featured two members of the Gay Caucus.

Before the seminar, opinions were expressed that, at the kindest, poked fun at and belittled the speakers.

"You want to go hear the fags?" "They got some queers talking to the Sociology Club." "Let's go see the homos."

These remarks were heard before the seminar, and some were not so tasteful.

The individuals obviously did not consider the personal conviction and courage it must have taken for these individuals to stand before a group and answer questions about such a personal thing as their lifestyle.

The mood of the audience shifted during the meeting and became quite friendly, according to Perla Queyquep, club sponsor.

People in the audience may have been confused, uncertain about what they were going to hear. Hostility is the easiest way to handle those feelings.

When the audience learned that the homosexuals were not trying to convert them or expound homosexuality as the best lifestyle, they began to loosen up and try to understand the men.

Queyquep said she played the tape of the forum to one of her classes and said anyone who didn't want to hear the tape could leave.

Two or three left the class, she said.

Only when a person is willing to listen to other arguments can he make a valid judgement. Someone who refuses to listen to another opinion has no right to express his own as truth.

The Sociology Club, as well as other clubs and organizations on campus, have been performing a valuable service t students by making these speakers available.

If a student has a chance to hear this type of discussion, he should not deny himself the chance to grow by hearing other opinions and justifying his own.



GARY VAN OOTEGHAM, vice-president of the Gay Political Caucus, spoke to the Sociology Club last Monday on the problems gay people have trying to lead an average life. Texian photo by DeLea Sayers.

Seminar discussion covers gay lifestyle

By JASON LUTERNOW
Texian Staff

"We are a natural people. We are not the weird people that some people believe us to be. We are just an average citizen. We just have our own way of living," said Gary Van Ootegham, Gay Political Caucus president.

Van Ootegham, and Jerry Miller, GPC vice-president, spoke on homosexuality at a seminar sponsored by the Sociology Club Monday.

Van Ootegham, an ex-employee of the county treasurer's office, made a public announcement that he is a homosexual before the Harris County Commissioners last summer.

The day before he made this proclamation to the commissioners Van Ootegham was fired for alleged politicking on county time, but he said he did not.

Van Ootegham became outraged at the fact that at the time of his announcement, the commissioners "did not even consider homosexuals to be a minority group."

He went on to say that the Gay Caucus was not trying to persuade people to change their views on the gay community but that they were just trying to get people to reconize the fact that they have the same rights as anyone else.

Miller explained the role of the gay in society.

He said that many people are gay but supress these feelings because they are afraid of public ridicule.

He said about himself, "I simply went through life acting out a role that was socially acceptable, so I married and lived with my wife for ten years before I began to become more honest with myself."

Miller went on to explain the importance of the gay bar in gay society.

"The bar is the only setting in which we can meet other gays and not be hassled," he said.

Miller also said that their are fourteen gay organizations in Houston, and that their are more than fourty gay bars.

They both cited a 1970 poll which said that ten percent of the people have gay tendencies. According to this poll 13 percent of all men are gay and so are seven percent of all women.

They also talked on the growing impact that the Gay Political Caucus has in the local community. Miller said that the two-month-old organization now has a miling list of more than 13,000 people and that they are booked up for speaking engagements.

6/75

Fight for Rights

Homosexuals are organizing to fight for their rights as individuals, a founder of gay movements in California said Saturday at the Texas Gay Conference II being held in San Antonio.

The three-day convention, which concludes Sunday, was attended by 100 members of the Texas Gay Task Force, a statewide coalition of gay organizations and individual members.

Morris Kight, founder of the Los Angeles Gay Liberation Front, said in a press conference at the convention that gays will "no longer stand for oppression and discrimination."

Kight heads the Los Angeles Gay Community Service Center, which recently received a $1 million federal grant for venereal disease and alcoholism programs among gay people.

"In Nazi Germany millions of gay people were exterminated and turned to cinders in death camps," Kight said. "Today we are being forced out of jobs and forced to play a secondary role in life. No longer will we play this role. The gay issue should never have been an issue at all, but since it is an issue, we will fight to win it."

Kight said that being born homosexual is as "natural as being born left-handed."

Ken Cyr, Fort Worth, said the Texas Gay Task Force is preparing for National Gay Pride Week, the last week in June, during which the "joy of being gay" will be stressed.

Carolyn Innis, Philadelphia, Pa., founder of Gay Nurses Alliances, said at the conference that homosexuals will not be accepted into American society until the "sexism" of the middle-class American male has been eliminated.



GENE LEGGETT (L), defrocked Methodist minister, and Kathy Deitsch were among 100 persons attending this weekend's Texas Gay Conference II in San Antonio. (Staff Photo.)

Texas Methodist June 12, 1975

Five annual conferences vote against 'gay' clergy

NEW YORK (RNS) — Early signs indicate that opposition to the ordination of homosexual ministers is emerging in many of United Methodism's 1975 annual conferences.

At least five of the conferences meeting in late May passed resolutions expressing such opposition, and similar resolutions were being proposed in numerous other conferences.

The Louisville and Red Bird Missionary Conferences, both in Kentucky, opposed the ordination of homosexuals, while the Missouri West Conference reaffirmed denominational Social Principles which, as interpreted, place a ban on such ordinations.

Differing views on the question marked the Troy Conference session in Poultney, Vt., and no stance, pro or con, was expressed. Instead, delegates supported a church-wide study of human sexuality as a prelude to any United Methodist decision on ordaining homosexuals.

In a three-pronged resolution which it will submit as a petition to the General Conference of 1976, the Central Texas Conference:

1) opposed any efforts to allow known and practicing homosexuals to be ordained; 2) opposed the employment of homosexuals "by boards and agencies of the United Methodist Church where educational, cultural and social processes affect the lives of our children, youth and adult members;" 3) opposed the granting of any United Methodist funds to support homosexual caucuses.

Actions of the annual conferences will have a bearing on whether homosexuality, in relation to ministry, comes up at the 1976 General Conference, a national legislating body, and what, if any, decisions might be reached at the Portland, Ore., meeting.

The Louisville, Red Bird and Missouri West Conference each endorsed statements on homosexuality in the United Methodist Social Principles, a 1972 document. The Principles affirm that homosexuals are persons of "sacred worth" but reject homosexuality as incompatible with Christian belief and practice.

Some moves to delete the anti-homosexual passages from the Principles are anticipated at the 1976 General Conference. Although there is no direct United Methodist legislation on the matter, a barrier to the ordination of homosexuality is raised by the Principles, according to both the bishops of the church and the United Methodist Division of the Ordained Ministry.

Conference denies orders for homosexual

SAN ANTONIO — In action June 4 clergy members of the Southwest Texas Annual Conference voted unanimously to refuse to accept a recommendation by St. Stephen's United Methodist Church here to restore the credentials of Gene Leggett, a self-proclaimed homosexual. Mr. Leggett's credentials were suspended in 1971.

Dr. Dan Solomon, chairperson of the Board of Ministry and pastor of St. John's UMC, Corpus Christi, reported that the board had met with representatives of St. Stephen's Church and that following lengthy deliberation had voted 25-1 to recommend the rejection of the request from St. Stephen's UMC.

Mrs. Frances Opitz, lay member from St. Stephen's UMC, read a prepared statement, which read in part:

"In preparation of these remarks, I have the aid and support of Dick Lear who has been the pastor of St. Stephen's UMC as we have placed this resolution before the conference. We acknowledge the concern and action the conference has given to our request.

"As the lay delegate of St. Stephen's, I wish to express our growing concern to the ministerial members of this conference. We again affirm the continuing concern of St. Stephen's for treatment of minority groups with equity and fairness. We value the contributions of Gene Leggett has made to and in our congregation, and we acknowledge and accept his demonstration of the injustice he seems to have experienced in his role as our janitor. We were not aware of any insensitivity to his feelings and frustrations in this task.

"It is also important that we express our conflict and distress over his widely varying behavior in different groups, our growing lack of clarity over Gene's priority of clerical orders or personal cause and finally in the last few days his calling of St. Stephen's and the church into accountability without offering reciprocal integrity.

"We concur with the recommendation of the Board of Ministry of the Southwest Texas Conference, the statement concluded.

Ex-Houstonian fights 'gay' rule

A former Houston man has become the second enlisted man at Langley Air Force Base in Hampton, Va., to declare his homosexuality and to announce he would challenge military regulations banning homosexuals.

Sgt. Richard Hicks, 22, a musician in the 546th Air Force Band at the base, submitted a letter to his commanding officer, Capt. Ronald W. Carl, stating his preference for a gay lifestyle and seeking waiver of discharge procedure.

Hicks is a native of Houston. He played the tuba in high school and took private study in conducting and composition at the University of Houston, The Associated Press reported.

Hicks said he has known of his homosexual tendencies for about two years.

"Before that I thought I was straight," he said. "I dated girls but my life had been my music."

He said he was unaware of his homosexuality when he enlisted in the Air Force three years ago.

"In the past two years I've matured... finally realized I was gay," he said. "I went to a psychiatrist but that was a waste . . . the dude wanted to cure me. I had no illness."

Earlier this year, T. Sgt. Leonard P. Matlovich admitted his homosexuality, and an Air Force hearing board recommended that he be given a general discharge.

However, Col. Alton Thogerson, the base commander, overrode the hearing board and recommended that Matlovich receive an honorable discharge. Thogerson's recommendation is being reviewed by the secretary of the Air Force.

Both Hicks and Matlovich maintain that the Air Force ban is unfair and that they can perform their military jobs proficiently regardless of their sexual preferences.

The Air Force said Hicks has not been relieved of his duties as a band member.

Matlovich, a human relations instructor, was relieved of those duties and is presently on a barrack! cleaning detail.

PROTECT AMERICA'S CHILDREN
P.O. Box 402745
Miami, Florida 33140

Enclosed: 1 (one)
Official Public Opinion
Survey Ballot
Immediate Response Requested

"When the homosexuals burn
the Holy Bible in public...
how can I stand by silently"

Dear Friend:

I don't hate the homosexuals!

But as a mother, I must protect my children from their evil influence.

And I am sure you have heard about my fight here in Dade County, Florida -- and nationwide -- for the rights of my children and yours.

But I had no idea my speaking out would lead to such frightening consequences:

...ugly persecution at the hands of militant homosexual groups.

...the attempted blacklisting of my career.

...constant bitter threats to shut me up for good.

...misguided individuals hounding me and my family -- even when we go to church.

All this, because I stood up for my children -- as a mother -- as an American -- as a Christian.

Then, when the militant homosexuals lost the public vote in Dade County, their friends in New England burned the Holy Bible!

And now there is even a motion picture being produced that portrays Jesus Christ as a homosexual...

That's why I am writing you today -- because I cannot remain silent while radical, militant homosexuals are raising millions of dollars and waging a campaign for

New approaches needed to counseling homosexuals

By BRENDA STONE
Post Reporter

Mental health workers need to develop new approaches to counseling homosexuals, a panel of authorities urged here Monday.

No longer should counselors attempt to "cure" people of homosexuality "because homosexuality is not a sickness," asserted Ralph Blair, director of The Homosexual Community Counseling Center, based in New York City and believed to be the largest of its kind in the nation.

"Many straight therapists have finally come down off this conversion-to-heterosexuality trip and now just try to find out what the client wants and needs in the way of help," said Paula Beck, a clinical social worker at Houston's Jewish Family Service.

Blair and Beck were among speakers Monday at a day-long seminar on "Counseling and Homosexuality" at the University of Houston. The program was sponsored by the university's department of psychology; the Gay Activists Alliance of Houston; the Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection, Houston; and The Homosexual Counseling Journal, a quarterly publication of Blair's organization.

The seminar, attended by some 50 representatives of local social service agencies, private counseling units and other interested parties, was held in attempts "to upgrade the preparation that in the past has been lacking in the training of mental health people and to enable people in the mental health field to render more realistic counseling to homosexuals," said Blair.

The meeting also was an attempt to focus public attention on problems homosexuals face in society and to "emphasize the need for community understanding — that people should be accepted as human beings and judged on their credentials as human beings, rather than on the basis of their sexuality," said the Rev. Robert Falls, pastor of the Metropolitan Community Church.

"A lot of gays would be happy and satisfied if they could just live their lives, go about their own business," said Katy Feller, president of the Gay Activists Alliance.

"But like Mary Jo Risher of Dallas, who had her child taken away from her because of her homosexuality, or (T.Sgt.) Leonard Matlovich, who was kicked out of the Air Force, people are being denied jobs, their children, housing — every day because of their sexuality.

"The law and society will not leave us alone," she said.

Said Dr. James McCary, University of Houston psychology professor and author of numerous books on sexuality and homosexuality:

"Today I feel that probably the most important thing we can do is to broaden community education and understanding about homosexuality through the news media."

McCary and several other speakers sharply criticized local and national news media for identifying persons in news stories as homosexuals, particularly in murder reports.

"You never see 'Heterosexual Murders Three' in a headline, though far more murders are committed by heterosexuals than homosexuals. It's uncalled for and absolutely unfair to further plant a negative attitude about homosexuality in people's minds," she stated.

"Maybe financial pressures need to be placed on the media if they won't cooperate otherwise, perhaps a financial boycott of advertisers," he added in an interview.

"I used to think that counseling of the individuals was the answer and certainly it is necessary and is called for, but it reaches too few people."

Thus a broad community education campaign is needed to dispel many myths about homosexuality and to promote changes in laws and policies that discriminate against homosexuals, McCary said.

"And in some cases homosexuals have brought some of the misunderstandings about by themselves," he added. "Some homosexuals have tended to say homosexuality is more common in society than it is, in attempts to make it appear to be the norm.

"But any exaggeration or dishonesty comes home to roost and the public winds up saying that if that argument is erroneous, all other arguments from homosexuals— such as their rights to jobs, freedom from harassment, freedom to be accepted as human beings and feelings about their ability to love — also must be false."

According to Blair, among the most common misconceptions about homosexuality is that it is a disease; that the gay community is "all the same;" that homosexuality can be and should be "cured" through psychotherapy; and that the cause of homosexuality is known — involving an indulgent mother and a distant father.

"Theories that hold that homosexuality per se is psychopathology or a symptom of mental illness are based on ignorance, value judgments, skewed samples of patients disturbed enough to require medical or psychological attention and not on cross-sections or random samples of normally functioning persons who also happen to be homosexual," said Blair.

Often, she added, a person's homosexuality is not the basic problem for which counseling help is being sought, but rather "may be a tangential kind of thing — the person may not be getting their needs met in any kind of relationship, they may have problems of maintaining any kind of relationship, problems of intimacy." They added that mental health counselors also need to realize that while many homosexuals need help to lessen their anxieties about living in a society that in general looks upon their sexual desires as "strange" or "evil," many others need help with the same types of problems that bring heterosexuals to counselors, such as marital problems, feelings of insecurity, inferiority, and failure.



Dr. James McCary

No one yet knows the "cause" of homosexuality, there are many theories, "none is universally applicable and often they are contradictory," he noted. "There is hardly a condition or interpersonal relationship that has not been blamed for homosexuality.

"Moreover, no one raises the question of what causes heterosexuality. This fact does not mean that anyone knows any more about the etiology of heterosexuality than they know about the etiology of homosexuality. But most people still assume the normality of the one and the abnormality of the other," he criticized.

Several Papers Ban Doonesbury

By United Press International

Doonesbury, a comic strip which frequently deals with such controversial subjects as politics, drugs and sex, has been suspended for a week by at least three major newspapers because of the inclusion of a homosexual character.

A survey by UPI showed the Columbus (Ohio) Citizen-Journal, the Cleveland Press and the Houston Post all suspended the comic strip written by Garry Trudeau and syndicated by Universal Press Syndicate in nearly 450 newspapers.

"We felt the subject matter was not appropriate for the comic page," Charles Egger, editor of the Citizen-Journal, said in a Thursday message to readers, published in the place where the comic strip usually appears.

"WE DON'T BELIEVE the subject of homosexuality belongs on the comic pages," said Tom Boardman, editor of the Cleveland Press. "It's not a subject that can be treated in a flip way."

But both Egger and Boardman said they had received thousands of responses from readers about the suspension.

Boardman said his newspaper received nearly two thousand letters and telephone calls after a notice advising readers of the suspension was printed. Egger said about 1,600 telephone calls were received when his newspaper failed to print the strip Wednesday.

BOARDMAN SAID the letters were "about 50-50 on the matter," but most of the telephone callers tended to object to the newspaper's decision.

Lee Salem, managing editor for Universal Press, said the series involving homosexuality was sent to the newspapers about two weeks in advance of the publication date "because we knew some editors might be concerned."

"We felt it (the strip) was handled with taste and humor that could stand by itself," Salem said. "Editors, however, may elect not to carry it.

"BUT WE ARE NOT really concerned to have only three or four newspapers drop it," Salem added. "We had newspapers drop it last spring when he ran a series about Henry Kissinger in a "This is your life" situation, which caused quite a bit of consernation in some editors."

The Houston Post dropped the strip without comment and then published a notice to readers saying the cartoon would resume on Monday.

"This week's strip dealt with homosexuality," the Post said. "This is a subject Post editors believe to be inappropriate on a comic page. The Post will continue to treat this subject in a serious manner in the news columns rather than in comic strips of a popular cartoonist."

HOWEVER, THE STRIP was being read over a local radio station, and the Gay Activist Alliance at the University of Houston was reading the strip to telephone callers.

"We've been getting about 50 calls a day," an alliance spokesman said.

In Boston, Otto Zausmer, associate editor of The Boston Globe, said his newspaper would continue to print the comic strip.

"We have had a lot of complaints," Zausmer said. "We register the complaints and appreciate them.

"But," he added, "if we drop a feature each time someone complains, we'd have an empty newspaper pretty soon."

(Editor's Note: The Texan will continue to print Doonesbury each day on its editorial page.)



—UPI Telephoto

Controversial episode

Bath house arrests made

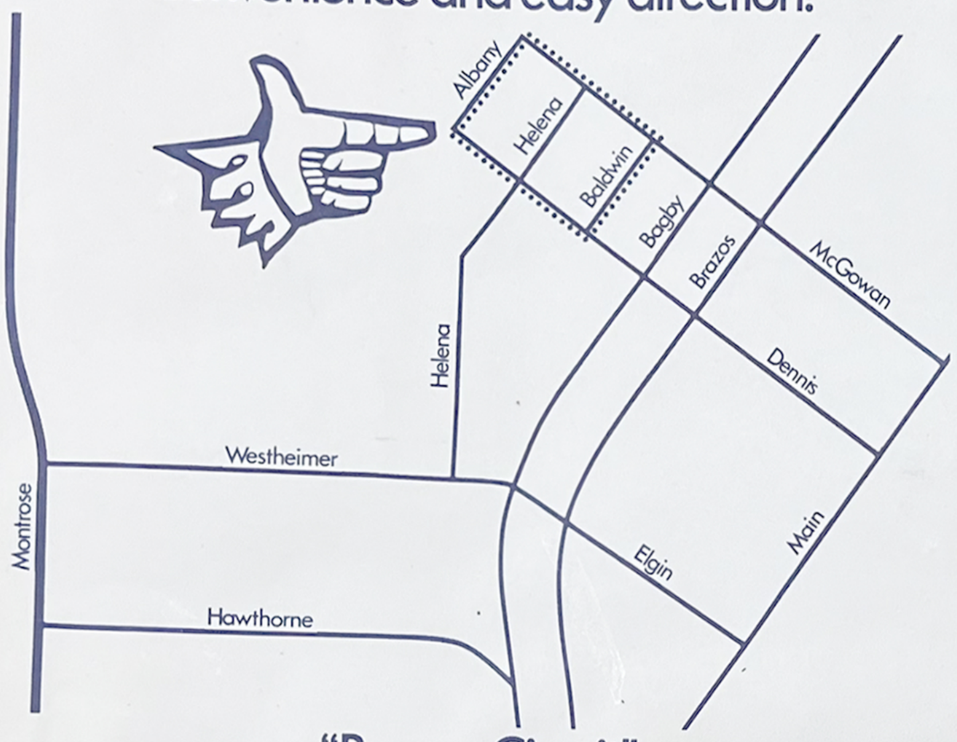
DALLAS (AP) — Undercover police arrested 14 men at a bath house where officers said they observed homosexual acts. Among those taken into custody were a Dallas lawyer, a college professor, a school counselor, a hair dresser and a building contractor, police said. Officers said the men will be charged with indecent exposure and public lewdness.



Friday, February 13, 1976

The Circuit Has Moved

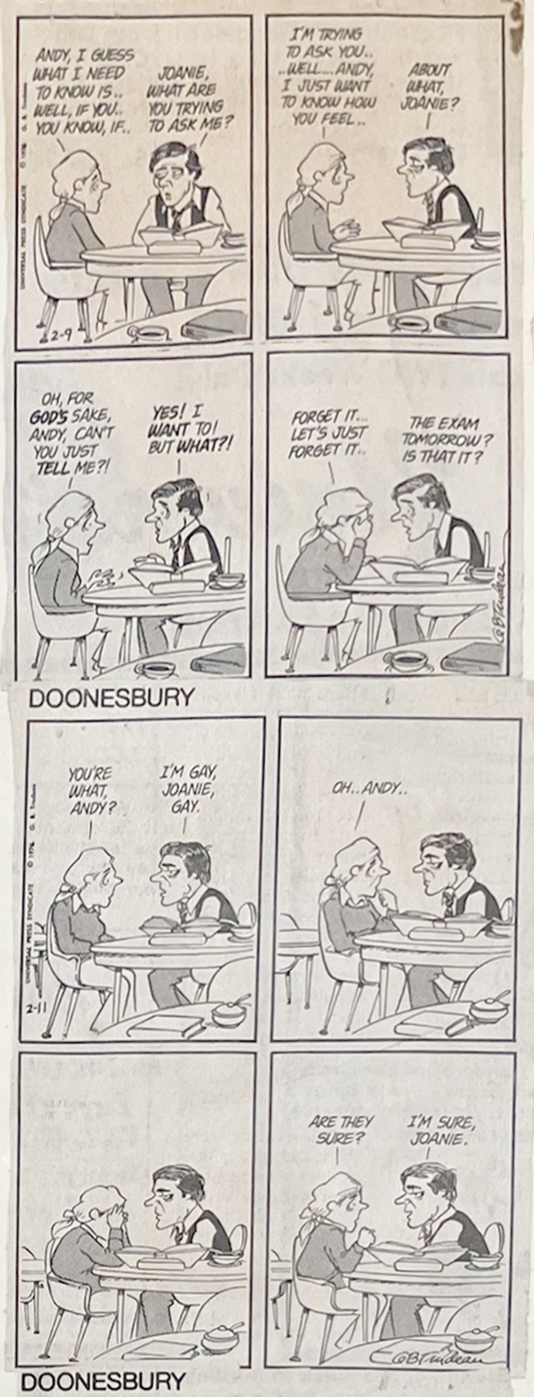
As Houston has grown,
so has the "Montrose Circuit."
It has now outgrown this area.
The Circuit has moved to a place which is,
for many reasons more conducive to cruising.
This map is provided for your
convenience and easy direction.



"Brazos Circuit"

Try it, it will be divine.

DOONESBURY



DOONESBURY



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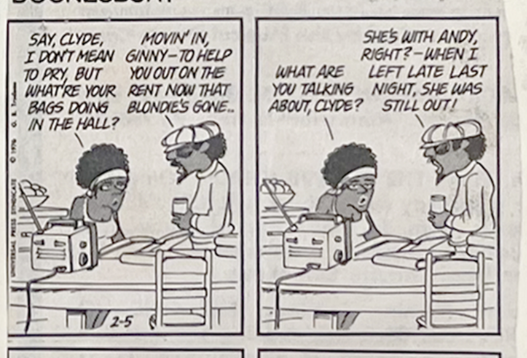
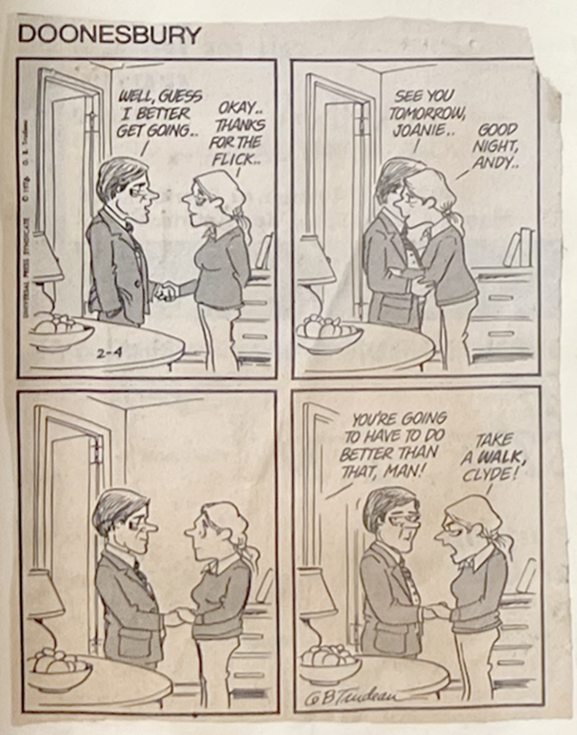


DOONESBURY



DOONESBURY



DOONESBURY



1stime

Integrity / Houston
is a Member of
The National Gay Task Force
Through November 1976

Frances Doughty
David Rothenberg
Board Officers

Bruce Voeller, Ph.D
Executive Director

For one evening... come out of your closet... you may never go back.

THURSDAY... JUNE 16... 8pm... at
BAGBY and McGOWEN
Depository II parking lot
A PEACEFUL RALLY...
TO SHOW OUR
STRENGTH/UNITY...
BRING A CANDLE...
BE PROMPT...

ALL NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEADERS ARE EMPHASIZING THE NECESSITY OF A PEACEFUL, NON-VIOLENT RALLY. ANYTHING TO THE CONTRARY COULD DO IMMENSE HARM TO THE GAY MOVEMENT. THIS RALLY SHOULD BE ATTENDED BY BOTH GAY AND NON-GAY FRIENDS.



RSVP 526·9719

integrity/houston

SEPTEMBER 1975
Monthly Calendar of Events

9/4 Integrity: Organization, Goals, Plans, Projects.
9/11 Rap Topic: "Youthism" in the gay community.
9/18 Guest speakers from Ann Barnett & Associates will present "Being gay is OK" THIS IS A SUPER-EVENT! BRING YOUR FRIENDS!! DON'T MISS IT!!!
9/25 The Sept. 21 Gay Political Rally: What it accomplished and what's next.

Programs subject to change should more timely program become available.

Second Saturday of each month, 7pm, covered dish social at various members' homes, for members and guests, location to be announced at meetings.

-o-

Integrity/Houston is a fellowship for gays and friends, and a forum for discussion of related topics. It meets at (but is not affiliated with) First Unitarian Church, corner Fannin & Southmore, each Thursday from 7:15 to 8:45pm.
Telephone: 523-4609. Mailing address: Box 16041, Houston 77022

-o-

"The surest way to corrupt a youth is to instruct him to hold in higher esteem those who think alike than those who think differently" - Nietzsche

integrity/houston

Monthly Calendar of Events

2/5 Election of the 1976 Board & discussion of Goals & Objectives.
2/12 BEGINNING OF I/H's FIFTH GREAT YEAR. Audio/Visual presentation of the events of the year.
2/19 Meeting of representatives of Houston's Gay organizations "Community Assessment." Observers invited.
2/26 RAP TOPIC: Hustling in the Gay Community (possible special panel)

Programs subject to change should more timely program become available.

Second Saturday of each month, 7pm, covered dish social at various members' homes, for members and guests, location to be announced at meetings.

-o-

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Telephone: 523-4609. Mailing address: Box 16041, Houston 77022

-o-

Kiss today good-bye and point me
toward tomorrow,
We did what we had to do, once again
can't regret what I did for love.
A Chorus Line

INTEGRITY/Houston

Calender of Events
9/8 Wills and legal questions for gays
9/10 (Saturday) Covered dish social Location to be announced
9/22 Topic-Gay Literature
10/6 Crisis Hotline- Guest Speaker
10/20 Rap-Free and Unlimited Sex- For or against
11/3 V.D. (We hope to have a guest speaker from the city health dept.)
11/17 Open Rap
12/1 Gay Media
12/15 Gay Lonliness(Christmas party to be announced)
~~12/29 Transpeople~~

Programs subject to change should more timely program become available.

Integrity/Houston is a fellowship for gays and friends, and a forum for discussion of related topics. It meets at ~~the Inside/Outside piano bar~~ WILDE 'N' STEIN every other Thursday at 7:30 p.m.
Telephone: 692-0325. Mailing address: Box 16041 Houston 77022

-o-

Equality?
Seek it.
Discrimination?
End it.
Vote
November 4th



Rally participants protest Bryant appearance

—Post photo by Roger Powers

The Houston Post TUES., JAN. 10, 1978 1D

Bryant's visit spurs protest

By ED JAHN
Post Reporter

More than 600 supporters of the Gay Liberation Movement braved freezing temperatures and icy winds Monday on the eve of another visit to Houston by Anita Bryant.

Many at the "pro-human rights" gathering at the steps of City Hall huddled around candles for warmth, but the cold weather didn't contain their enthusiasm.

"I don't want to mention her name but I see her picture," said the Rev. Jeri Harvey of the Houston Metropolitan Community Church which ministers to homosexuals. The picture of Bryant was titled "Human Garbage."

Rally organizers, who brought 5,000 persons together last June to protest Bryant's appearance at a State Bar of Texas meeting, had hoped to attract 6,000 before a cold front put the chill on Monday night's activities.

Bryant was scheduled to sing for Farm Bureau Federation of America members Tuesday morning at their national convention here.

There were no incidents Monday night. One protester with a sign saying "God Bless Anita" stood on a street corner handing out leaflets.

A surprise speaker was a transvestite named Phyllis who said he was braving arrest by appearing "cross-dressed" in public.

Ray Hill, a leader in the Houston homosexual community, said the rally was an example of the growing "gay consciousness" in Houston.



Jim McCONN mayor

19 FEB 78
ELPaso Appearance
Anita Bryant's
Crusading Agenda

By CRAIG PHELON

Singer Anita Bryant is scheduled to appear in El Paso Feb. 19 as part of a Revive America Crusade sponsored by a Joplin, Mo., based religious group.

The crusade's director, the Rev. Cecil Todd, told The Times in a telephone interview Thursday the event will be part of a tour of Southwestern cities. The crusade is scheduled in San Antonio Feb. 18.

Miss Bryant became a controversial figure last year for helping to organize a successful campaign to repeal a gay rights ordinance in Miami, Fla., and leading a Save Our Children campaign urging the firing of gay teachers.

The ex-Miss American contestant's role as spokesperson for the Florida Citrus Commission also has stirred controversy. Pro-gay forces have boycotted Florida oranges, while other groups have threatened boycotts if Miss Bryant were punished for her stand.

Organizers say gay rights is not expected to be the central issue of the revival.

Todd said the revival would involve mostly gospel singing and preaching. Miss Bryant's role will be primarily entertainment, thought what she talks about on stage will be entirely up to her, he said.

Miss Bryant and her husband, Bob Green, have been active in religious revivals after the singer decided against pursuing her anti-gay campaign on a national scale.

She has claimed the entertainment industry blacklisted her because of her stand. "I am clearly a victim of a religious persecution and this is another evidence of the moral decay in America," she was quoted in one newspaper story.

However, Miss Bryant has been accused of persecution herself by gay rights groups who see her stand as bigotry.

The gay rights measure she helped repeal in Florida made it illegal to discriminate against gays in housing and employment.

Miss Bryant has said her opposition to gays is based on her interpretations of certain passages in the Bible, which she believes indicates that homosexuality is a sin.

The issue has brought widespread disagreement in the religious community.

Only a handful of Old and New Testament passages are used as texts on the subject, and interpretations of these span a broad range of opinions.

The way churches lean on the issue of homosexuality generally depends on the way members view the Bible. For fundamentalists groups that take the Bible literally — that the world was actually created in six days, that the Red Sea actually parted, that Jonah actually spent three days in the belly of a great fish — homosexuality is an abomination.

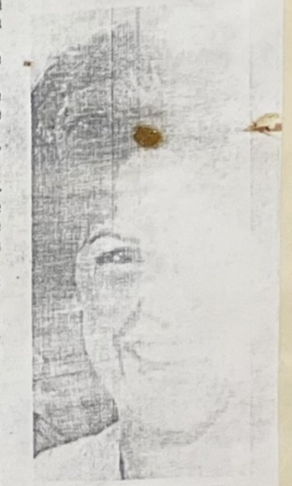
In other churches, where biblical interpretation ranges from conservative to liberal, the issue is more complex.

Southern Baptists praised Anita Bryant at their annual convention. But the United Church of Christ, at its convention, deplored "the use of scripture to generate hatred and the violation of civil rights of gay and bisexual persons." The church called for an "end to discrimination based on sexual or affectional preferences."

Scriptures cited by Miss Bryant and others appear in Leviticus Chapter 18, verse 22, and Chapter 20, verse 13.

The first passage reads, "You shall not lie with a male as a woman; it is an abomination." And the second: "If a man lies with a male as a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall be put to death, their blood is upon them."

Many modern biblical scholars say that such condemnation of homosexual acts has to be seen in context. That context is a relatively small community, whose survival depended on high rates of reproduction.



ANITA BRYANT



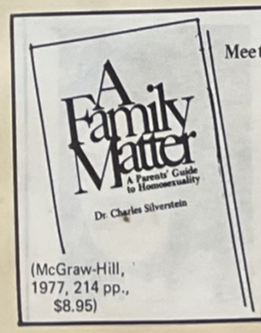
Gay Community News, August 4, 1979

gay archives in need

HOUSTON, TX — The Gay Archives of Texas, a project of Integrity/Houston, is a research and information center for the gay community. Currently operating in the Montrose Activity Center, the Archives consist of over 400 books, hundreds of news clippings, and collections of publications not readily available in Texas.

Staffed by volunteers from the community, the Archives also depends on community donations for funding and materials. In addition to monetary and personnel needs, the Archives needs file cabinets, shelves, and workers and materials to renovate the facilities, which are described as "run down."

To contribute, or for additional information, contact Integrity/Houston, P.O. Box 16041, Houston, TX 77022.



(McGraw-Hill, 1977, 214 pp., $8.95)

Meet the Author . . .
DR. CHARLES SILVERSTEIN, author of
A FAMILY MATTER
. . . a Parent's Guide to understanding homosexuality
will be guest at a reception in his honor
FRIDAY, OCT. 21, 5:30-7:30pm
at WILDE 'N' STEIN
819 Richmond, Houston 529-7014
(hosted by Integrity/Houston)

OCTOBER 14-20, 1977

NOON TO NINE - CLOSED MONDAYS

WILDE 'N' STEIN
..... a bookshop for Gay People and their friends

819 RICHMOND
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77006

(713) 529-7014
CHARLES GILLIS, MGR.

Integrity/Houston social/fellowship organization for gays meets every other Thurs. night, 7:30, at Wilde 'n Stein Bookshop, 819 Richmond. (713) 529-7014.

Houston Human Rights Rally
Thursday, June 16, 1977
Bagby/McGowen

AGENDA

7:00 - 7:45 Press Conference inside Depository II (Private)

RALLY BEGINS PROMPTLY AT 8PM!

8:00 - 8:40 Speakers (Approximately 5 Minutes Each)
1) Hugh Crell——Local Gay Activist
2) Liz Torres——Actress
3) Nikki Van Hightower——Feminist
4) David Goodstein——Publisher of The Advocate
5) Ginny Apuzzo——Co-Chair of Gay Rights National Lobby
6) Rev. Troy Perry——Founder of UFMCC

8:40 - 8:45 Gary J. Van Ooteghem: Telegrams and Walk Instructions

8:45 Begin Walk Downtown. Obey Traffic Laws; Be peaceful and Orderly

9:30 Assemble at Public Library and Read Basic Human Rights Statement

9:45 Begin Return Walk. Continue to Obey All Laws and Instructions

10:30 Walk Ends

The Depository II Has Invited Us to Be Their Guests For an Orange-Based (Texas) Drink Inside After the Rally and Walk

Vote For Mayor Vote For Mayor Vote For Mayor Vote For Mayor

Montrose Meets The Candidates

Sunday
October 23, 1977
3:00 PM

In the courtyard at the corner of Bomar at the North End of Whitney
(approximately 2 blocks SW of Taft and West Gray)

Gertrude Barnstone Introducing

Frank Briscoe
Noble Ginther
Dick Gottlieb
Jim McConn
Diane Sarge
Allan Vogel
Bette White

Followed By Questions From The Audience

Entertainment By Cy Brinson
Beverages and Refreshments Available

Vote For Mayor Vote For Mayor Vote For Mayor Vote For Mayor

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1977 THE DAILY COUGAR

States 'intent'

Law won't affect gays here

By LORI KORLESKI
Managing Editor

A state law designed to bar all gay organizations from state campuses will have "absolutely no effect here," the associate dean of students said Thursday.

Section 37 of the General Appropriations Act, which went into effect Sept. 1, states: "It is the intent of the legislature that all boards of trustees and administrators of state colleges use all legal and reasonable means to prohibit the use of state facilities by any organization that seeks to foster or promote illegal activities, including homosexual organizations."

The Texas Legislature added the homosexual clause as a rider after two bills to ban homosexual organizations outright died in committee.

However, Julius Gordon said the law was vague and would not have any bearing on the Gay Activists Alliance or the Gay Resource Services, the homosexual organizations at UH.

"The law states that the organization must foster or promote illegal activities. We have carefully examined the constitutions of these organizations and have found no intent to do anything illegal on the part of these organizations," Gordon said.

Gordon added that if any organization sponsored any illegal activities, the law would definitely be enforced.

"Like if we had a CB recycling club whose purpose was to rip off CBs and install them in members cars for a discount price, then they would be engaging in an illegal activity and they would be dissolved," he said.

Shawn Gonser, president of the GAA, said she agreed with Gordon's assessment of the situation.

"What the legislature actually passed was a statement of intent, and I don't think it's really enforceable. As to other schools who are trying to start organizations like ours, I'm not sure how it would affect them," Gonser said.

She added that the persons who were trying to start a gay organization at Texas A&M are still in court. A&M's president denied the group recognition last year, on the grounds that sodomy was against the law and A&M would not endorse a group of potential criminals.

A coordinator for the Texas Gay Task Force, Woody Egger, said the reason such a rider was put on the General Appropriations Act was "the legislators probably visualized gay orgies on campus facilities. They just can't accept the fact that gays have political and social interests, too, and don't go around thinking about sex all the time."

Gordon was more critical of the legislature. "They could have just let it go with saying illegal activities, but they chose to take a shot at the gay community. It just reflects the conservative mood of the legislature—you've got to remember where most those people come from."

INTEGRITY/HOUSTON
is a Member of
NGTF thru 5/78
National Gay Task Force
Room 506 80 Fifth Avenue New York, N.Y. 10011
(212) 741-1010

* The Houston Post 1E
MONDAY, NOV. 14, 1977

■ Word

. . . I attempted to place an ad in your newspaper under the heading of **GAY SALES** with the specific purpose of attracting that category of person to sell 14K gold chains, etc. to other members of the gay community. Obviously, when trying to reach that market, which is excellent for wearing gold chains, bracelets and pendants, a member of the community would do the best job of reaching them.

I was informed by your classified department that I was unable to use the word gay in an ad. "It's too controversial." I think this is pretty dense on the part of your policymakers. When we have to tread so lightly that we can't use a word that is as common today as man and woman, then we're in deep trouble. I placed the ad anyway, headed by the title **MALE-FEMALE**. I hope I can attract the other also.

James R. Braun
P.O. Box 20205, San Antonio, Texas 78220

Hospitals, homosexuals

. . . Gays (Sound-Off Oct. 28) **DO** build hospitals, good schools and churches. They also help "downtrodden humanity to a better way of life." Gays are found among the ranks of all "helping" professions—doctors, social workers, teachers and clergy. Many of them also donate time and money to . . . philanthropic and volunteer organizations.

Mrs. McCown (S-O Oct. 28) may have been helped sometime by a homosexual person but didn't know it because they looked and acted no different from anyone else. I would be glad to ask a gay for help and am proud to count many as my friends even though I am hopelessly heterosexual.

Jeannette M. Hughes
2226H Kipling, Houston, Texas 77098

■ Help

Of course gays (please see the preceding letter) don't build hospitals, good schools and churches. No one will employ them so that they might have the money to do so.

. . . I've yet to meet the gay person who wasn't at once friendly and helpful to anyone who didn't at first condemn them.

C. M. Sullivan
P. O. Box 1745, College Station, Texas 77840

■ A place

. . . Ms. Gregory (Sound-Off Oct. 26) asks what the world is coming to. Hopefully it's coming to be a place where all people will start appreciating (and stop condemning) the differences in each other . . .

Blase DiStefano
3602 Garrott, Houston, Texas 77006

Write to Sound-Off, The Houston Post, Hous Texas 77001. Sign your letter and list your home and daytime telephone number. And please short.

SERVICE/FELLOWSHIP ORGANIZATION — CHARTER MEMBER: NATIONAL GAY TASK FORCE; TEXAS GAY TASK FORCE

integrity/houston

po box 16041
houston, texas 77022

CALENDAR OF EVENTS-1978

7/13-Video Presentation-"Thursday's Child".
7/27-Rap Topic-Living Alone.
8/10-Guest Speaker on Human Sexuality.
8/24-Open Forum
9/14-Video Presentation-"Coming Out -An Assertive Training for Life".
9/28-Church and the Homosexual-(At the time of this printing we are planning on having theologians, both gay & non gay, in a panel discussion.)
10/12-Rap Topic-Discrimination & How To Cope With It.
10/26-Open Forum
11/9-Building Self Respect-Hopefully we can coax Tassa to join us again for this one.
11/23-No Meeting-Thanksgiving
12/14-Last Meeting of the year-Open Forum-refrshments

- 0 -

Integrity/Houston is a fellowship for gays & friends, and a forum for discussion of related topics. It meets in the Alice B. Toklas Room of Wilde'N'Stein Books, 819 Richmond, every 2nd & 4th Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm. Programs subject to change.

- 0 -

Socials & Covered Dish Dinners announced at the meeting prior to the actual event.

- 0 -

Telephone: (713) 529-7014

- 0 -

A SYMBOL OF STABILITY



A TEA DANCE
BENEFITTING THE MONTROSE ACTIVITY CENTER
SUNDAY JANUARY 28, 4-10 PM
1423 HOLMAN AT LABRANCH
MINIMUM DONATION $5 OR $7 AT DOOR
TICKETS AVAILIABLE FROM SPONSORS AND AT MARY'S
MIDTOWNE SPA, STUDZ NEWS, BRASSERIE, LOCKER,
MABEL MCGOWANS, VENTURE 'N'

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Officials' security here may get tight after Frisco killings

BY FRED HARPER
Chronicle Staff

The shooting deaths of San Francisco Mayor George Moscone and a city supervisor there have increased concern over security for some public officials here.

Houston Mayor Jim McConn said that in light of the killings in the San Francisco City Hall, he would explore means of increasing security both in his office and in City Council chambers.

Houston police Detective J.C. Mosier, one of McConn's two security officers, said he favors tighter security measures for McConn.

"We think our system is pretty good, but we'll have to reappraise it to make sure it is as good as it should be," Mosier said.

The man charged in the San Francisco slayings is a former city supervisor (a position equivalent to a councilman here). He was with Moscone in the mayor's office at City Hall when the shooting occurred.

Doors leading to McConn's office are locked and must be opened by an employee using a buzzer-activated device. A security officer had been stationed at a desk near the outer entrance of the mayor's office, but that desk was moved today from a hallway outside the mayor's reception room to a new position inside the reception area.

The new location is about 25 feet from McConn's office, about 50 feet closer to than the previous location.

In addition to Mosier, officer Doyal LeCour also provides security for McConn, and a third police officer, Howard A. Tucker, is added on days that City Council is in session. Mosier said police also routinely keep an eye on McConn's home.

City officials have discussed placing a weapons detection unit at the entrances of the council chambers and the mayor's office.

McConn, who is attending a National League of Cities' conference in St. Louis, said Monday that he is "very upset at the loss of a friend."

The mayor said he visited Moscone in San Francisco last month while studying the effects on municipal finances of a new California tax limitation law, and talked with Moscone in Fort Worth last week at a meeting of the Texas Municipal League, where Moscone was one of the featured speakers.

A candlelight vigil for Moscone and slain City Supervisor Harvey Milk will be held at 8 p.m. today in the plaza of the downtown Central Library, 500 McKinney, by the Houston Gay Political Caucus and the Metropolitan Community Church.

Milk, 48, was elected to the board last year as an avowed homosexual.

Houston Chronicle Tuesday, November 28, 1978

"Heard any good fag jokes lately?"

You are invited to Come out & Join us

a gay social service organization

MEMBER'S NAME

integrity houston

one block from Westheimer at 3405 MULBERRY and Harold St.

Meets 2nd & 4th Thursday 7:30pm

TWT August 17-23, 1979