

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 North-

ern 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 Negotiations 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 point-

ing 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-

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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.)