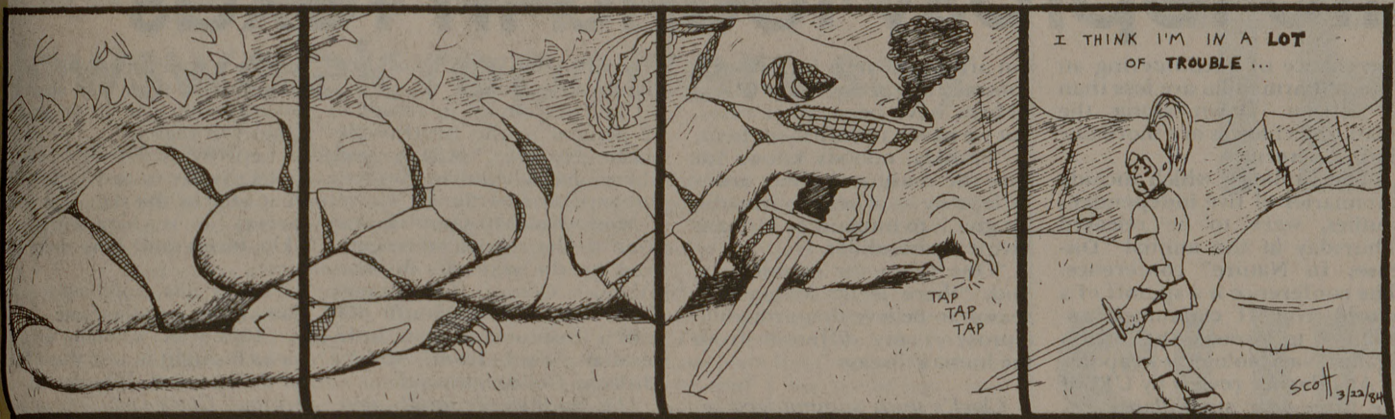


Warped

by Scott McCullar



Support group chairperson talks to gay student group

By THERESA CORNELL
Reporter

Parents need time to accept the fact that their child is gay, the chairperson of "Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays" told people attending the Gay Student Service meeting Wednesday night.

Gretchen DeRoche is a straight parent of her gay son, Daryll, and talked on the coming out of parents and gays. DeRoche shared what she felt when her son told her of his homosexuality almost five years ago.

"It was extremely traumatic at first," she said. "I had no idea of what a gay person was. I didn't know how it would affect my life or what sort of people he would associate with. My first reaction was, 'Don't tell me about it' because then it made it real."

DeRoche said she explored every possibility to change her son.

Architects to lecture

Architects coming from New York, England, India and Mexico will speak on regionalism and international culture in Rudder Theatre Friday. Lectures will be held between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Regionalism and international culture is the theme of this year's Rowlett Lecture Series which is sponsored annually by the College of Architecture and Environmental Design.

The following is a schedule of the program:

- 9-9:30 — Introductory remarks: Charles M. Hix Jr., dean of CAED; David Woodcock, department head.
- 9:35-10:30 — Presentation by Charles M. Correa
- 10:50-11:45 — Presentation by Abdel Wahed El Wakil
- 1:30-1:45 — Introduction of Augustine Hernandez Navarro from Mexico
- 1:35-2:30 — Presentation by Augustine Hernandez Navarro
- 2:45-4:00 — Panel Discussion moderated by Professor Theo David from Pratt Institute of New York

"'Couldn't you become a monk,' I asked him, 'Couldn't you be happy just raising dogs,'" she said.

When a solution could not be reached, DeRoche went to her pastor for advice and found him surprisingly supportive. Daryll also encouraged her to attend a national group called "Parents of Gays" which she later said was the most positive thing she has participated in.

"My overriding reaction was fear," DeRoche said. "So I educated myself as much as possible through books, meetings and literature. Within three months, I felt comfortable with the fact that Daryll was gay."

DeRoche suggests that gays give their parents positive articles to read for more understanding, but above all, they should give them time.

"Parents need time to adjust," she said. "It was a shock to me. I was the outsider. I told him that 'You're out of the closet, but now I'm in.'"

DeRoche became active as chairperson in a local support group in Seattle, Washington to help other parents accept their gay children. She said that although it is a support group for parents, it is also a support group for gays trying to tell their parents about their homosexuality.

To help the public better understand gays, DeRoche speaks at high schools, universities and on radio talk shows about how parents can deal with that type of situation in a positive way.

"I would not be sharing in Daryll's life if he hadn't told me," she said. "His telling me has been a positive thing in my life."

"I wouldn't change him in any way. He's just super the way he is."

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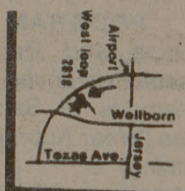
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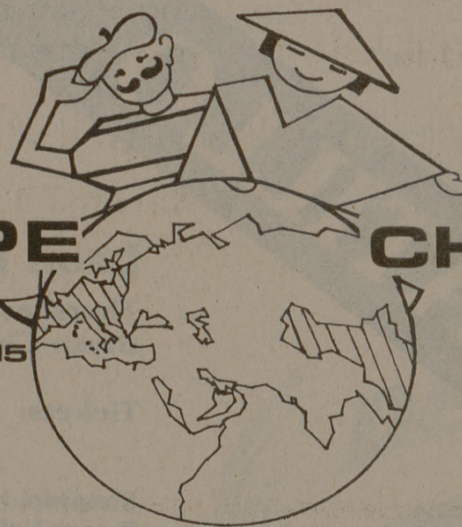
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