TEMESCAL MONSTER

A transvestite was slugged at Oakland's Lake Temescal Beach Park recently, where the Roger Casement Gay Collective holds public picnics every Sunday.

Krishna was sitting in a bathing suit on the edge of a swimming platform on the lake. He and another transvestite were singing, "My Man," when an unidentified male swam to the platform and punched Krishna in the face.

"Very few people actually saw what happened," reported Mike Silverstein of the collective. "We weren't able to deal with the situation. We would have wanted to talk with the guy who hit Krishna, or something."

The collective continues to sponsor gay picnics at the popular Oakland beach-park. Sunday afternoons, the park is heavily populated with families and, according to Silverstein, a heck of a lot of "closet gay people."

"Our purpose is to have a good time, ourselves, and also to reach the many gay people we know go to that place," he said.

People from the activist gay liberation community have joined the collective on their Sunday afternoon picnics, but Silverstein admitted that not too many people from the existing populace at the park have come over to join the party.

"Originally we went with the intent of making a scene -- to show the closet gays that gay liberationists have more fun," Silverstein explained. "But now we are not trying to be so conspicuous. We just go because we are out to enjoy ourselves, and we want to make it so that people would feel comfortable coming by to visit with us."

The punching incident on the swimming platform has been the only incident, so far, although park officials have wandered by to remind the collective that "this is a family beach."

PANCANNABINISM

World Council of Psychedelic Churches has been formed as a communications liaison among cannabist and psychedelic religious groups.

Non-exclusionary, it will admit any group which claims to be psychedelic, or which claims to use cannabis or some other psychedelic substance. Impartial, the council takes no stands.