

HOUSTON FORUM

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THERE'S RICHARD TAYLOR SMITH...

by T.L. Myers

The Gay community has always been full of contradictions. At times, it seems we bicker so much between ourselves that we have little time for anything else. Leaders of our little sector of the world come and go ... one year that group is on top, another the next. That's why **Houston Forum** leaped at the chance to do an indepth interview with one of the stable commodities of our fluctuating society—Richard Taylor Smith, otherwise known as the "infamous" Maude.

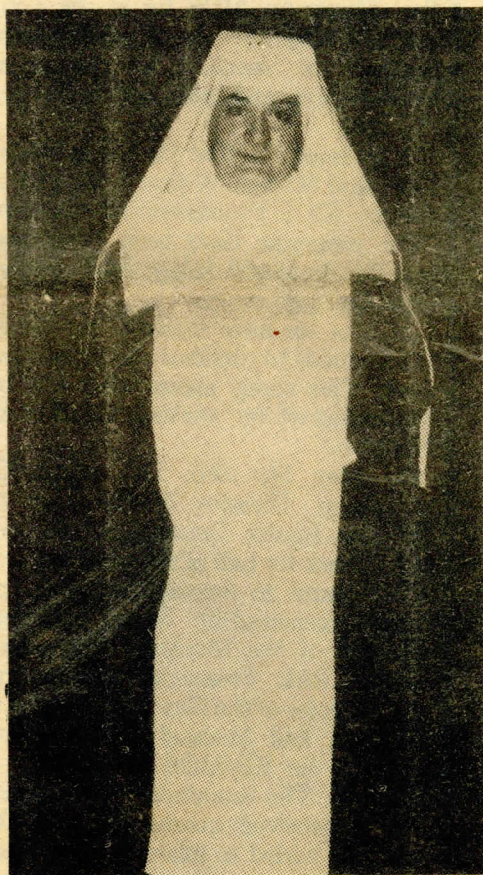
It is easy to see where that remarkable presence lent to the stage by Maude comes from. Houston Forum interviewed him at his home and found that regardless of attire, Maude is one hell of a man.

Richard grew up in Louisiana. That infectious smile known to all is easy to spot in pictures from his school annuals. He looks to be saying, "just wait—I'm not finished with you yet." He kept his mother wondering constantly what he was up to—now he keeps us constantly wondering, too.

Richard traveled a rather unique road to become who he is today. It all started as a lark. "I'm from a small Louisiana town, and friends of mine dared me to go to a party in a dress. I was 18 or 20 at the time - and I did. I dressed up, painted my face, looked in the mirror and fell in love. At the party I was so ner-

vous that something inside of me clicked. Those one liners just started pouring out of me. I was THE hit of the party. Before it was over, I had been approached to be booked for several private parties. That's where it all began."

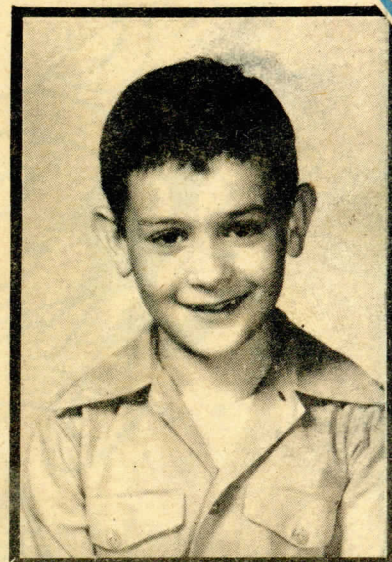
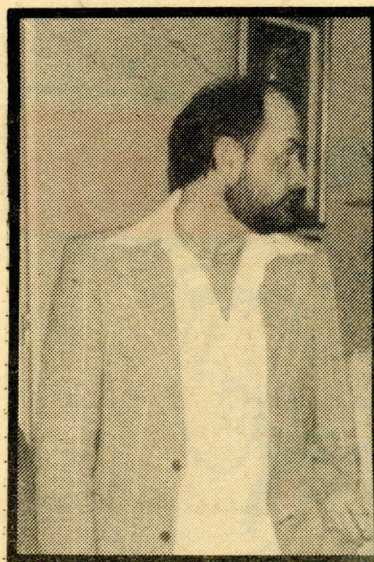
Richard has traveled extensively throughout his career as a female impersonator. His character "Maude" came about in a rather unique manner. Richard's first characters were comedic. He did Ethyl Merman, Peggy Lee and one of his own creation 'Sister Mary Peter Sandwich'. But Maude came about by popular demand.



"In the 70's, I was performing in Tulsa, OK. I was playing two clubs, one gay, one straight, on Friday and Saturday nights. I did the monologues before the shows. Both audiences told me I was perfect for the character 'Maude'. I said to myself, 'Maude who?' I had no idea who Maude was, but I watched a couple of episodes and *light bulbs* went off."

We asked Richard where the wit he so ably wields on stage comes from. Does it come from Richard, or does it come from Maude?

"It comes from me, Richard Smith. I took the Maude character where *Norman Lear* and *Beatrice Arthur* left off and went on with it. Back during the airing of *Maude* from coast to coast I had been asked to do a six city tour



winding up in Las Vegas. My agent at the time had arranged a *surprise* for me. He had sent my portfolio to Norman Lear. I didn't know it at the time but Mr. Lear had contacted my agent and had arranged to fly me from Las Vegas after my closing night to Hollywood for an audition as Beatrice Arthur's stand-in. Both Ms. Arthur and Mr. Lear approved of my impersonation. The night I was to leave on the tour I found out the tour had fallen through at the last minute and I wasn't going. My agent came to the house and said 'What are you doing here? You're supposed to be on tour'. I told him it had fallen through. That's when I learned about his little *surprise*."

Richard started working in Houston in 1974 at the *Hi Kamp*. He appeared with Jan Russell, Eartha Kitt, Dianna Wright, Alan Lloyd, Edie Lloyd, Kandi Delight and many other performers who are still going strong. Since then, his popularity has never waned, the crowds still cry for more and he still loves what he's doing.

We asked how he dealt with being a public figure, how he deals with the stresses, the coping from day to day as people recognize him whether in character or out.

"We each allow everything to happen that happens to us. We are responsible for everything. What *IS* primary is what you feel and think. If you haven't given anyone just cause to put you down as a public figure and they continue to harrass you, just blow it off." He went on to add, "My life has been very exciting and lots of fun. There has to be a balance in life—*light* and *dark*, *day* and *night*. Mine is in balance and I enjoy it. The advice I give young people today about doing what I do is that you can do it for or for a way of living and still have fun. If you want to do it *just* for fun, then there are plenty of transies up and



2 AIDS VIGIL

3 AMANDA

5 COOKING IN HEELS

6 GAY & GREY

6 PLATTER CHATTER

12 HOROSCOPES



... THEN THERE'S MAUDE

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LOCAL AGENCIES RECEIVE GRANT MONEY

The KS/AIDS Foundation of Houston, The Montrose Counseling Center, and the Gay Switchboard of Houston have received a joint grant from the U.S. Conference of Mayors to continue and expand Houston's highly-acclaimed AIDS prevention campaign. The agencies' joint application was one of eleven funded out of sixty proposals submitted to the U.S. Conference of Mayors. The USCM allocated a total of \$186,664.00 to fund AIDS information/education services; the three Houston agencies will divide \$19,959.00 from the national fund.

The foundation and the counseling center will expand the very popular "safe sex" workshops to new times and locations and will produce a two-hour videotape for the at-risk gay male on avoidance of the AIDS virus for use in private or group educational settings. A special telephone tape geared for youth and a training packet for school teachers and counselors to inform high school and college youths about AIDS will be produced. The switchboard will concentrate on developing individualized Fact Sheets on AIDS for at-risk populations who have been traditionally difficult to reach, i.e. Hispanics, closeted gays, and those new to the gay life style.

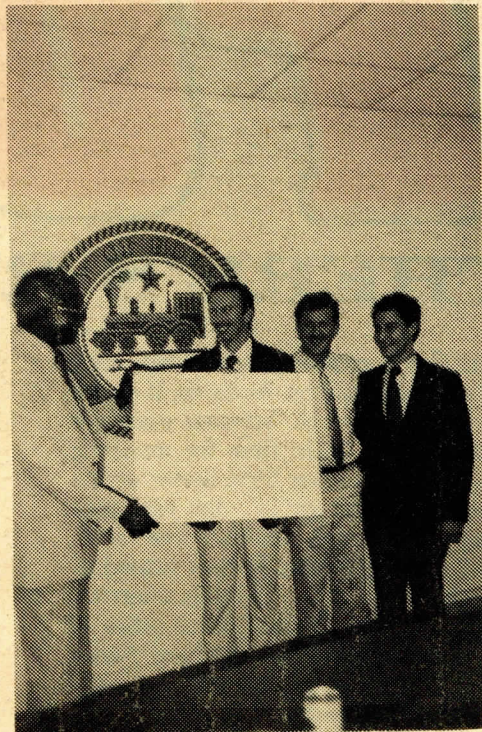
"This marks a first for us in Houston," said Michael Wilson, President of the KS/AIDS Foundation of Houston. "Our programs have been developed and implemented solely with monies from the gay community; this is the first time we have received any funds from outside to continue this important work. This surely shows what can be accomplished by working together in Houston."

On May 14, 1985, Dr. James G. Haughton, Director of the City of Houston Health Department, presented a check for half of the total amount of the grant to representatives of the three agencies, Bill Scott, Clinical Director of the Montrose Counseling Center, Rick Grossman, Administrative Director of the Gay Switchboard of Houston, and Michael Wilson, President of the KS/AIDS Foundation of Houston. The remainder of the funds will be received quarterly during the one year period to follow during which the USCM can review the progress of developing programs.

HISPANIC CAUCUS BAZAAR

The Gay Hispanic Caucus of Houston is sponsoring a Bazaar on Saturday, June 1, 1985. Everyone is invited to come by and browse through the Bazaar from 12 noon until 6:00 p.m. in the parking lot of Studio 13, 1318 Westheimer. The items which will be for sale include furniture, clothing, books and plants. Haircuts by professional stylists and baked goodies will also be available at the Bazaar. The money raised is going to benefit 1985 Houston Gay Pride Week and the Gay Hispanic Caucus Baile which is set for June 28.

Support the Gay Hispanic Caucus and Gay Pride Week by coming to the parking lot of Studio 13 on Saturday, June 1, and picking up something. For more information, contact: Arthur Cordova 868-5252



Dr. James Haughton presents check to representatives Michael Wilson, Bill Scott and Rick Grossman

AIDS VIGIL

The candlelight, AIDS Vigil to be held at the reflection pool of City Hall on Monday, May the 27th will begin at 7:30 P.M. As people congregate, volunteers from CHE and KS/AIDS Foundation will circulate with petitions which call for a national mobilization against AIDS. For a donation, volunteers also will provide candles to participants who have not brought their own.

Sam Canzoneri, president of CHE, and Lee Harrington, master of ceremonies, will provide the vigil's opening remarks. Other speakers included are Michael B. Wilson of the KS/AIDS Foundation, the Reverend Chuck Larsen of MCCR, The Reverend Ronald Poque of Bering Memorial Church, a speaker from the First Unitarian Church, and Tobi Chapman. Billie Duncan will provide music.

Following the brief speeches, the clergy will read the names of Houstonians who have died of AIDS. In their memory, candles will be lit and one minute of silent reflection will be observed. Benediction and dismissal will follow at 8:30.

Participants are asked to discard used candles appropriately. They are also reminded of the Mr. Southwest Drummer Contest, which benefits the KS/AIDS Foundation, immediately following the vigil.



by Amanda B. Recondwith
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Oh Lord, Dear Fans, before we know, its Memorial Day, and time to flee the city to do anything different. It seems that Memorial Day is the time to get away from the mass and rush of Houston life and seek out some place of solace, where the air is maybe a bit more clear, and the noise is at least negligible. Of course, Amanda will probably do the same.

We remember last year, traveling up to the wild rural wastelands of our dear South Dakota. Although it was a little cool compared to Houston, it was beautiful in its way. Amanda loves lilacs and peonies - they actually have an odor, while so many of Houston's blossoms, while being very pretty, just don't have any smell! A professor friend of Amanda's told her that it's because in the north, summer is so short that the flowers must emit as much odor as possible in order to get pollinated. Sweet scents attract the bees, you know. Down here, the summers last so long that the strong odor of a lilac or peonie is not needed. Well, we were very thankful for this bit of information, and trying hard not to yawn, we thanked our professor friend and set out for more entertaining ventures.

But, Amanda does feel the urge to travel this weekend, although not to South Dakota. The faces of Mt. Rushmore will still be brooding down into the lenses of a million cameras this summer, and the silent windy plains will still be moving in great waves of golden wheat, just, just as they've been doing for the last hundred years. But

where will we go this year?

Our Dear Friend, Lynn Wyatt, has taken off for St. Moritz, dear Carolyn Farb has gone off to New York, to get her nails done, and the DiPortanovas have fled to Acapulco to put a new wing on their house, since part of it seems to have fallen into the ocean when Orson Wells did a leap from their balcony into the ocean and caused a small tsunami wave that undermined the foundations. So, as you can see, there will be very few of the haute monde to frolic with this weekend.

We could always go down to Galveston and get stuck in traffic again, just like Splash Day! We have just bought the latest tiger striped Saturn lilly green hatchet-slash bathing suit for the beach, although we were attacked by a small man with a rectangular piece of black cardboard in the shop where we bought the suit. He kept trying to tape the black card over certain exposed areas of our body, like some porno flick. Galveston is a wonderful place to go. There are the wonderful ruined old buildings downtown and the new beach pavilion with the cold showers. There are fascinating tours of haunted mansions where the wealthy survived the 1900 Hurricane while their poorer neighbors floated out to sea. There's a kind of haunting quality about the whole island that Amanda finds most interesting. It's like the ghosts of all those dead people are still floating around the place. One could easily imagine seeing them drifting down the Strand on misty muggy nights when the fog horns bleat over the city.

We could also drive for several hours and go to Corpus Christi, where millions of people flee to see real white beaches and real blue water. Much as we love Dear Galveston, the little tar bunnies that stick to our legs make for unwelcome hours of razor scraping when we get home. In Corpus, we can actually believe that there is real water before us - not just some more oil land or something. The last time we were in Corpus, there was a sudden storm and our tent was almost level with the ground. Fortunately, there were cots in the tent, so our dear friends and Amanda simply crawled under them and played trivial pursuit until the wind died down. Then, we all went to the Holiday Inn, where we watched a strange little man play the organ while wearing three glittering Hawaiian leis and grinning like Liberace.

Then again, we could go off to San Antonio and observe the nesting of the Texas Tourists along the River Walk.

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RICHMOND AVENUE

Those of us who travel along Richmond Avenue will find that we are in store for several more month of bumps and grinds.

Officially, the widening of Richmond Avenue to four lanes -two each way plus adding a median- began March 5, 1985. The construction is between Yoakum and Shepherd, the only part of the street that wasn't already four lanes.

The project is 22% complete, said John Deskins of public works. That means the workmen have 13 more months to complete their work, and residents 13 months of inconvenience.

However, he says that the discomfort will be worth it. "It's going to be a beautiful street," the representative said, "we'll be planting about 250 trees along the sides of the street." Some of those trees will replace uprooted ones lost to construction.

The new right of way is coming off of both sides of the street in some places and just one side in others. "It veers from south and west to north," he said. Bernard Johnson's group did the planning, and, "they took the line of least resistance in traffic alignment," he said.

The line of least resistance was virtually impossible to find two years ago when the proposed project was presented to the public by Councilman George Greanias. At civic meetings it met with organized resistance. Major property owners, such as Charles Orvel of Mayfare Mews bitterly opposed it

(cont. on page 13)

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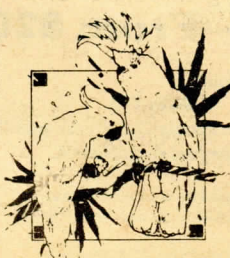
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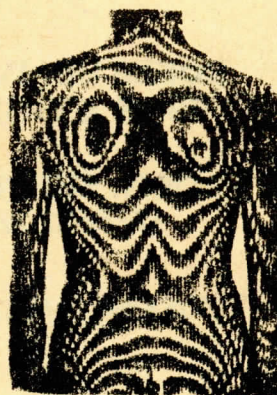
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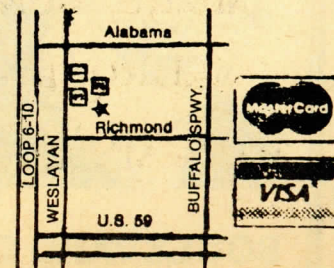
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Film Splices

Fletch

Chevy Chase's bumbling fool character is essentially the same from film to film, but in his new movie *Fletch* he manages to expand on it quite a bit. Relying less on pratfalls and more on characterization and seemingly improvised dialogue, Chase is much more than the sly buffoon he usually portrays.

This film marks a turning point for Chase since he does not have to rely on a counterpart like Goldie Hawn or Bill Murray to bounce his humor off of. His off-handed manner of delivering funny dialogue is refreshing and low-key, and the good laughs never seem to slow the momentum of the film.

As an undercover newsreporter, Fletch is assigned to be a beach bum on the lookout for drug traffic. He is soon caught up in a web of intriguing circumstances that includes the Chief of Police and a wealthy young man who wants to be murdered.

The plot starts out resembling *Beverly Hills Cop* somewhat, but turns out to be much more clever and interesting to watch. Strange characters pop up in little cameos all over the place, and Chase is always turning up somewhere wearing some foolhardy disguise (ala Inspector Cleeseau) that makes us chuckle. Eventually the pieces start to fall in place and the whole preposterous mess begins to make sense, but we sure have fun getting there.

Joe Don Baker (*Walking Tall*) makes a wonderfully tough Chief of Police, while Richard Libertine (the guru in

All of Me) is good as the harried boss of Fletch. Lots of recognizable faces pop up in bit parts, so keep your eyes peeled.

Surprise yourself and take a look at *Fletch*. While comedians like Dudley Moore and Richard Pryor have become sort of stalemated in recent years, Chase obviously decided to spruce up his act. We'll see how far he's come when his second film comes out later this summer - National Lampoon's *European Vacation*.

Little Treasure

Sometimes a quirky little screenplay sits around for years, then someone finally decides to produce it and something good becomes of it. *Little Treasures* was passed around for 14 years before writer Alan Sharp (*The Osterman Weekend*, *Nightmoves*) finally got to direct his own script. The result is a fuzzy disappointment that lacks a point of view.

Margot Kidder plays a foul-mouthed stripper who heads down to Mexico to visit her long-lost father (Burt Lancaster). She becomes involved with a grubby American (Ted Danson) who shows movies to villagers from the back of his truck for a living.

When father dies, he hints of treasure buried from a bank robbery. Margo strips at a club and Eugene tends bar to get by, but the rough and tumble romance that evolves is far from heavenly.

Margo is a greedy woman who only wants the treasure, but will take the man if it's convenient. Kidder plays Margo very unlikably and her sleazy

by Tony Harms

dances do little for the character. Ted Danson fares little better in a thankless role that has him chasing around this woman who has little use for men. Together, these two offer an offbeat couple that are supposed to be representing a sort of reverse *Treasure of Sierra Madre*.

All the ingredients are here for a 1985 update of *Sierra Madre*, the greediness and disintegration of trust, the dialogue containing cliches about lifes real "treasures" and even a dirty, dingy look photographically.

Sadly enough, the movie's parts never fit together and the result is a very mundane, draggy movie to sit through.

Burt Lancaster's role is almost a cameo, and its a shame because he might have livened things up considerably. This is not an embarrassing film for anyone involved by any means. Its just that watching dreppening people in a dreary movie really tends to get one down, and watching movies is supposed to be entertaining.

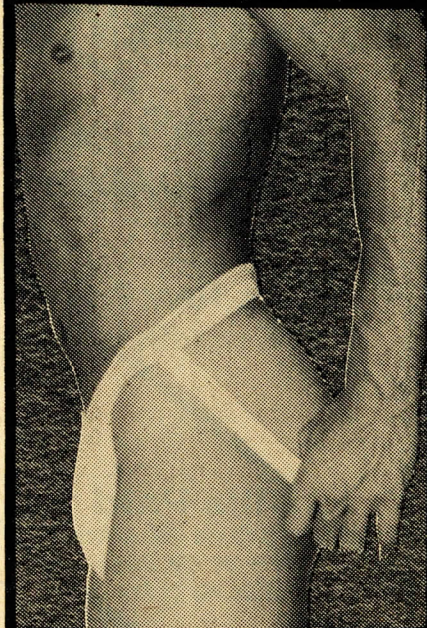


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KREWE OF HYDRA

For decades the soul and spirit of the Mardi Gras carnival season has been kept alive by the many Krewes that exist around the country. A Mardi Gras Krewe is a not for profit organization that has taken upon itself a responsibility to see that, in the carnival spirit, a good time is had by all. The members of the Krewe spend the year raising money and bringing people together so that once each carnival season a social event, with all the pageantry and grandeur embodied in the Mardi Gras spirit, can be presented to the Krewe's many invited guests.

The success of the Krewe of Momus in rejuvenating the Mardi Gras celebration in Galveston, together with the interest of a number of transplanted New Orleanins, has resulted in the formation of the Krewe of Hydra. This new Krewe, under the direction of Bill Mercier, President, started as an idea that became a reality on April 8, 1985. The 15 charter members of the Krewe are looking for others who share an interest in the spirit of Mardi Gras, and seeing it kept alive year around. If you are interested in learning more about the Krewe of Hydra, Please call Bill at 726-1032.

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Cooking in Heels

by Ophelia Goode

I decided to beat the holiday rush on the roads and have just returned from a visit with my dear friend, Fancy, in Lake Charles. We did do some running in our day! Hon, there wasn't a corner or a person on it that we weren't on a first name basis with! I lived in Lake Charles at the time and we would drive over here every Sunday afternoon. At the time, there was only one bar where you could dance and then only on Sunday afternoons from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. with Hazel watching the door in case of a raid (at which time all the "boys" would grab a "girl" and a table and sit down!)

We'd whiz over to be here by four and leave promptly at 8 to be home by midnight so our families were none the wiser.

Times have certainly changed, haven't they? However, one thing hasn't and that's Fancy's gumbo!

Gumbo is a Cajun soup that can be made with a variety of meats or vegetables and served over rice. It's one of the easiest to make right. It's also one of the most frequently made wrong. Fancy's is infalable. She got from her mother, who got it from her mother, ad infinitum.

A little history lesson comes now. Gumbo is a product of many cultures. The Cajun influence has its roots in country French cooking. The original Acadiens (Cajun) came from France by way of Nova Scotia to settle in southern Louisiana, adapting their cooking techniques to whatever ingredients were available locally. The creole influence, and - and there is a difference - is a blend of French, Spanish, and African with a little Italian and Indian thrown in. New Orleans was under seven flags at one time or another, and each government had its national dishes. The cooks, however, were mostly Africans and as the governments changed, the cooks simply added new dishes to their repertoire and blended the cultures together giving birth to "Creole" cooking.

There are basically two kinds of gumbo - file (pronounced fee'-lay) and okra. Both file and okra serve the same purpose as thickeners. If you use one, don't use the other.

All gumbos begin with a roux (pronounced roo). This is cooked flour. The proportions are one part flour to one part cooking oil. (bacon grease is excellent) (no Blanche, don't wring out those towels!) Put the grease and flour in a heavy skillet on medium to high heat and stir it constantly. It will get cream colored, then tan, then brown,

then dark brown. Stop just short of burning it. As you are cooking it, scrape the flour off the bottom and sides of the skillet with a spatula so it doesn't stick. It will also dry out as it cooks. One cup of flour to one cup of grease should be enough for about 8 cups of liquid in all. Tell him you "want to be alone" for a little while!

After the roux is done, set it aside. In a large pot, saute 1 bunch of chopped celery, 3 bunches of chopped green onions, and 2 bell peppers, also chopped, 'til they are limp. At this point, add the roux and 8 cups of water and bring it to the boil. Add to it 2 bay leaves, 1/2 tsp. thyme, 1/2 tsp. oregano and salt and pepper to taste. Gumbo should be a little "hot", so some cayenne pepper would be in order. If you don't like it, leave it out. The dish doesn't depend on it.

You can make gumbo out of a chicken - The feathered ones are preferable - or duck, or a goose (how long has it been since you had a good goose?) The best gumbo as far as I'm concerned is made from seafood. The wider the variety, the better the flavor. Try a pint or two of oysters, a pound of fish filets (more than one variety provides different textures) some crab, a pound of shrimp, or anything from the briney deep.

After you've added the meat and the pot begins to boil, turn it down and let it simmer 'til it's done. If you've decided to use okra as your thickener, add it now. If you're using fresh, cut up a couple of pounds. If you're using frozen, a 12 oz. package of cut up okra pieces will do.

Gumbo is eaten over rice in a bowl. File gumbo involves a little ceremony. First, put a little of the file powder in the bowl - about a big coffee spoon full. Add a little of the liquid and stir it up. Then add the rice, and drown it all with the soup. You can buy file powder in the spice section of the market. File is made from ground young sassafras leaves and provides a unique flavor. Gumbo may be prepared in advance and freezes well.

'TIL NEXT TIME, DON'T BURN YOUR BUNS!!!



THE TIME IS NOW

Financial planning is something everyone needs, but is something that is usually only casually approached.

What is financial planning? As with most things, it means different things to different people. Fundamentally it means having sufficient funds to pay your bills; or stated differently, it means being sure that your expenditures don't exceed your ability to pay for them. In a broader context, financial planning is multifaceted, and at a minimum involves the following (which by no means is intended to be comprehensive).

1. Protecting your existing assets. All too often not enough consideration is given to the efforts that went into acquiring whatever you own. As a consequence, these assets are vulnerable to varying fray.

2. Balancing your income against your expenditures. Most of us have experienced the sometimes irrepressible urge to buy something beyond our means. On an emotional level it has the appearance of being a wise decision. However, in the final analysis, one is usually better off listening to the adage, "Live Within Your Means."

3. Providing a financial reserve for unforeseen emergencies. The question is one of how much should be provided for emergencies. The answer is that it depends to a great extent on what your station in life is, what your standard of living is and how much stability you have in your normal everyday life. On an average, it would statistically seem that setting aside 25% (on a one time basis only) of your current annual income should just about be enough in most instances to meet those unforeseen crises.

4. Providing for immediate vs. future needs. Practically all of us enjoy immediate gratification, and think "well, one of these days I'm going to start taking care of tomorrow." But for many of us, "one of these days" never comes.

5. Developing a satisfactory investment portfolio suited to your needs and risks that you are willing to assume. An investment portfolio can consist, of course, of any one or more of the following commodities; bonds, real estate, stocks, money market or certificate of deposit obligations, limited partnerships, antiques and rare coins.

6. Establishing realistic financial, investment and life style goals. This is generally hard to accomplish because of the number of variables involved.

7. Tax sheltering. Because of our federal tax structure, too much emphasis is usually placed here at the

expense of determining the investment merits of an investment.

8. Credit and credit card use. Most often, credit and credit card use antagonize rather than alleviate a problem.

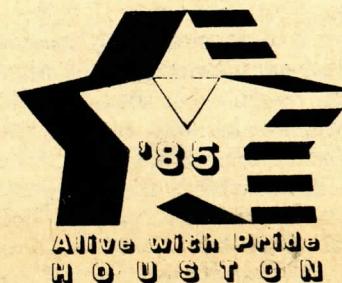
9. Planning for the day when you intend to retire. IRAs and Keogh plans are well known, but there are many more considerations.

10. Determining your life and medical insurance needs.

Questions and comments concerning any facet of financial planning are most welcome. I'll try to respond in this article or, if you prefer, by letter.

A little about my background and biases. In the 20 years since receiving my MBA in Finance from the University of Texas in Austin, I've had experience in financial planning and project feasibility with a large Houston based corporation, pursued tax and financial consultation and planning, advised on the purchase and sale of real estate, and managed my own portfolio of real properties and other forms of investments. I lean in the direction of usually recommending varying forms of real property as an investment and less toward most forms financial investments. If the tax code is drastically restructured by congress this year, however, this emphasis may change.

George Brown



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Gay & Gray

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

by Ed Martinez

There are some things I count on in life. The certainty of taxes, and in Houston, the unbearable traffic and scumbag tow truck operators as well. Included in the list, which grows longer as I get older, are the integrity of Kathy Whitmire, the absurdity of Marvin Zindler (can you believe that anyone in his right mind would pay that man more than \$4.98 a week to spout such ridiculous claptrap, let alone the astronomical salary he reportedly earns?) and the unchangeability of my favorite bar.

Far be it from me to tout one bar over another, (mainly because this might cause us to lose advertisers, and the publisher has told me he could cheerfully cut my throat if that happened) but obviously everybody is entitled to prefer one bar over the other, for whatever reason. After all, if everyone bet on the same horse, there would be no interest in horse racing, etc. Still my favorite bar, which shall of course remain nameless, is the **national bar of Texas** (naturally) and as such, has assumed somewhat of an institutional status.

Therefore it is of more than passing interest and some concern to me when the owners of this bar meddle with what has come by long custom and practice to be a successful format. After an unavoidable absence of some weeks from my favorite bar, I returned to find that some churl has placed a tacky "EXIT" sign over the entrance to the patio. Not only have they placed this sign there, the sign is illuminated. While this is probably at the instigation of a nosy inspector from some city agency, the end result is disastrous. The area thus lighted by this abomination of a sign is one that has long been one of my favorite dear stands, one where I have, over many years, frequently been able to engage and bag my victims.

Now it is important to point out that it is simply not as easy as it once may have been to bag game of the type that I like. The ravages of age, the changing styles and preferences of the day and my own tastes have all combined to make the hunt for firm flesh much more of a chore than it used to be.

Unfortunately, I was never lucky enough to be one of those Greek gods who could pick and choose from a host of admirers, even, no especially, when I was young. The only decent thing that

ever happened to me was that I got older, and managed to acquire a certain clientele among those gays who happen to have this peculiar attraction to older men. Never one to look a gift horse in the mouth, I just give thanks to a merciful Providence, scarf them up and go on. Still, it's not easy to isolate those eligibles in a crowded bar and convince them that I am that one person able to transport them to, if not ecstasy, at least gut-wrenching passion. Dim lights help immeasurably in the process. Bright lights can virtually eliminate any possibility of bagging a catch. Thus this luminary intrusion into my hunting ground is an insult not to be endured quietly.

Many is the time I would sidle up to my quarry, start up a conversation on some flimsy pretext or another, and induce, or seduce, my prey up to my lair for an evening's pleasure. At times there were a few uncomfortable moments when we got outside the bar and the harsh street lights betrayed the fact that I resemble Joanne Woodward more than I do Paul Newman. Nevertheless, good manners and intimidation usually prevented the poor lad in question from fleeing in terror from what he saw in the bright lights.

Now, however, there is no longer the protection of darkness in which to practice my wiles on unsuspecting victims. That damn light shows clearly just who, or what, is what, and it makes the game all the more difficult. Never one to shrink from a challenge, however, I have shifted my base of operations and am lurking in some new shadows located away from this odious illumination. Unfortunately, the new duck blind does not have nearly as much traffic as my former hunting ground, and therefore my catches have been drepressingly few lately. Naturally, it is a great temptation to blame this new intrusion into what had traditionally been my favorite turf for my notable lack of success, when in reality it may just be my inability to drag tricks into my web. There can be little doubt, however, that this detestable exit sign has affected my batting average adversely.

There is the possibility, however remote, that the light of the sign could permit prospective amours to see clearly what I look like, and that there may be some who would actually prefer to see what they're getting. Who knows, this might eliminate that awful, sinking feeling of total mortification

and humiliation that occurs when you do drag your prize out of the door and you're standing there under the harsh glare of the street light and he looks at you in shock, mumbling something about remembering something that he absolutely must do at that very instant and cannot go home with you. There are few embarrassments as destructive as that. The new sign may eliminate such soul-searing disasters.

Regardless, however, the trend is a disturbing and ominous one. The national bar of Texas should take great pains to regard all change with suspicion. The conservative approach should be taken at all costs, and frivolous change should be avoided sedulously. Change for change's sake is seldom a good policy, but rather change for the better should be the rule. Personally I hope that this most recent innovation will be the last, and that the dark, familiar lair that I have come to expect of my favorite watering hole will remain unchanged for a long time to come.



VIDEO VIEW

Gino Vanelli is back with a surefire hit entitled *Black Cars* and the accompanying video features numerous drag queens including Gino himself. He looks remarkably like Anne Bancroft in the drag shots.

Talking of drag, Melba Moore's current hit, *Read My Lips*, seems destined to become a drag standard particularly after seeing Melba's vehement video!!

My biggest disappointment in the latest videos is Freddie Mercury who tries flamboyantly to convince us that *I Was Born To Love You* is directed at a female. I think I preferred him in drag pushing the vacuum cleaner.

After the tremendous success of the openly gay British groups, maybe some gay American bands will come out of the closets and help us improve our tarnished image.

J.D. Arnold,

PLATTER CHATTER

As this is my first music column for the **Houston Forum**, I decided to look at how Gays were affecting and being affected by the music industry today. We seem to wield big power at this time with openly Gay British groups like the Smiths, Bronski Beat and Frankie goes to Hollywood leading the field.

The Smiths are strictly for the progressive crowd but hits like *How soon is now* are gaining critical acclaim around the globe.

Bronski Beat, who's gay anthem *Smalltown Boy* still packs the dance floor, has unfortunately lost their outspoken lead singer Jimi Somerville. He is to be replaced by the deeper tones of Marc Almond, who introduced progressive music to the Gay discos four years ago by singing lead vocals with Soft Cell on their rendition of *Where Did Your Love Go*. Bronski Beat's current single, a remake of Donna Summer's hit *I Feel Love*, includes both vocalists. Check out the limited 10" magamix which features an excellent instrumental version. Jim Somerville has already formed a new group call the Committee who promise to be less commercial than his former band.

Other top British Gay band, Frankie Goes to Hollywood, who seem to be straightening their image for their American tour, are about to play the Music Hall on Tuesday, June 4. Why not join the teeny boppers and RELAX. Talking of live shows, Jeanie Tracey, who often sings with Sylvester, among others, has recently had a dance floor hit with *Time Bomb* and will be appearing at Rich's stage this coming Sunday, May 26.

Dead or Alive follow up their high energy smash *You Spin Me* with another dance floor winner entitled *Lover Come Back To Me*. It is available now in two different formats, the original and the inevitable remix. The remix is much smoother and will ensure its popularity with the high energy crowd, as will their new album, *Youthquake*, which should spawn many more hits.

Coming soon from Modern Rocketry (who appeared at Rich's last year) is a new L.P. featuring a cut called *Homosexuality*. Sean Heyden's current floorfiller *Party Boy* is about a typical Saturday night disco encounter, gay of course! *Culture Vulture*, by David Rostamo also delves into the different aspects of gay nightlife. Plus, there is the endless stream of hits about men produced by people like Ian Levine, d.j. at London's top gay disco, Heaven.

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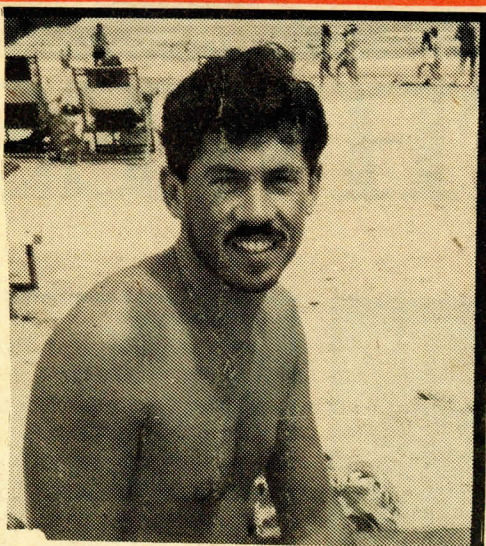
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Letters

Enclosed is a notice that I wrote which a friend here will put on the bulletin board in the day-room after I have gotten out of TDC. They will probably figure out who wrote it. The reason I wrote it is because many inmates don't realize that the Ruiz case is only tentatively settled. If the TDC does not meet it's agreements, round and round they will go again. I hate to think of it, as there has already been too much consternation. But is is a very good possibility, based on TDC's past track record. Then who shall the tax payers blame? There is a lot of brave talk from politicians about getting rid of "obstructionists." Talk is cheap, and worthless in this situation as the past has already plainly shown. After all, people such as ex-Warden Maples (of the Eastham unit) are still employed by the TDC(and he is known to have personally killed several inmates and ordered the sadistically wild beatings on scores of other inmates.) Incidentally, Maples is now an administrator in the transportation department on the Wynne Unit.

Back on track, is there some distant parallel in my notice to the gay movement? I think so. It is so hard to get people to act in their own defense. Since Machoism is about all most here have and identify with, that is what I have taken a pot-shot at. In the gay situation, I know from my own inner conflicts, that I have feared the loss of all respect from the outside world due to the stereotyped slot one is placed in. First, we must kill the myth. I believe that those who try to fulfill the stereotyped image do so in 98% of the cases because of their own ignorance.

This does not make them less than the rest of us; but that is how I think it probably begins with most. Then after they have practiced these affected mannerisms over period of time, it becomes part of them. Here in prison, I have seen more stereotypical gays than I ever did in the free world. Why? I think it is because these people who have had far less exposure to the general knowledge and education of the world, just assumed that if they were a homosexual, they must conform to what every one in their group always said one was. Over a period of time, that is what they become. I have seen average gays come into prison, and then modify their behavior to the stereotypical gay pattern because the peer group forces them to. If they don't, they are seen as a threat by many and are more likely to encounter misfortune. I have been myself all through this experience and I have stayed away from a lot that goes on. As an individual, I don't relate to most people here. My sex life has been nothing.

I guess I am confessing a lot to you about my personal self. On this subject of identity, I haven't had anyone here to talk to, so that is why this has come pouring out. Your editorial in the May 10, 1985, issue really did something for me. (ed. note: "Gay Pride or Gay Primp") I urge you to keep it up. Let us put the myths away so that the world can see we aren't bizarre, grotesque freaks, but individuals who are intelligent and composed as the great majority of us really are.

Well, I must go now. I have to clean and polish by ball and chain before I turn it in. May you and the **Houston Forum** prosper and live long. In
Gay Solidarity



If you think that's something,
just turn the page, Mary ...

HOUSTON FORUM
Thank you
for reading us.

Hugh B. Callaway no. 301403
Wynne Unit
Huntsville, Texas 77349

(ed. note: Hugh should be released as
we go to press)

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(cont. from page 1)

down Westheimer. If you're worth your salt and are patient with yourself, you'll make it. *Now* people tell me 'I've made it'. Tell me what is 'it'?"

One thing that Richard does is have fun. He regaled us with story after story from his past which kept us rolling on the floor with laughter. One such story he told was exceptionally amusing.

"Several years ago, a whole group of friends that had just performed a benefit were having an after hours party at *Levi's* (now the BRB) when we were raided by the paddy wagon. Forty-five of us went to jail that night. Three or four did managed to get away though. *Tiffany Jones* hid in the beer cooler on the patio and the others jumped the back fence. I was a sight to behold. There we were, me in complete drag, a couple that were dressed as nuns with leather underneath, more leather, you name it, we wore it that night. I was the last to enter the police station where they were booking us. The ones already there were singing "God Bless America" as I walked in wearing my Maude getup on 5" spikes. The applause was deafening.

They had separated the girls from the boys, but I wound up in a cell by myself. Someone had been sick in it and the smell almost killed me. I wound up on one of the top bunks—laying on just half of it. I stuck my legs out through the bars. By the time we were sprung the next morning, my ankles had swollen up to the point that I didn't think I was going to get them back through the bars.

In the hallway at the elevators that led to freedom and the finer things in life, we had to sit and wait endlessly on a little park bench. I was sitting on the very end while Michael Andrews sat on the other having an anxiety attack left over from the night before; "... but I'm Miss Gay America, I'm Miss Gay America ..." 'shut up, Michael, just SHUT UP!' I still had on my theatrical makeup that morning and I didn't have my repair kit along. Believe me, I was *really* pretty by this time. All of a sudden the elevator door clanked open



MR. SOUTHWEST

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, May 24—RICH'S

9:00-10:30 PM—Meet the Contestants Cocktail Party

Saturday, May 25—HOOTERS

9:30-11:00 PM—Meet the Contestants Cocktail Party

MARY'S ... *naturally*—Midnight-1:00 AM

Leather Fashion Show by Eagle Leathers & Leather by Boots

Featuring the Contestants

Sunday, May 26—RIPCORN

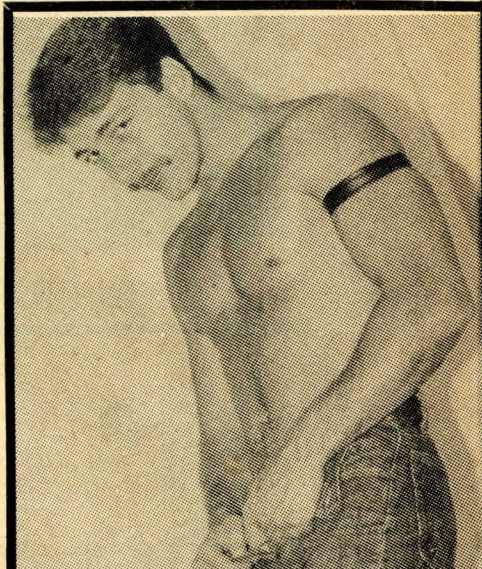
8:00-10:00 PM—Meet the Contestants Cocktail Party & Buffet

NUMBERS—9:00 PM 'til ?

ENCORE—circa 1976-1981

Monday, May 27—RICH'S—8:30-12:00 AM

MR. SOUTHWEST DRUMMER FINALS



JOE VARVARO
Hooters

MC — Maude

"Ms. Southwest Drummer"

FINALS
MAY 27
at RICH'S
8:30PM

MR. DRUMMER
SOUTHWEST '85

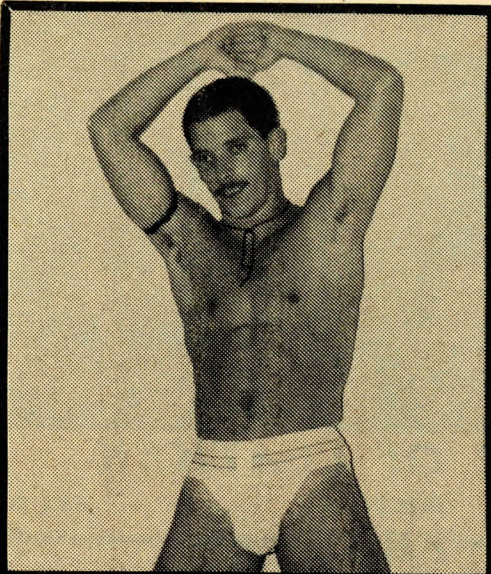
BENEFITING



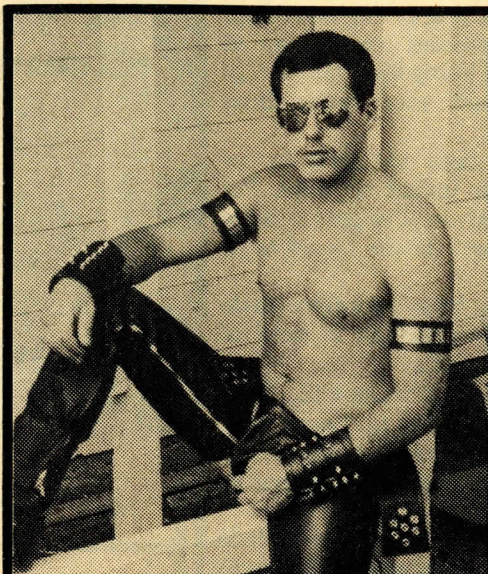
Mr. Southwest Drummer Supports:
The National AIDS Vigil
May 27, 7-7:45 PM and

KS/AIDS Foundation of Houston, Inc.
Encore Weekend

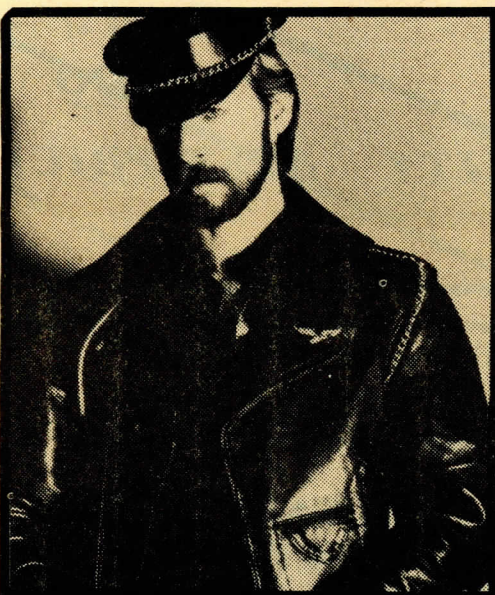
DRUMMER 1985



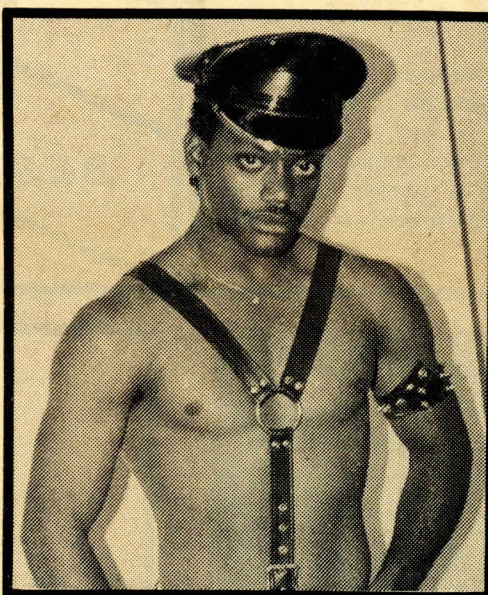
PETER CASARES
Mary's . . . naturally



TROY MARQUIS
The 611 & The Leather Locker



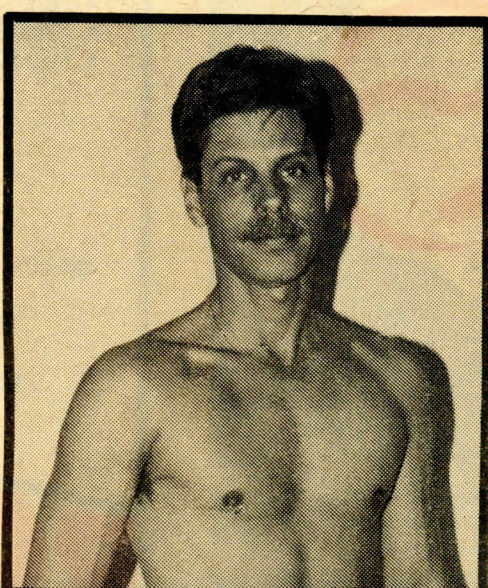
ALEXANDER HOLLAR
Leather by Boots



LOUIS BRADFORD
Studio 13



THEN THERE'S MAUDE



THOMAS J. SMITH
French Quarter

MAY 24-27

to reveal the biggest, black police officer on the face of the earth. He had to stop to get out of the elevator. In unison, everyone on the bench looked at me—I didn't notice, I was busy looking for a *Better Homes and Gardens* to hide behind. The officer stepped out, looked up and down and then came over to me, pointed a finger in my face and said, 'You're Maude . . .' I said, 'That's right, officer, have you seen any of my performances?' He said, 'No, but you're Maude.' I never broke character as I pointed a finger back and retorted, 'That's right! And you better not forget it or God's going to get someone for this one!!!!'

One of the peeves that Richard has about our society deals with the acceptance of female impersonation.

"Will somebody please explain to me why the vast majority of the gay community is so fast to put down *drag* or *drag shows* and/or *drag queens*, but if anyone wants to raise any G— D— F— money who do they call? They call a drag queen, especially one with a name, to head it all. I'm not bitching about what I'm doing. I like what I'm doing and I don't intend to give it up."

Those might sound like strong words, but then, we've all heard, "Drag Shows, UGH!" But it is true that this is where our community goes knocking when they need money. And our performers are always there as witnessed by the Jerry Kauffman Benefit, the Danny Villa party, and *now* the KS/AIDS benefit this weekend.

Richard is currently doing several shows around town each week. On Tuesdays, he's at JR's for the jock strap contest. Thursdays will find him at EJ's and Sundays at the Exile. He told us that the BRB is doing a benefit for the Montrose Clinic this Sunday. He related the Clinic is in dire need of money to continue their services.

Last Tuesday, he did have a rather interesting encounter after the jock strap contest at JR's. After the show was over he had made his way to the bar only to be accosted by **TALL, DARK AND HANDSOME**. After several minutes of confusion, it came to light that *Maude* had singled him out during a show several weeks before and said *I shot that duck and I'm going to EAT IT!* Apparently **T.D. & H.** became infatuated on the spot and had been looking for Richard ever since. They had a few more drinks as they planned their pre-nuptials and then made their way to their cars. After parading up and down Pacific for several minutes (*Maude* in his Purple evening gown with tennies) to the lament of *I know I parked it here somewhere . . .* They finally found **T.D. & H.**'s vehicle and he insisted on giving Richard a ride to his own car. In the short half block it was decided that they would indeed travel to Richard's *humble abode* in separate cars. "I didn't want to get my pantyhose wet from that kind of hair raising ride."

Richard decided it would be much safer to drive down Alabama rather than chance the freeway due to the amount of drink his friend had imbibed. On the way home, he glanced in the mirror to check his makeup when he happened to notice **T.D. & H** veer into the Ball Park parking lot. He whipped a U right there and pulled in only to find his date happily retching over the side of his pickup. After

(cont. on page 10)

(cont. from page 9)

THERE'S RICHARD THEN THERE'S MAUDE

several minutes, T.D. & H. regained his composure enough to engage in a little foreplay there on the spot. Richard cheerfully waved to the police driving up and down the street while they were fooling around (remember, he was still dressed in his purple ensemble, no less). A short while later it was decided that Richard would drive home and de-costume and then return. Forty-five minutes later, Richard entered the Ball Park to descreetly inquire the whereabouts of "trickette". Tap, tap, "are you in there?" Tap, tap, "are you in there?" Eventually he narrowed it down to one of two doors and again he tapped, "are you in there," no answer. At the last door it was BANG! BANG! BANG! ARE YOU IN THERE? Their reunion was blissful to say the least.

Back to the more serious side of Richard, though, we found that he is a rather complex person.

"I'm not perfect, but I'm working on it. I allow people to think for themselves."

Decisions for Richard have always been easy. He has finally decided to give up one of his careers. *Interior Design* has been his other career throughout the years, but he has definitely decided to make *Maude* a full time profession.

"I don't want to go with two careers. Once I finish this last design job, I'm going with the stage full time. I love the theatre, I've done Shakespeare, Blythe Spirit and many others as a professional actor." We asked what his

favorite memories are from his stage career. Without batting an eye, he answered, "All of them".

We learned he has been selected to be the MC for *Bottoms Up's* opening act in Las Vegas, starting in August or September. We expressed our dismay at the possibility of losing him. He quickly denied he would ever move from Houston.

"Houston has been too good to me and I don't ever intend to leave. For everything I've given, I've gotten more back—I love what I do and I want to do it forever."

We also asked if he will continue to do the numerous Fundraisers in light of his earlier comments.

"I do them because I want to. NOT because I feel obligated to. Like I said, I'm not bitching about what I'm doing. I like doing them and I don't intend to ever give it up."

The one question that we were a little hesitant to ask, he answered immediately. Our question was "How would you like to be remembered?"

Richard's answer. "As a humanitarian. I guess I'm just doing my bit for that. That's the bottom line. I want people to know I had a voice in whatever good was being done and that I had a part in it."

Well, Richard, let us be one of the first to say, "Thank you for all you've done. There is really no way to truly repay you except with our respect and love. But then, you've always had that. Thank you, again—for a job well done."



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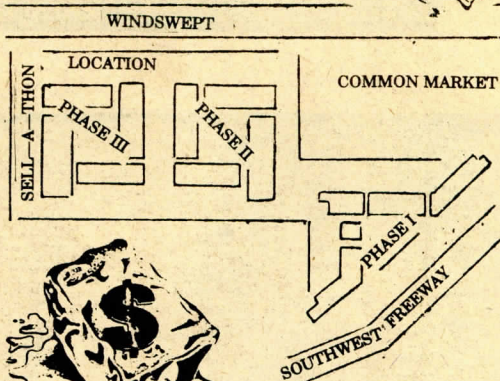
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AMERICAN PLAYHOUSE:

Three Sovereigns For Sarah

Three Sovereigns For Sarah was filmed in the 300 year old farmhouse where the most famous of the Salem witches lived. Starring Vanessa Redgrave, Kim Hunter and Phyllis Thaxter, *Three Sovereigns For Sarah* airs on three consecutive Mondays, May 27, June 3 and June 10 at 9:00 p.m. on Channel 8. The AMERICAN PLAYHOUSE production is the story of the accused Rebecca Nurse.

The Salem witch hunt was a time of relentless, indiscriminate persecution and hysterical fanaticism -- all pervasively conducted in the name of a forgiving God.

No finer example of their cruelty is the case of invalid Rebecca Nurse who was humiliated, acquitted, then convicted, sentenced to death, pardoned, then un-pardoned, and finally killed.

Rebecca's trial was in Salem, but the witches themselves, as well as their accusers, came from nearby Salem Village, now Topsfield.

In March 1692, at the crest of the local witch scare, some children named the 71-year-old Rebecca Nurse as one of their tormentors.

Before the year was out, more than 400 would be accused, 19 would be hanged, and one tortured to death.

Rebecca was an easy target. Temperamental, she was heard once "scolding" her husband outdoors -- a rare display for those times. Rebecca was also hard of hearing, which seemed to make her more irritable. At her trial, her inability to hear testimony would be misconstrued as indifference.

Engaged in land-rights squabbles with some of the state's leading families, Mr. Nurse had his share of enemies

too -- including jealous neighbors envious of his success.

Also, Rebecca once tongue-lashed the owner of a trespassing pig. Not long afterward, the owner died -- some say a horrible death. Some folk insisted that Rebecca had cursed him that day.

Finally, the unthinkable happened. Rebecca's name was "cried out" by possessed children. Word spread quickly and two leading citizens decided to investigate.

On March 19, 1692, Sarah told the two visitors that her mother was weak and ill, confined to bed. But the neighbors insisted they must question Rebecca.

Finally, the news is broken to Rebecca of the accusations.

On March 23, a local couple accused her of committing "hurt and injury" to them. The following day, local officials returned and took Rebecca to the village Meeting House to be publicly "examined." The charge was simple: Witchcraft.

At her pre-trial examination, witness after witness insisted that Rebecca's wandering spirit had tortured them. She protested quietly that she had been sick in bed at the time.

Just as the tide seemed to be turning in her favor -- some of the "afflicted" threw a loud and fearful fit. The courtroom was panic-struck.

Urged to confess, she refused. She was guilty of nothing, she cried, "but old age." She knew no spirit but "God alone." She was indicted, bound over for trial and jailed. She would never see her beloved home again.

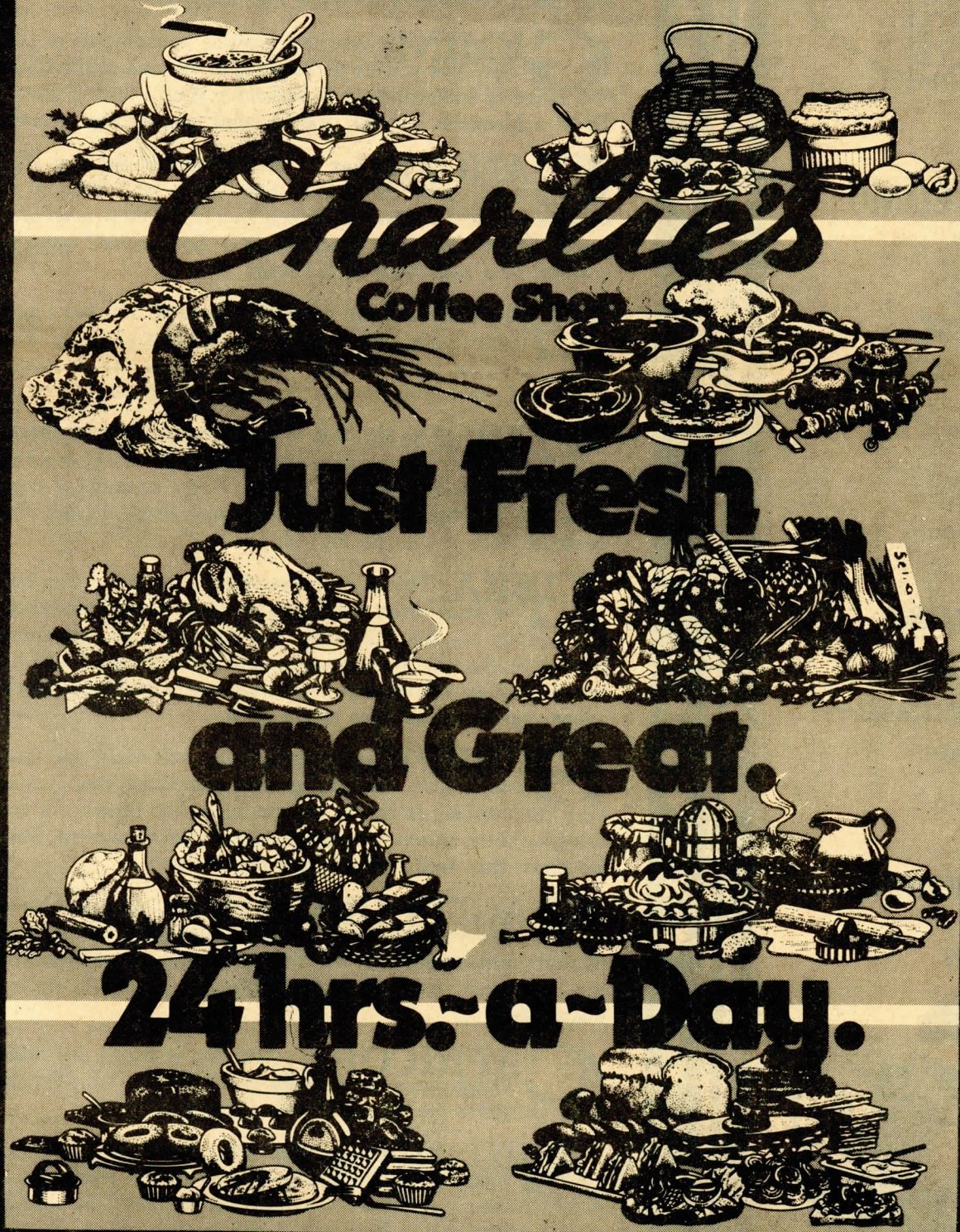
The trial only led to further upheaval. Forty neighbors, including the wife of the local magistrate, drafted a statement of Rebecca's good character. The verdict came back: not guilty. But the "afflicted" reacted with such unprecedented shrieks and contortions that the court immediately ordered a re-indictment. With new instructions from the judge, the jurors re-opened their deliberations. This time, to no surprise, Rebecca was convicted.

The pastor demanded her ex-communication. Unable to walk, Rebecca was carried into her church in a chair on July 3, and in utter humiliation, with a huge throng looking on, was sentenced not only to the gallows, but to "eternal damnation."

The Nurse family went to Boston to see the governor who ordered a reprieve. Within days, however, her enemies had stormed his office and the governor cancelled the reprieve.

Rebecca Nurse's life ended on July 19 -- the day of the infamous mass execution of the Salem witches. Five, including Rebecca, were hanged and buried in a mass grave. Her family later stole her body and re-interred it near the house, where it now lies beneath a monument inscribed with the names of the 40 neighbors who defended her.

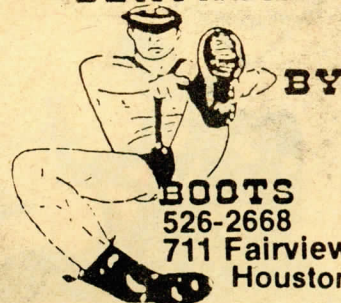
Today the Rebecca Nurse home in Topsfield symbolizes the hard but peaceful life of late 17th century New England, and the hysteria that interrupted it and destroyed this woman -- but not her family or her home.



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HOUSTON

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YEAR OF BUSINESS

WOMYNSPACE BENEFIT

Womynspace, a non-profit organization designed by and for women, will present a coffeehouse benefit with Gloria Pruett, Kathryn Goshen, Raw-slyn Ruffin, and Alice Evergreen on Friday, May 31. The program will begin at 7:00 p.m. in Channing Hall of the First Unitarian Church, 5210 Fannin.

Tickets range in price from \$6.20 for members to \$12.40 for those who can afford it. Tickets at other prices are

available on a sliding scale. Childcare will be available during the presentation.

Womynspace is currently involved in a membership drive. Annual dues are \$31.00, which represents 62% of the average annual dues males pay for membership in similar organizations, and relates to the \$0.62 women currently earn for every \$1.00 men earn. Additional savings may be made by joining before June 1. Call 523-3563 for additional information.



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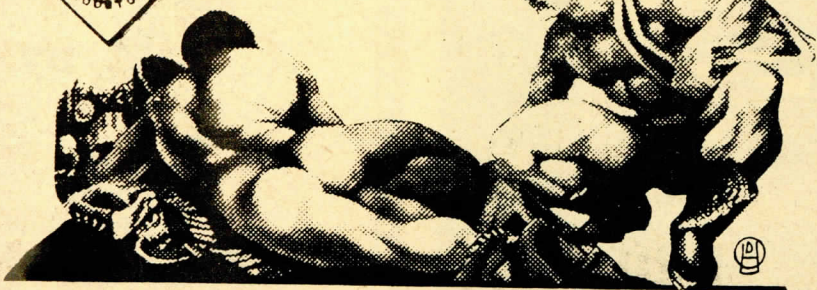
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ARIES: Old situations continue to haunt you. You are finding yourself suddenly drawn to the past this week, while your friends seem to frown upon you for being old-fashioned. Don't despair. This cycle in your chart is natural for you every four years or so. It will pass, leaving you in better shape than before.

TAURUS: Your stubbornness is growing more pronounced this week. You have a natural tendency to become snobbish when success shows itself, but you must be careful. Don't be haughty to those who love you.

GEMINI: Your self analysis is ending as of the 21st. Now you are in the mood to see some sights. Your fifth house of entertainment is beckoning you to have a party. Throw a Memorial Day bas, and romance may be your reward!

CANCER: Sex is very important for you this week, since the charts show Venus and Mars in a strategic spot in the scheme of things. Don't hesitate to meet new people. If the signs look right, you may find yourself happily involved in a real affair of the heart.

LEO: You are drawn home this weekend. You feel a pull toward your roots that may be difficult to ignore. Because your sixth house of travel is very positive this week, go ahead and make reservations. See mom and dad.

VIRGO: No, this is not going to be permanent. Your recent confusion and anxiety over money matters is natural to your meticulous nature. If you re-examine your books you may find you're not in such bad shape. In fact, the weekend holds a windfall for you.

LIBRA: Things aren't working out as you'd like, but you must direct your positive nature toward relaxation and positive reaction this week. The difficulties you are going through at this time are temporary, and Venus always smiles on her scales. Mars will cause you to have strong sexual urges. Enjoy others and leave the fates to the gods.

SCORPIO: Irresponsibility will only get you into trouble. You are ignoring something very important. Your nature is not to procrastinate, but because of the changing of the season, you are too eager for entertainment. Buckle down this week and you will reap rewards.

SAGITTARIUS: The new moon has benefited you well. Your love life is the major thing in your life right now—and rightly so. It's hard to find a good love, and this is your most strategic time to find a lasting relationship.

CAPRICORN: Your sign is happy this week. Things are going well for you. The job, the relationship, the dates are all going well. Enjoy it.

AQUARIUS: Your fifth house of entertainment is affected by the New Moon this week. Venus and Mars also smile upon you so have a good time. There will be some anxiety on the 25th, but it will pass.

PISCES: Venus and Mars are shadowing your life right now, which means that you are unsure of your love life. Because the Sun is shadowing Saturn in a perpendicular alignment, it's a star-crossed event. You may meet someone who will not turn out to be the love of your life. Don't be taken in too easily by a pretty face.

(cont. from page 3)

Amanda was just there only weeks ago, and we would rather not get tired of another city so quickly. Even **New York** gets to look like **Valley of the Bored** when you've been there too much.

Austin is a great joy, Dear Fans. There is always something to do. And even doing *nothing* is fun. Amanda loves to lounge on the shores of **Lake Travis**, particularly around **Hippy Hollow**. Now, don't get us wrong, Dear Fans. Amanda always wears a bathing suit, because we don't like getting our buns burned to the point that we have to carry **Coppertone** in suppositories. Besides, Hippy Hollow is in a nice protected cove, and Amanda is scared silly of big **Dams**. We remember our first trip to Travis, when our rather eccentric and terminally Catholic aunt took us out in a boat and insisted that we go *water skiing*. As we swan without a life jacket in the crystal clear and delightfully cool waters near the dam, we smiled and asked how deep the water was right there. Our Dear Aunt replied that it was only about *400 feet deep*, but as you got closer to the dam it got to about *500 feet deep*. Our little mind was bursting a few *nerve endings* over that, when suddenly there was a terrible roar behind us and we found ourselves moving away from the boat at alarming speed. The stupid spillway had opened only 30 feet away, and Amanda was being *sucked away*.

Well, needless to say, Amanda survived that trip, although it's a long story. All we will say is that she never realized before that journey that many of the plumbing fixtures inside the State Capitol building are actually big enough for a good sized girl to fit through - *including the bidets!*

And then, of course, there is **Dallas**, that glistening star of the north central eastern Texas. Amanda can tolerate Dallas, but there's something about that city that has always troubled her. A Dallas girl still wears her furs until **mid May** even though the temperature may be 90 degrees. But then, it's always exciting to go up there and see how much more of **Oak Lawn** has been devoured by the uncontrolled (*but zoned*) explosion of growth. The **Infomart** looks just like **England's Crystal Palace**, and we were most pleased to see that the masters and mistresses of ceremonies dressed in hoop skirts and stove pipe silk hats - just like people did back in the 1850's when the Crystal Palace was dedicated. How ironic that the place is for display of the computer was dedicated. How ironic the the place is for display of the computer technological explosion. How ironic that there doesn't seem to be much growth left in that industry - but you Dear Fans will never know it, because Dallas has the world's best *public relations facilities* to insure its fame and prominence in the world's eyes. That's why we always wear our most conservatively radical clothing to Dallas. Purple hair, day-glow orange and lime green capri pants with lemon yellow shirts and triangle shaped sunglasses are just right there, especially if the whole outfit is guaranteed to be out of style next year!

Oh well, maybe Amanda will just stay in Houston and get some much needed rest. After all, when the entire city seems to have evacuated, it seems like **Montrose** belongs to us alone. Biking and walking are very enjoyable with the traffic down. In fact, we could only

But then,

hope that the holiday weekend would usher the tourists from the suburbs out of the city altogether, leaving us without their *racket* on Friday and Saturday nights on **Westheimer**. Amanda has been very tempted to use her trusty portable *bulldozer bumpers* on her **Cadillac** to move a few of those cars with their *screaming, drunken teenv-boppers*.

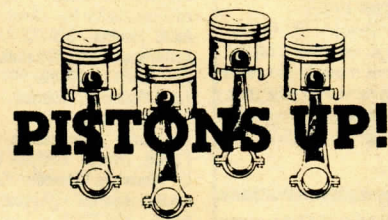
Yes, maybe we will just lounge around the city this weekend. Why join the masses? Why not enjoy the city for a change? We can just put on our *saber-tooth tiger striped bikini* and lay out by the pool while the sun's rays tan us. That way, we can avoid the mad rush of the airports and the craziness of Texas travel on Memorial Day. But we do have to remind you, Dear Fans, to be *very careful* on the highways. The **Patrol** is out in force, and others may not be driving as well as you, so keep your eyes peeled and **don't drink on the road!**

Incidentally, Amanda recently heard on the news that a "**Poll**" had been conducted where **Louie Welch** won a clear majority over **Kathy Whitmire** for mayor. Amanda could not help but laugh, Dear Fans.. The poll had only **400 people** interviewed, and believe us when we say that to poll 400 people out of a metropolitan area of about three million is like trying to remove a hair from a stack of pins - impossible. Keep up the good work boys. *Amanda needs the entertainment!* Ta Ta for now, and **take care!**



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ASK FOR DARREL

(cont. from page 3)

RICHMOND AVENUE

saying it would put an unsightly road next to expensive townhomes. Small business persons opposed it because taking any space from their already impacted on-street parking would be disastrous for business.

"We can't afford to lose a years business to construction," one said. Yet the project proceeded in what Greanias dubbed, "inevitable."

Traffic is going to force us to widen this part of Richmond," he said then. "Its four-lane everywhere else and it has always been planned to be a major thoroughfare." He tried to appease owners with tree promises and attentive understanding to complaints, yet construction began as soon as rights of way were purchased.

The street is already littered with for sale and for rent signs. Several merchants have moved to other locations. The fire station looks like it will be on an island after the street is finished. And anyone who drives down Richmond hoh doesn't have to be there is asking for a new set of shock absorbers.

So, until sometime in summer of 1986, that's the way it will be. Once the street opens, it will carry at least 16,000 cars per day as stated by Mr Lat-zinhizer of Traffic and Transportation. That was the figure at two lane. Estimates show it will carry twice as much. "We can safely say Richmond will be full a week after it's finished - probably the day after," said Deskins

It will serve as a major artery to downtown, probably making for more traffic in Montrose when Richmond is complete.

CORRECTION

The phone number published for Stan Ford and Dignity Houston in Vol. 1 #12 was printed in error. The correct number is 523-7644. Our sincere apologies to Kyle, who has been receiving the wrong calls.

**OPERA
IN THE PARK**

Houston Grand Opera's Spring Festival will feature the Texas Opera Theater's lively production of Rossini's *The Barber of Seville* in six performances - in English - at the Miller Theatre in Hermann Park on May 24, 25, 29, 31 and June 1 at 8:30 P.M.

James Atherton, one of America's foremost character tenors, will direct *The Barber Of Seville*. Atherton's experience as a singing actor has given him special insights into opera production which he now translates to others in his role as stage director. The production will be performed by a group of nationally selected singers who promise to delight adults and youngsters alike with a fresh and funny approach to opera.

Performances at the Miller Theatre are free and sponsored in part by the City of Houston Parks and Recreation Department, the Miller Theatre Advisory Council and the Cultural Arts Council of Houston. The theatre is a Houston landmark and offers the largest program of free cultural events in the United States.

For recorded information on the Miller Theatre programs, call 520-3290.

**CALIGULA
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New In Montrose

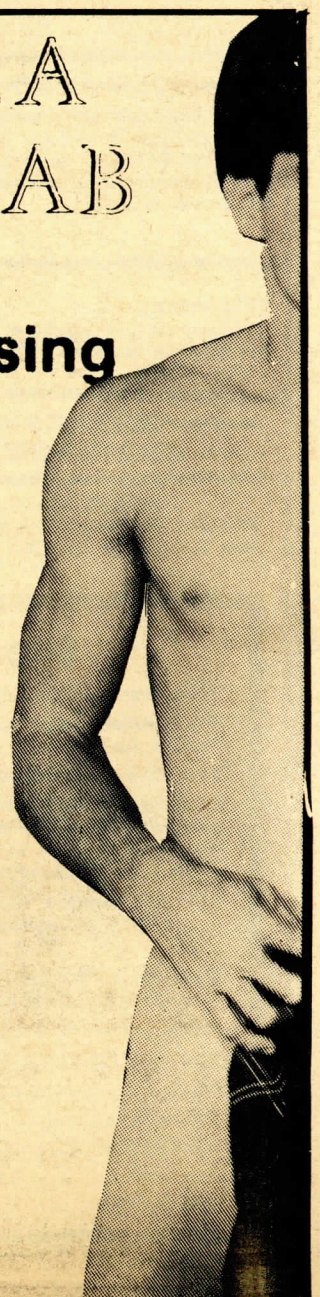
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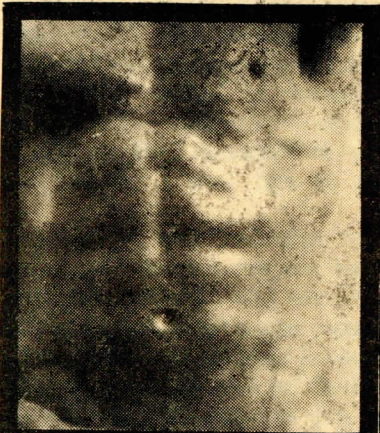
520-7061**2513 Elmen**

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KINKY
Yes, I'll admit it, I'm kinky. Not sick, or truly weird, just kinky. Like toys? So do I! Like to talk about about and exchange drawers, jocks and porn? Like to talk dirty on the phone and take things in hand at the same time. CAN WE TALK? REALLY talk? Write to me at Box 10-D.

ORDINARY
Let's face it, I'm ordinary. No designer body, no hooter of death, not even the most beautiful face in town. However, I CAN s— the chrome off a bumper hitch, and that oughta count for something. If you're into just plain folks enjoy an evening of relaxation, talking, fooling around, and getting it on, drop me a line. Try it, you'll probably like it. Box 8-B

HORNY?
Of course you are, admit it! Of up're a reasonably healthy man anywhere between 18 (let's keep it legal) and death (hopefully not TOO close to death), you probably get horny. So do I. Let's cut the bullshit and get together and do something about it. Never mind all the fantasies you drool over in the bars, this one is for real. Write and let's discuss it. Whatever happened to f—buddies? This one's for YOU. Box 7-A

ARABIAN KNIGHTS
Middle eastern? Sons of Islam, disciples of the Prophet—you're my type. If you enjoy someone who really digs Arabs, we can make beautiful couscous together. I'm middle-aged, and once had this brief fling with a Lebanese lad. I've never been the same since. Isn't there a camel jockey out there somewhere with a sense of humor who'd like to get better acquainted? Your Lawrence of Arabian is waiting! Write to Box 7-C.

PUERTO RICAN PALS
Everything's great in America! Hot, hunky, horny PR's, wherever you are, there MUST be at least one of you out there in Houston who needs tender, loving care. FR, GRP, hot, willing and waiting to meet you. How about a line or two. You'll never regret it. Write Box 8-D.

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- Albritton's Cafeteria—524-4908
- Baba Yagi's—2607 Grant—522-0042
- Boulevard Cafe—808 Lovett—521-1015
- Chafing Dish—803 Snover—864-1466
- Chapultepec—813 Richmond—522-2365
- Charlie's Coffee Shop—1102 Westheimer—522-3332
- Eddington's—6121 Hillcroft—981-6121
- Frankie's—Montrose @ Westheimer—529-7896
- Happy Buddha—516 Westheimer—527-8494
- Matt Garner B-B-Q—138 W. Gray—527-8488
- Gyro Gyro's—1536 Westheimer—528-4655
- House of Pies—3112 Kirby—528-3816
- La Jaiciense—1308 Montrose—524-8676
- Mother Lode Cafe & Saloon—804 Pacific—523-0511
- Perky's—Richmond @ Kirby—524-0075
- Rascals—2702 Kirby—524-6272
- Second Verse—3619 Washington—862-8773
- Spanish Flower—3921 Main—869-1706
- Spud-U-Like—416 Westheimer—520-0554
- Star Pizza—2111 Norfolk—523-0800
- Steak 'n Egg—4231 Montrose—528-8135
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- Chicken Coop—535 Westheimer—526-2240
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- Club Laradon—Greens Rd. @ I-45—443-6566
- Copa—2631 Richmond—528-2259
- Dirty Sally's—220 Avondale—529-7525
- Eddington's—6121 Hillcroft—981-6121
- E.J.'s—1213 Richmond—527-9071
- Exile—1011 Bell—659-0453
- Galleon—2303 Richmond—522-7616
- The Hole—109 Tuam—528-9128
- Hooter's—2212 Converse—521-2310
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- Rascals—2702 Kirby—524-6272
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- Rich's—2401 San Jacinto—650-0769
- Ripcord—521-2792
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- Chambers, Dr. David—427 Westheimer—524-0538-DDS
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- Montrose Clinic—803 Hawthorne—528-5531
- Smith, Dr. Bruce W.—1006 Missouri—529-4364-DDS

ORGANIZATIONS

- A Capella Chorus—Montrose Church of Christ—777-9286
- ACLU—1236 W. Gray—524-5925
- AIDS Hotline—529-3211/(Gay Switchboard)
- American Gay Atheists—P.O. Box 66711 77266-527-9255
- Astro Rainbow Alliance—520-9451 (Voice)—520-0552 (TTY)
- Avondale Association—P.O. Box 66054 77266; meets 7:30pm second Thursday @ Women's Christian Center—310 Pacific
- Azulao Womyn's Magazine—6130 SW Fwy. #335—266-5237
- Bayou B'lue Singers—Robert Moon-Dir.—209 Stratford—863-3084
- Bering Memorial United Methodist Church—1440 Harold—526-1017; svc. 10:50am Sunday.
- Choices Unlimited—P.O. Box 70996 77270—529-3211 (Gay Switchboard) meets 1:00pm, third Sunday, Masterson YWCA, 3615 Willia; "Social Mixer", 7:30pm alternate Fridays; Sunday Brunch 12:30pm third Sunday.
- Christian Church of the Good Shepherd—1707 Montrose—svc. 1:00pm Sunday—Bible Study 7:30pm Thursday
- Church of Christian Faith—217 Fairview—529-8005—svc. 10:45am Sunday & 7:15pm Wednesday—Bible Study 7:30pm Wednesday—Choir Practice Wednesday after Bible Study
- Citizens for Human Equality—P.O. Box 3045, Houston, TX 77253—680-3346
- City Hall—901 Bagby
- Clippers—342-6502
- Crisis Hotline—228-1505
- Diana Foundation—P.O. Box 66523 Houston, TX 77266-6523
- Dharma Study Group—406 Avondale—524-9554
- Dignity—523-7664—3217 Fannin @ Elgin; mass 7:30pm Saturday.
- Gay Political Caucus (GPC)—P.O. Box 66664, 77266—521-1000; meets 7:30pm, first, third & fifth Wednesday @ 3217 Fannin @ Elgin.

- (Hou)Gay Pride Week Committee—P.O. Box 66821, 77266—Stan Ford/523-7644 or Cathy Lenahan/868-6256; meets May 22nd @ Kindred Spirits 4902 Richmond Ave.; Houston Gay Pride Week June 13-23; National Gay Pride Day, "Alive With Pride in '85", June 28.
- Gay Switchboard—P.O. Box 66591-77266—6591—529-3211—Information—TTY—AIDS Hotline.
- Greater Montrose Business Guild—522-9333
- Integrity—Episcopalian—439-1209
- KPFT Radio—FM 90—526-4000
- KS/AIDS Foundation—524-2437
- Lambda Center—Gay AA—521-9772
- Lutherans Concerned—453-1143
- McAdory House—524-9816
- MCCR—1919 Decatur—861-9149
- Montrose Clinic—804 Hawthorne—528-5531
- Montrose Counseling Center—900 Lovett—529-0037
- Montrose Symphonic Band—527-9454
- Presbyterians for Lesbian/Gay Concerns—526-2584
- Parents & Friends of Lesbian & Gays—464-6663

BUSINESSES

- Academy—2030 Westheimer—526-0929
- All Star Adult News—1407 Richmond—528-8405
- Appearances—1338-A Westheimer—521-9450
- Asylum Adult Bookstore—1201 Richmond
- Ballpark Adult Bookstore—1830 W. Alabama
- Bentleys—1136 N. Shepherd—862-4266
- Cactus Record—Alabama @ Shepherd—526-9272
- Classic Jewelry—1713 Westheimer
- Cobweb Liquors—2036 Westheimer—526-2989
- Critters—602 W. Alabama—529-8299
- Downbeat Records—2111 Richmond—523-8348
- Dramatika Gifts—3224 Yoakum—528-5457
- The Eagle—1544 Westheimer—524-7383
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- Fairview Liquor—106 Fairview—529-1414
- Fitness Exchange—2900 Richmond—524-9932
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- Tire Place—1307 Fairview—529-1414
- TLC—2421 Bissonnet—524-5860
- Tommy's Barber Shop—2154 Portsmouth—528-8216
- Union Jack Clothing—1212 Westheimer—528-9600
- Up One Western Leather—BRB—2400 Brazos—524-5737
- Ventrano's Supermarket—529 W. Alabama—528-2394
- Walgreens Drug Store—3509 Montrose—520-8000
- Walgreens Drug Store—1940 W. Gray—526-2161
- Warwick @ the Park Hair—Warwick Hotel—5701 S. Main—lower lobby—526-1991 ext. 1209
- Waugh Drive Liquor—1402 Welch—529-9964
- West Alabama Liquor—608 W. Alabama—528-2306
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Houston Forum

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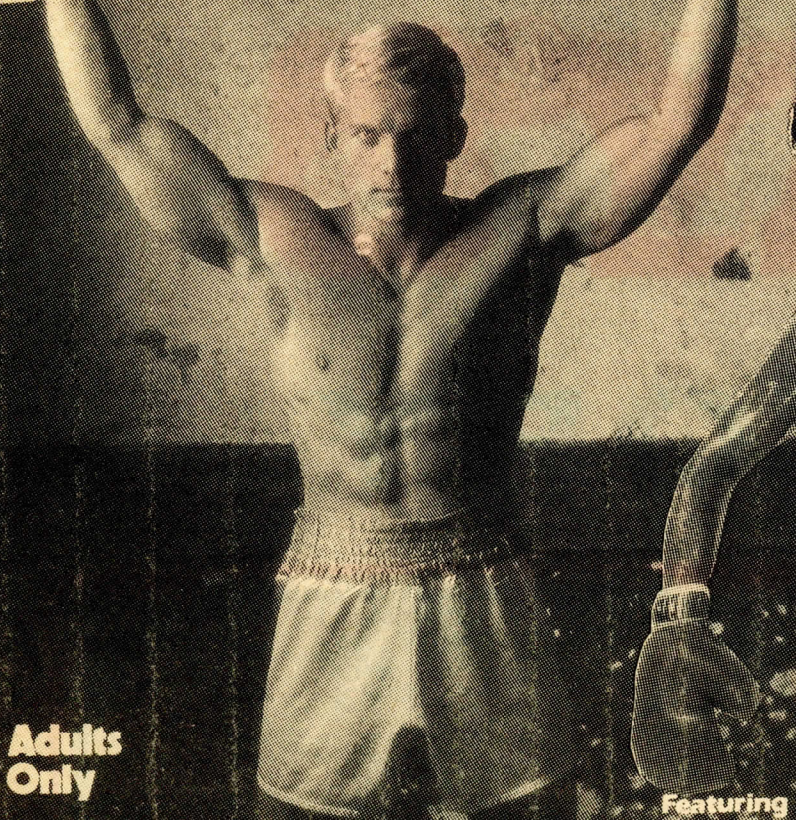
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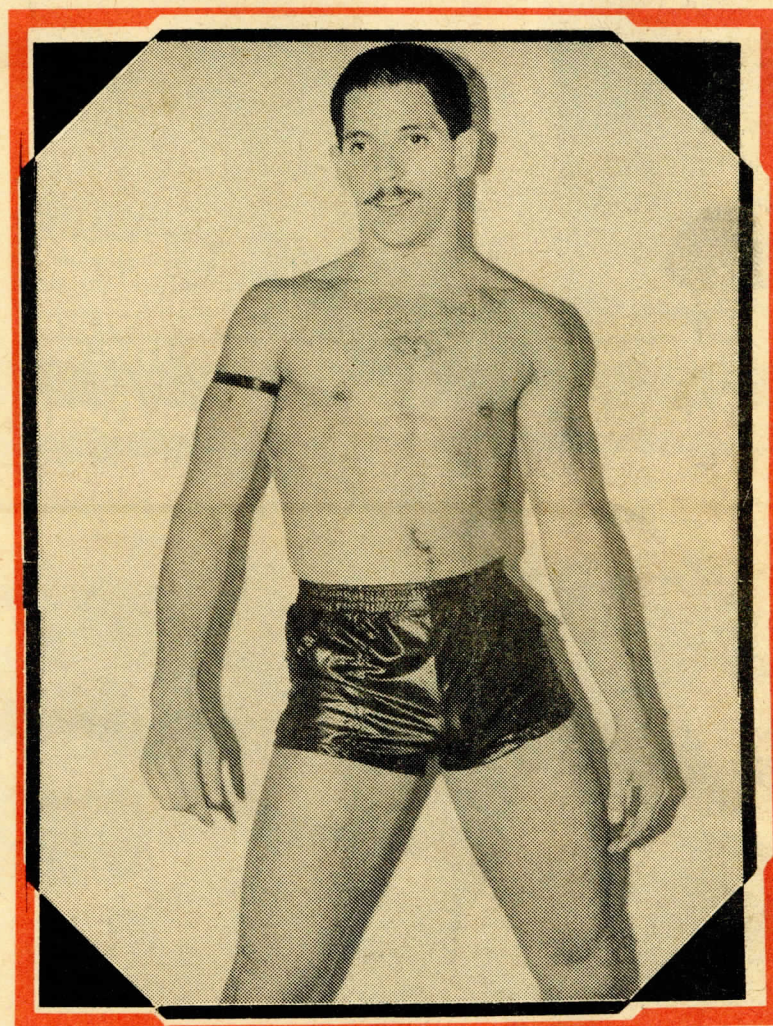
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