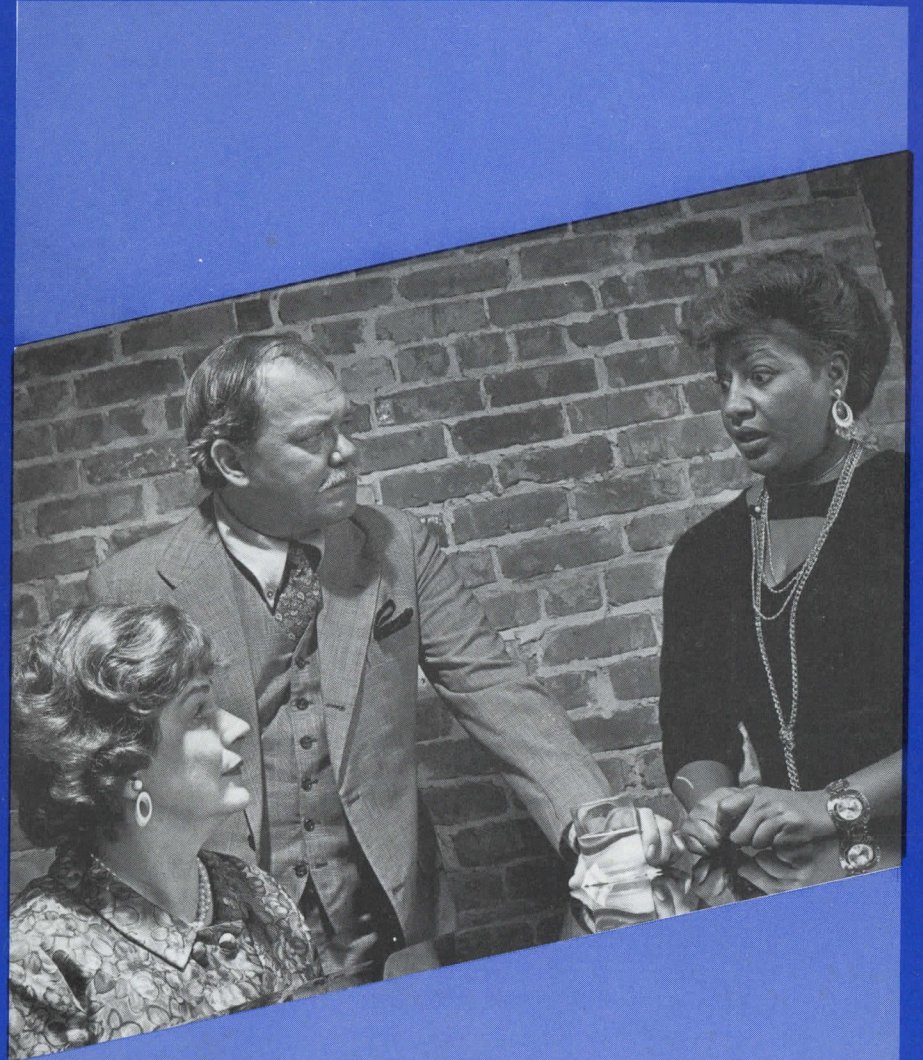


Vol. 1, No. 50 January 25, 1985 \$1
COMPLIMENTARY ISSUE

round the clock

THE GAY WEEKLY



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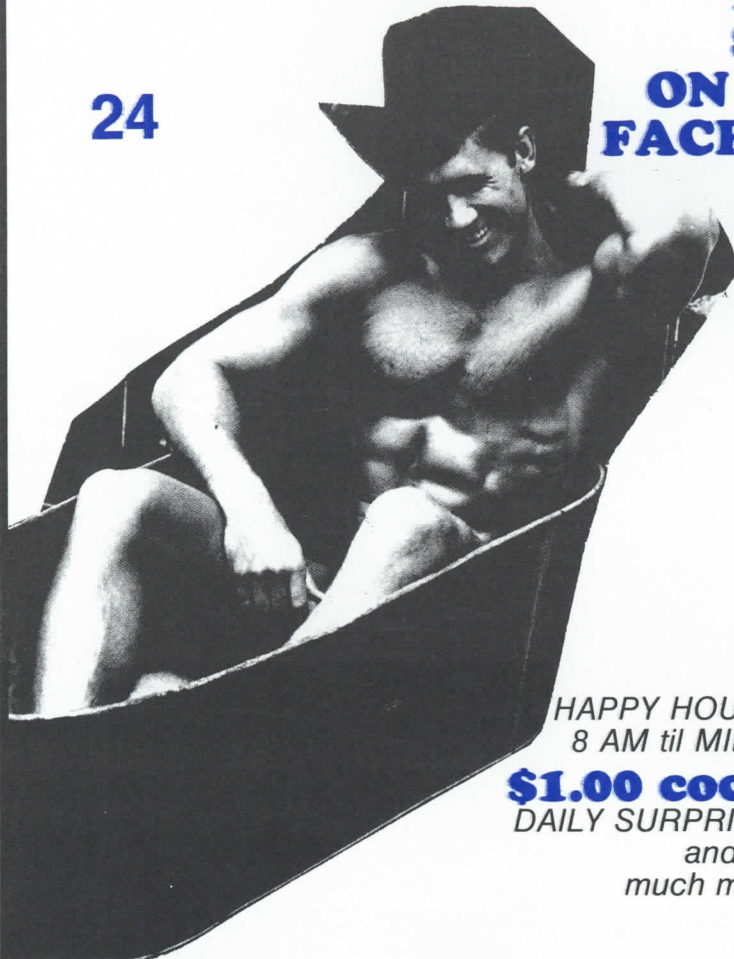
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New Order
Pharr Library
Plum Butch
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T's and Things
Texas Drilling Co.
Toolulah's
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Video Library
Warlords
Weekends
Zebra's

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SODOMY STATUTE CHALLENGE IN GEORGIA

On Monday, January 7, 1985, three judges of the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals of the United States heard oral arguments on the appeal of the Case of *Michael Hardwick, et. al., vs. Michael Bowers, Attorney General for the State of Georgia, et. al.*, a suit whose aim is a finding that Georgia's sodomy law, Official Code of Georgia Annotated Title 16-6-2, is unconstitutional insofar as it makes consensual sodomy a crime.

The case had its beginning back in 1982 when Michael Hardwick, a soft-spoken, handsome young man, was working at The Cove, Atlanta's popular late-night club just off Monroe Drive.

One morning, after finishing work, he stepped outside with a beer in his hand, an action prohibited by Atlanta's open container ordinance, and was spotted by Officer Torrick of the Atlanta Police Force who was driving past.

Although Hardwick immediately threw the bottle in the trash, Torrick charged him for violation of the open container law. La-

ter he went to court, pled guilty, and paid a fine.

But some weeks later, either ingnorant of the fact that Hardwick had paid his fine or just vindictive, Officer Torrick obtained a warrant for Michael's arrest on the beer bottle charge and went to his apartment to apprehend him.

According to Hardwick, this is what happened next. "He walked in the front door. A friend was sleeping on the couch. He asked for me. My friend was freaking out. My friend pointed to the bedroom. I was in the bedroom involved in mutual oral sex with a friend. All of a sudden I looked up and there he (the officer) was."

Officer Torrick claims that the front door was opened for him by the houseguest who then led him to an open bedroom door. Whatever happened, Torrick proceeded to arrest Hardwick and his friend for violation of the Georgia sodomy statue. After some 11 hours in jail he was released on bond and sometime later the friend was also freed.

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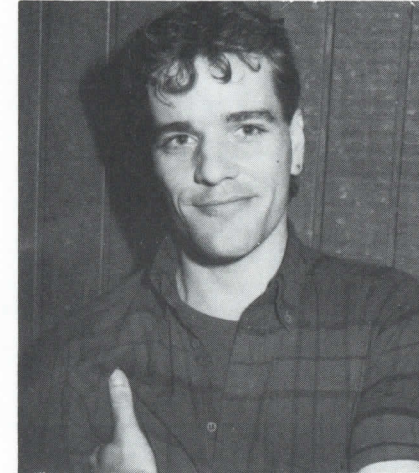
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ANOTHER HERO

Meantime Lloyd Russell, owner of The Cove, contacted Clint Sumrall, a member of the American Civil Liberties Union who had been waiting for years for the right case to come along with which to challenge the Georgia sodomy statute.

Attorneys Lewis Levinson and John Sweet were enlisted and preparations begun for the filing of a suit challenging the law as unconstitutional.



Plaintiff Michael Hardwick

Their efforts were complicated however when Fulton County District Attorney Lewis Slaton refused to proceed with prosecution of the case against Hardwick.

And when the suit was joined by a married couple known as John and Mary Doe, the state replied by saying they did not enforce the law against married people.

The case was assigned to U.S. District Judge Robert H. Hall (a Reagan appointee) who in April of 1983, without even holding hearings, dismissed it in a short, 3 page decision which said that (1) the Does were unable to show that they had sustained or were in immediate danger of sustaining some direct injury as a result of the statute's enforcement, and (2) Hardwick's arguments were foreclosed by the Supreme Court's affirmation of the 1973 decision of a three-judge panel which upheld the constitutionality of the Virginia sodomy statute in the case of *Doe v. Commonwealth's Attorney for the City of Richmond*.

Although discouraged by Judge Hall's out-of-hand dismissal, backers of the suit were not deterred and proceeded with the

appeals process.

Kathy Wilde, a member of John Sweet's firm who had taken over as the chief attorney for the plaintiffs, filed briefs in the fall of 1983 asking the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals to remand the case to the U.S. District Court for trial and to declare that there is a "Right to Privacy" which would be applicable in this case.

Amicus Curiae (friend of the court) briefs were filed by the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund of New York and by the National Gay Rights Advocates of San Francisco. GOAL (Georgians Opposed to Archaic Laws), an Atlanta organization headed by Clint Sumrall, raised funds to help defray the costs of the case.

So it was only after a long and circuitous route that Michael Hardwick and his supporters finally had an opportunity to present their case in court on January 7.

While Attorney Wilde would not predict a favorable ruling, she was definitely optimistic about the outcome. "We had a great panel," she said, referring to Judge Elbert P. Tuttle Sr. and Judge Frank Johnson, (both well known for their favorable rulings in past civil rights cases) and Judge Phyllis Kravitch, the three judges who made up the panel. "Judge Johnson gave the state a hard time about the justifications (for the law)," Wilde continued. "They kept saying that public morality was the only justification and Johnson bore down on this point asking, 'Do you understand that this is two consenting adults in the privacy of their bedroom?'"

"Judge Kravitch took the whole thing head-on by asking me about *Doe v. Commonwealth*, if it didn't destroy my case," Wilde commented. "I explained that *Doe* was not binding because of some referents and doctrinal developments and read her some recent applicable quotes from other circuits which support the position we are asking the 11th Circuit to take in this case."

George Brenning, Secretary-Treasurer of GOAL, was also cautiously optimistic



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about the outcome of the hearing. "From all appearances the judges were favorably impressed with our arguments," he allowed.

"Our attorney made a wonderful presentation while the opposing lawyer, the Assistant Attorney General for the State, did not make a very good case for himself — going off on a diatribe about people standing on street corners waving others down to solicit them for sex," he added. "It was totally inapplicable and the Judges pinned him down with very pointed questions."

It will probably be 3 to 6 months before a decision is handed down by the Appeals Court in this case. A ruling in favor of the plaintiffs would mean the case would be remanded to the District Court for trial, hopefully with some instructions on the applicability of the "Right to Privacy" to the questions raised.

So even with a favorable ruling there will still be a long road ahead in the fight to remove the sodomy statute from Georgia's law books.

Those who have never been personally touched by archaic laws such as Georgia's sodomy statute may feel that all the time, money and energy that goes into court challenges such as this one are wasted.

But, if, like Michael Hardwick, you have been harassed or arrested by police who consider the sodomy law their authority to "hassle queers," you understand the necessity for such efforts.

And the existence of such a law, even when it is not enforced, makes criminals out of all of us who engage in homosexual acts, even with consenting adults in the privacy of our homes.

This often results in stigma, emotional stress and other adverse effects.

Homosexuality is much more acceptable in America today largely because these archaic laws have been removed from the books in 26 states.

A victory in the Michael Hardwick case would be a giant step forward for those gay Georgians who refuse to settle for second class citizenship.

Richard J. Kavanaugh
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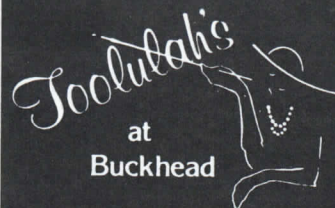
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CORRECTION ON CRUISE

In a story in the January 11th *Around The Clock* — Cruise For Gay Men Planned — Editor Doug Hatch edited out the year the cruise will actually take place.

The cruise to Key West for Mardi Gras will depart from New Orleans on February 15, 1986.

Around The Clock apologizes for the omission. One good thing — if you're interested you now have a year to make plans! ♦

COUPLES GROUP FORMING

Atlanta gay and lesbian couples will have a place to meet and get support with the creation of a group just for them.

Seen as an alternative to the bar scene, the group will provide support and counseling to both male and female couples as well as social and recreational activities.

Being formed by A.C.T., the group is not affiliated with any political or religious groups.

For more information or information on their first get acquainted function, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to A.C.T., P.O. Box 723291, Atlanta, GA 30339. ♦

GAY ISSUE FORUM IN ATLANTA JAN. 27

The Evangelical Outreach Ministries/Atlanta, a gay and lesbian religious group, will sponsor the first of their Gay Issues Forum series Sunday January 27, 4 p.m., at 848 Peachtree Street in

Atlanta.

The topic of discussion will be "Social and Health Services in the Lesbian/Gay Communities."

Speakers will include Jack Carol, Director of the Atlanta Gay Center who will provide an update on the activities of the center.

The director of the newly created Gay VD Clinic, which is in the center, will also speak. The Director is a local physician who will speak on the whole area of sexually transmitted diseases and about resources of the clinic.

For more information contact the E.O.M. at (404) 261-5710 after 7 p.m. EST. ♦

MEN'S DANCE BAR OPENS

After several weeks of frantic work, the Rawhide Mining Company, 740 Burgundy, opened its doors for the first time Monday, January 14th.

The first night patrons were very impressed with the decor and the many changes that the former Play it again Sam's underwent to become one of New Orleans' newest night spots.

Owned by the successful Wood Enterprises, The Rawhide Mining Company is first bar to be opened by Wood since The Refuge opened in 1980.

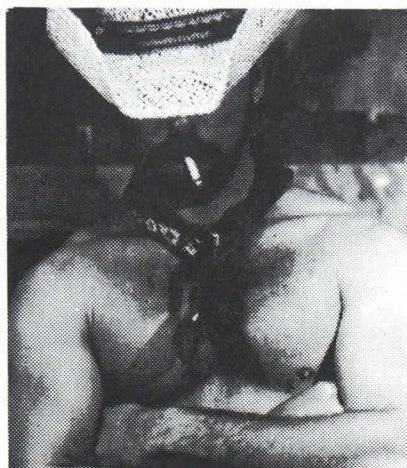
There were major renovations in the bar, including the addition of a fireplace, a mirrored dance floor, and new floor and wall coverings.

The Rawhide Mining Company is the second bar to open in 1985. On New Year's Eve, a new show bar called Applause, at 700 N. Rampart, opened.

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Applause has gone through extensive renovation with a small stage and a totally new bar and seating area. ♦

BALL SEASON WELL UNDERWAY

With less than a month to Mardi Gras, the ball season is well underway in New Orleans. Each of the Mardi Gras krewes or clubs are outdoing themselves to stage the most elaborate and memorable balls of the season.

Formal dress is required and no cameras are allowed. Attendance is by invitation only.

Upcoming balls include:

Friday, January 25 — The Krewe of Ishtar

Saturday, February 2 — The Krewe of Amon Ra

Sunday, February 3 — Celestial Knights

Sunday, February 10 — Krewe of Petronius

Thursday, February 14 — Mystic Krewe of Apollo — New Orleans

Saturday, February 16 — Krewe of Armenius

Monday, February 18 — Lords of Leather

All balls, except The Mystic Krewe of Apollo-New Orleans and The Lords of Leather are held at the St. Bernard

Cultural Center, 8245 West Judge Peretz Drive, Chalmette.

The Mystic Krewe of Apollo — New Orleans will hold their ball at the Municipal Auditorium in Louis Armstrong Park, across from the French Quarter and The Lords of Leather will hold their ball at the Bakers Union Hall, 2001 Burgundy. ♦

QUEEN'S MEN FORM MEMPHIS
ANTI-AIDS BATTLE GROUP

The Queen's Men Inc., a Memphis, Tennessee social organization, concerned over the spread AIDS in their area of the Mid South, hosted an organizational meeting January 13 for a new committee to help fight the killer.

Called the "Aid to End All AIDS Committee," the group held the meeting at the Surrey Room of the Coach House Hotel.

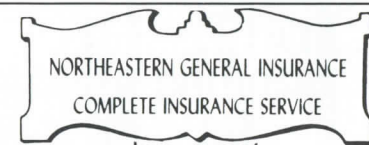
Queen's Men President Gary Salles stressed that, while the Queens Men had helped set up the meeting, "Our direction ended with the first meeting and the election of officers."

The committee takes as its goal raising funds to be used by Dr. Linda Pifer, at the University of Tennessee Center for Health Sciences, to conduct research into the cause and cure of the

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Another goal will be to provide support for AIDS patients in any way possible, as well as to their families, lovers, etc.

A third goal of the committee will be education.

The First Tennessee Bank of Memphis has agreed to administer the funds raised and provide complete accountability.

For more information contact Salles at (901) 452-4299. ♦

U.S. SUPREME COURT HEARS OKLA TEACHERS LAW

The U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments January 14 on an Oklahoma law, which allows local school districts to fire teachers for advocating homosexuality, is constitutional.

A decision by the nation's highest court is not expected before this summer.

Lower courts, which have declared the law unconstitutional, have said that, while the school districts would have the right to fire any teacher who was caught engaging in an homosexual act, provisions of the law covering statements and actions both while working and while off from work, were a violation of

freedom of speech provisions of the First Amendment.

In briefs filed in lower courts, the National Gay Rights Advocates and the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund lawyers pointed out that a teacher simply speaking out before a legislative body in support of a gay rights bill could be fired under the law for advocating homosexuality. ♦

NATIONAL GAY RIGHTS BILL — ANOTHER ROUND

A total of 46 U.S. Congressmen have become sponsors of gay/lesbian rights legislation which was introduced into the U.S. House of Representatives January 3.

The bill, identical to one which was introduced in the last Congress, amends existing statutes to include sexual orientation in the list of protected classes in employment, housing, federally funded programs and access to public facilities.

Rep. Ted Weiss (D-NY) and Rep. Henry Waxman (D-CA) are chief sponsors of the bill.

In the Senate, gay activists are negotiating to find a chief sponsor for the legislation and to amend the bill to
(continued on page 21)

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Around the *zodiac* clock

JANUARY 25-31
KEYWORD: "HARMONY"
 by Lawrence of New Orleans

FOR EVERY SIGN: All of the seven ancient planets are in a congenial relationship with one another right now, so unless there is something seriously the matter with your individual Horoscope at birth — a feature that can really be established only by having your personal Astrological chart done by a professional, or yourself, this should be an all around good week for you in every way!



AQUARIUS: Financial plans that have been formulating in the background for some time now can work out beautifully. Career ambitions can take a major step toward improvement, while wage increases are more easily negotiable. (If your birthday is this week, the above lasts one year.)



PISCES: A series of helpful influences are assisting you now . . . a stroke of luck, perhaps, a burst of affection, or the growth of love, and feelings you can rely upon. Words will bring good results.



ARIES: A great week to make a brand new start. The moon enters your sign tonight, (Friday,) putting the ball in your court for the rest of the week. A questionable aspect on the weekend asks you to be *realistic*.



TAURUS: Monday can be an ideal beginning of the week, as your ruler, (Venus,) forms favorable links with the planetary indicators of love, sex, and money. Relationships of a lasting nature require and get some aid.



GEMINI: Wednesday, (which just happens to be your best day anyway,) is being visited by the moon. Money luck is enhanced whether it has to do with earnings or dealing with *others*. Your love life sector is being excited and by Jupiter and Mars.



CANCER: Saturn, (which governs mates for you), is supporting affairs of the heart and Mercury adding a boost to your business judgement. Moonchild that you are, get ready for a lot of Carnival attention from now on!



LEO: The Sun is your star, and is brightening you love universe from now through Valentine's Day, and including Mardi Gras! Your romantic zone is attracting lovers, (for three years yet,) with the present help of matchmaking Jupiter.



VIRGO: Your natural Mercury cleverness can be put to work to make your love life better than ever, or help you in making and meeting brand new friends. (And not necessarily in that order!) Health and job improve.



LIBRA: Venus, your home planet, shines brightly in the area of employment and you can also radiate glowing health. A fine time for an exercise or beautification program to get in better shape and looks for Fat Tuesday.



SCORPIO: being a flaming Mars sign, you should do extremely well in the erogenous zone, (the Fifth House). You will get some wild ideas, and not all of them just for having fun, you can further work or education.



SAGITTARIUS: Your guiding star, Jupiter, can help you put a little money in the bank or spend some of the *kitty* on improving your home, there is cause for optimism in the work department and love is looking *hopeful*.



CAPRICORN: Saturn, your strength giver, keeps your nose to the grindstone, puts you in touch with V.I.P.'s, makes you budget fairly sound, and helps you to get it together in the vicinity of your underwear.

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* ASK THE STARS *

Dear Phone Lady — It's true that, career wise, you've been taking a celestial *mugging*. Mars has been riding hard on your ruler, Saturn — which also rules business. A person's success cycle is determined by the current position of this planet in reference to his original chart. It is best when in the Midheaven, so needless to say, these are not your *peak years*. In fact, Saturn has been low in your sky. But a *now or never* time is at hand, (before *next year year*,) that may stabilize your position somewhat, and allow you to settle down to a comfortable, humdrum, but steady job, with at least a modicum of recognition, and a dependable, albeit moderate, income. Hang in there.

Do you have any questions about the stars and how they affect you? Then simply write, including your birth date, year, town and time (if known,) to:

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BRIEFING

include more than just employment. The chief sponsor last year, Sen. Paul Tson-gas (D-Mass), retired at the end of his term last year.

Original co-sponsors of the bill in the House include the Congress' only openly gay member, Rep. Gary Studds (D-Mass) and Rep. Mickey Leland (D-TX) who represents part of the Montrose area in Houston. ♦

MEANING BEHIND THE MARDI GRAS NEWS

As Mardi Gras approaches the number of stories about krewes and balls and other Mardi Gras activities increases.

New Orleanians know what is meant by these words, but readers outside of New Orleans might not be sure of the meaning of the strange words they will be reading in upcoming weeks.

So here is a short explanation of the madness behind the world's most mad day.

Krewes — A Mardi Gras Club. The first krewes were formed before the Civil War. Mardi Gras was first celebrated in Mobile, but the word krewe is a New Orleans invention. It is pronounced as if it were spelled crew.

Krewes come in both straight and gay varieties. The straight ones hold massive parades with many floats and major through slightly boring balls. The gay krewes don't parade, but they make up for it with elaborate balls.

Balls — Annual affairs by the krewes, but unlike other balls, these aren't for dancing, at least not for the audience. Each ball has a tableau or theme and the ball is where members of the krewes come out in elaborate and expensive costumes each trying to outdo other members and members of other krewes.

The ball season starts just after the first of the year, usually after Twelfth Night, and runs up to the night before Mardi Gras.

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BRIEFING

Ball Masque — Formal attire is expected for the balls, but a Bal Masque gives one a little more variety in allowing costumes or at least masks. ♦

PHANTOM TOE SUCKER TERRORIZES(?) SAN ANTONIO

Police in San Antonio, Texas fear that "The Phantom Toe Sucker" has returned after an eight year absence, *The Montrose Voice* reports.

The culprit, who has eluded capture, is suspected of assaulting, massaging and kissing the feet of women and then running away.

In the latest incident, a man answering the description of the "Phantom" grabbed the shoes off a woman and then rode away on a bicycle.

Local police are fearful that the *heel* has returned. ♦

MUSIC

Steve Berman of *Let the Music Play* in Atlanta, Georgia, has provided the following survey of top selling records for the week ending January 17.

1. The Age of Consent — Bronski Beat
2. Chinese Eyes/Come Inside (remix) — Fancy 12"
3. M 1015 — Sylvester
4. SOS, Fire in the Sky — Deodato 12"
5. Let the Night Take the Blame — Lorraine McKare
6. Putting the Night on Hold — Lauren Grey
7. One Night in Bangkok — Murray Head
8. Have Fun — Fun Fun import
9. Hey Hey Guy — Ken Lajzlo, 12" import
10. Beverly Hills Cop (soundtrack)
11. Born to Love — Claudia Barry
12. Cruising — Sinitta, 12" import
13. This is My Night — Chaka Khan 12"
14. Can the Rhythm — Girtalk 12"
15. Carmen/Death of Butterfly (instrumental) — Malcolm McLoren, 12" import

Watch future issues of *Around the Clock* for updates on the music scene! ♦

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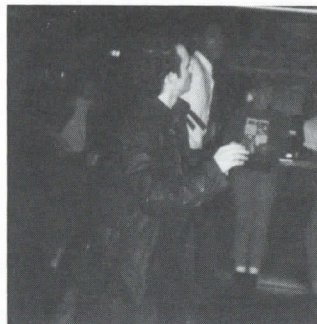


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(top left) The staff of Cuckoo's Nest, December Bar of the Month winner at January's party held there; (top right) Pat Tyler, January's "Bitch of the Month" (runner-up); (left) Robin, January's "Bartender of the Month"; Charlene's (Elysian Fields at Rampart) won the January Bar of the Month award and will host the February

awards on Feb. 4. (right) Weekends in Atlanta, GA; (below) Opening night crowd at Applause, New Orleans.



(top) New Orleans' newest, the Rawhide Mining Co. at St. Ann & Burgundy; (center left) at the Sports Page, Atlanta, GA; (center right) Jim and George of the Bar on Peachtree, Atlanta, GA; (bottom) officials of City of New Orleans answered questions at recent City Government Forum co-sponsored by NORCO/LAGPAC and Dignity/New Orleans.





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STAGE REVIEW

DALT WONK'S SPIRITUAL GIFTS

by Patrick Shannon

This is a well written play which is saved from being too derivative and familiar in both concept and characterizations by a cast of extremely competent actors. Mr. Wonk is certainly to be highly complimented on his lyricism and craftsmanship! I look forward to seeing his fine talent mature.

About this magnificent cast: even their own mothers couldn't offer enough praise! Let's start with a smaller role, that of Clay, as played by Mark Weiss. Mr. Weiss gives us the most touching moment in the show when he confronts his lover, Emile, in one of the "episodes." We see this little nobody, the lowly elevator operator with a speech impediment, stumble his bewildered way through a confrontation with the phony, uppity Emile. This moment will be remembered as one of the best of theatre in 1985.

Along the same "live for a long time" moments in local theatre of 1985, we can't forget Patrice McGuire Hill as Grace. Ms. Hill makes Grace, the one-time-top-of-the-R&B-charts tart, resound with force. Honey this is one bitch (Grace) who you don't want to put down! What a delight it was to watch Ms. Hill build this character bit by bit until she explodes with violence and mini-madness!

Josephine Sacabo as Yvonne was convincing and energetic. She believes she was a black singer in a previous life and has lost the ability to accept reality until too late! Ms. Sacabo was completely in control of her character every second!

Al Becker, clearly recognized with delight by the audience as the "original 9th warder," was quietly effective in his role as the unsophisticated, no-nonsense brother (Hewitt) of Brenda. Brenda, portrayed by Judy Ledner, was unmatched in the control and professionalism of her performance. This, unfortunately, is one of the most "familiar of the characters, but it's a joy to watch this fine performer make the role her own. A thoroughly convincing performance!

David McCain, local authority on pop-music personalities of the 30's-50's, brought to my attention the resemblance of actor Al Becker to Buddy Hackett, which works in his favor. Stefan Cotner had the most difficult task of the actors in

that he had to "make work" the weakest of the "episodes." Mr. Cotner had to convincingly portray a suicidal father, slowly awakening to the importance of his life, while speaking to his daughter through a closed door, for much much too long for even the "willing suspension of disbelief" to work. Cotner did as professional a job as possible with this difficult "episode," and if it doesn't work it is not the actor's fault.

Warren Kenner as Prosper was so effective that every moment onstage with this man seems like a moment in the "true French Quarter." This actor is so subtle, he makes acting appear as easy as reaching for a cup of coffee; not a gesture is wasted or unnecessary! When are the playwrights going to give this man a full role?

Winnie Walsh as Deedee did another wonderful job in her part opposite the bombacious Ms. Hill. She also had the part of the child's voice in that difficult scene with Mr. Cotner.

Julian Dalcour was visually perfect for the role of Hawk, but he swallowed his lines. I wanted to hear what he had to say, his stage presence is very commanding.

The sets were attributed to Franklin Adams and were properly minimal and effectively inconspicuous. The same for the original music by David Torkanowsky, well fitted to the concept of the play, and not distracting.

There is an exhibit of very fine watercolors of the performers and creators of this play in the lobby. These watercolors are by Carole Leake and you should get a good look at them!

Mr. Ed Chadick as Emile, did a marvelous job in the role of the all to familiar homosexual with expensive tastes, affected attitudes, and an NSF bank account. Chadick was particularly effective in the scenes with Brenda, but as alluded to above, is most moving in the scenes with Mark Weiss. Les Allen is perfectly cast as Cornelius Rudy, and did a splendid job in the "episode" with Yvonne and Hawk. As I said, about the actors, I can't say enough. Thank you for a splendid evening at the CAC!

On a four star scale, I would give this fine production a three star rating. An auspicious beginning, theatrically, for 1985! ♦

TO THE EDITOR:

The board of directors of Norma Kristie, Inc., the promoter of the Official Miss Gay America Pageant, on reading the comments in Viewpoint, *TWT*, December 7-13, 1984, has prepared this statement of concern for those people who have read this article. First of all, the old adage of "Don't believe everything you read" is quite applicable.

We think that there are several reasons for this vicious attack on Norma Kristie, Inc., from He and She Productions. The major reason and the main problem is their jealousy of our success. After a year of total confusion and mismanagement throughout the state of Texas, He and She produced the type pageant that they have referred to in this article. The only difference — their errors in judgment resulting in a financial loss — or so they claim.

Their contest mirrored their article along with inflated entry fees, attempted rape of San Antonio and other cities, huge hotel bills for everyone, myself included, and after pageant turmoil not only from the contestants but from the judges as well, plus several of their own board of directors. Never has the Miss Gay America had this turmoil. He and She are still burdened with their problems and there will always be a shadow of a doubt in everyone's mind about the last two Miss Gay Texas Pageants produced by He and She.

In management and pageant production, Norma Kristie, Inc. produces the best in female impersonation pageants. On a scale such as this, we spend thousands of dollars promoting female impersonators and gay people as decent, respectable human beings who can work together for a common goal — the best at what we do.

Some years, a profit is made. Texans have always been good to our pageant and we will continue in our efforts to produce the best for Texans to enjoy. We hope to make a profit. After all, we are a business and must do so to stay in business.

The figures presented by He and She as far as profits go are grossly inflated as one would expect from such vicious attacks.

As far as pageant politics, He and She should know all there is to know about this. Norma Kristie, Inc. has never and will never succumb to one or more promoters from certain areas of the country, unlike

He and She who we heard have had both Miss Gay Texas Pageants they have controlled marred by scandal and implications of contest fixing, after the scoresheets were tallied and out of our hands.

Donations to such charitable organizations such as the McAdory House, Ethiopian Aid Relief Fund, St. Jude's Hospital in Memphis, The Children's Hospital in Little Rock and the March on Washington for Human Rights have always been a standard for Norma Kristie, Inc. and will continue to be so. Gay people and their right to be gay, anyway they choose, has always been one of our highest priorities, whereas, each year we have heard of complaints about their association with benefits because, they don't make any money, they only help the image. This is a shame!

I plead with Texans to read these words with an open mind. As you can read, Norma Kristie, Inc. has produced the best — not only for Texans to enjoy — but for everyone who attends the pageants.

The controversy over the franchise was a simple case of "sour grapes" by He and She Productions — grossly exaggerated. We do not need this kind of representation for gay people in Texas or in this country. We need gay people and gay organizations to work together toward our goals no matter the cost to promote and produce.

Our list of promoters contain thirty pageants who have renewed for 1985 out of thirty seven, Miss Gay Texas and Miss Gay South are the only unrenewed franchises. Five others were cancelled for non-payment of prize money to contestants in 1984.

We need this dedication and commitment by pageant promoters throughout the country, and we are thankful that gay people can look to our organization for leadership in the fight for respectability.

There will be a Miss Gay Texas Pageant in 1985 in Texas for the purpose of selecting representatives for the Official Miss Gay America Pageant 1985-1986.

Norma Kristie



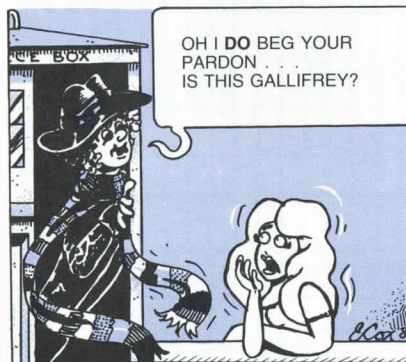
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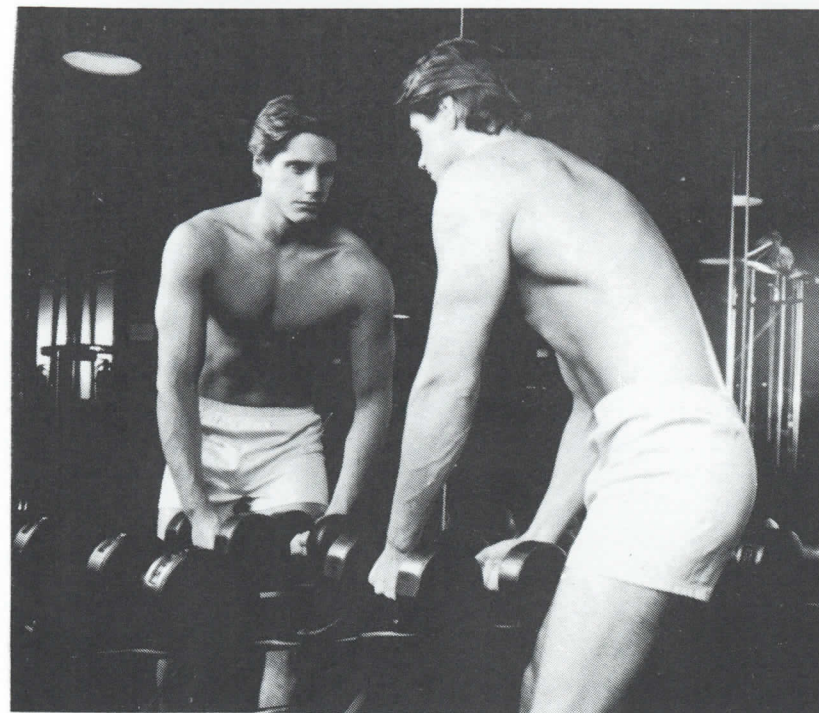
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