

HOUSTON FORUM

'As Texas Talks'



April 12, 1985
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AMANDA

By Amanda B. Recondwith
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Well, **Dear Fans**, you may have noticed that **Amanda** has changed locations. We were on our way to the **Voice** one day with our little column, when suddenly we were stopped by this incredible man wearing a **purple skin-tight lycra jump suit**. Of course, Amanda isn't one to pass such opportunity up, so we stopped and listened to him as he began to tell us about his life as a trapeze artist. He spoke of swinging back and forth, and of hovering over crowds of amazed people, and how he loved the circus. We then asked him if he still worked for the circus, and he said that he had given it up to become a stock broker and freelance carpet layer in **West Houston!** Well!

We asked him if he suffered from bouts of longing for the old circus days and why he gave it up in the first place, and he shrugged and said: "Look, who wants to be 50 years old and swinging back and forth in the air like a monkey every night? Look what happened to Wallenda! **VOOM!** Thirty stories and splat. That's all that's left of your career—**SPLATT!!!** Nah, I decided to get into something a little less chancy, like the stock market."

We left the man, and now that we think about it, we wonder why he was wearing those lycra tights on **Monterose Blvd.** Oh well, maybe he just couldn't get over the feel of them or

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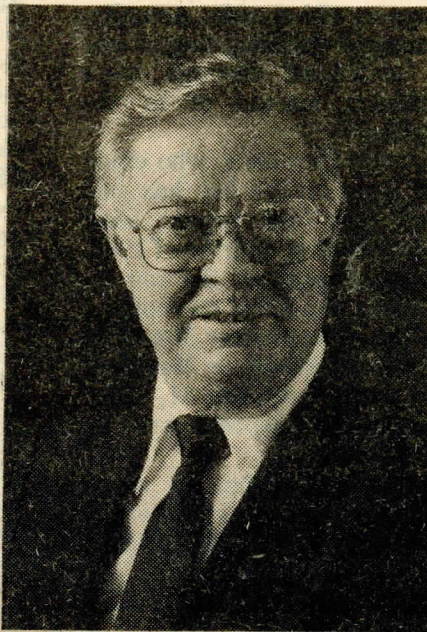
THE CHAMBER'S SACRIFICIAL OFFERING by Gregg Russell

Under internal organizational pressure to resign his post as President—Houston Chamber of Commerce, former Houston Mayor **Louis Welch** began to fan the flames of a possible *Mayoral candidacy* in November against current Mary **Kathy Whitmire**. Prior to last week, Welch had been denying rumors of his candidacy, which according to a close political associate in "most probable."

The move has been viewed by Welch's rivals within the Chamber of Commerce as a 'sacrificial offering' against Whitmire who appears to be nearly unbeatable in November. At the same time, the move will relinquish Welch's current position in the Chamber, a post which is sought by Welch's Chamber rivals who view Welch as a figure of the Chamber's past.

Welch, who served as Houston's mayor for ten years, between 1964 and 1974, stepped down from a final mayoral contest against Fred Hofheinz after a near defeat in 1971. Hofheinz's minority coalition forced Welch into an unprecedented run-off which nearly unseated Welch. It is this same minority coalition, in a more developed stage, which has consistently returned Mayor Whitmire to office.

Issues in the campaign will most certainly include the issue of age. Conflicting press reports place Welch's age to be between 66 and 71. Although Welch has considerable influence with the



Louie Welch

(cont. on page)

IS THE ISSUE HUMAN RIGHTS?

Sue Lovell, President of the Houston Gay Political Caucus stated recently, "The Gay Community is very proud of our many contributions to this community. As citizens we worked hard, long hours in support of the George E. Brown Convention Center. The gay community believed in the Convention Center because, as concerned citizens, we want a strong and positive growth for our City. We felt it would benefit all the citizens of Harris County."

Ms. Lovell added, "The Gay Community of Houston is confused and concerned by the fact the Texas Eastern Corporation gave \$5,000 to help defeat the recent City Job Discrimination referendums. This corporation actively sought our support last year to help in the passage of the bond monies for the Convention Center."

"The HGPC understands the corporation is to respond to questions being raised by the gay community about their donation," stated Ms. Lovell.

The Texas Eastern Corporation is considered a diversified energy company, in addition to their real estate projects.

GAYS AND THE CHURCH PART II

by Hollis Hood

During the recent referendum struggle, several ministers came forward to beat their chests and insist that homosexuality is a major sin. However, for those who chose to believe in a higher power, gay and some non-gay pastors agreed that the proposition of homosexuality as a sin is nonsense.

"I'm so sorry there is so much awful trouble in God's good world," said Gracie of A Place in the Sun. (She is an ordained minister who, with Lynn Herrick, has a shelter for battered women.)

"By their own judgement will they be judged," she continued. "Some people like to pretend they're God and go around judging other people, but God said it would go better for Sodom and Gomorrah than those people. Christ didn't have anything to say about homosexuals, but he did have plenty to say about those who pass judgement."

"As far as I'm concerned, God didn't make no junk(sic)," Gracie continued. "God created people homosexual—what right have we to call God a liar? Or say that he miscreated? These people are not misbegotten, they are born this way."

"Much damage was done in that campaign and humanity sustained a disservice by people who didn't understand what they were talking about," Gracie said.

She continued by saying that people were trying to pass judgement on a moral issue, when the issue was civil rights. That if we're going to base hiring someone on morality, then all the adulterers and child-molesters will be kept out of work. "At least they can't say gay people beat their wives!"

"If promiscuity is what they're worried about—well that's in both

AIDS TREATMENTS EXPOSED!

KS/AIDS news release

In recent months a number of individuals have begun offering "cures" for AIDS which fall outside the sphere of conventional medical treatment. While many of these may be of benefit to the individual in terms of helping him to cope with stress, to acquire good eating habits, etc., few, if any, of them offer real hopes for the claimed cure of the disease. Before becoming involved in one of these new treatment regimens, be sure to discuss it at great length with your medical practitioner and to sift the evidence for and against it as carefully as you can. Many of the people who offer these newfangled treatments, unfortunately, have ulterior motives which they will seldom, if ever, disclose to you at the outset. Please remember that treatment, whether it be medical or unconventional, can often be more damaging than it can be helpful.

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G.P.C. ECONOMIC RESPONSE COMMITTEE REPORT

by Ray Hill

I visited a friend the other evening and found him sitting in the middle of his living room floor busily sewing Men's Warehouse labels over the Norton Ditto labels in the clothes he bought last summer. "I don't want to embarrass myself when I take my jacket off," he explained.

You see, the Ditto's gave generously to the anti-referendum campaign last January. Elsewhere in this issue you will find lists of health care providers and banks that also contributed. The lists were compiled by a committee of the Gay Political Caucus researching the contributors' lists on file with the City Secretary's Office. That research is now continuing, and we expect to have completed and reported all available information by Gay Pride Week.

We are not calling for a boycott. A boycott is what a group does to force someone else to do or not do something. We are simply informing supporters of gay rights of the banks, merchants and service providers who have used some of the money they have received from gay rights supporters to oppose gay rights. The committee encourages FORUM readers to do business elsewhere.

Our efforts have received a lot of general publicity in the last week, and I would like to respond to some of the things mentioned in a recent Houston Post article. It was interesting that the Texas Commerce Bank Shares spokesperson passed off their generous contribution as "it

was a Chamber of Commerce project, and we supported the Chamber." That sounds like Flip Wilson's Ernestine saying, "the Devil made me do it!" (in this case, the Devil is apparently Louie Welch.)

Charter Bank insists that they have gay employees, leaving us to wonder why they objected to gay men and lesbians working for the City. Their spokesman indicated that his employees think that GPC is a "radical fringe group." Perhaps these are the same gay people that Louie Welch refers to when he calls us "a bunch of spineless sissies." Of course, First City Bank insists that they made the "affirmative decision" not to support either side. Actually, the affirmative decision they made was to contribute through their senior officers instead of in the bank's name.

The Houston Chronicle, who enjoy their own place on the list, has said little, but they did report bank deposits for the first quarter of 1985. In that report, nine of the ten individual banks and all of the holding company banks in greater Montrose reported lower deposits on March 31 compared with December 31, 1984, while over all bank deposits were up in Harris County.

The committee wishes to thank those who have joined us in this effort and to assure you that WE HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE!

DOLLY RETURNS

In an exclusive interview Dolly Parton told of her private venture to feed the "Starving Masses" in Ethiopia. Dolly related, "It was a 'physically' (as well as emotionally) **DRAINING** experience."



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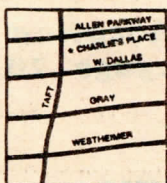
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compiled by Houston Gay Political Caucus Economic Response Committee.

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MBank Houston
Texas Commerce Bank Shares
Interfirst Bank Houston
Republic Bank Houston
Post Oak Bank
First City Bank
Charter Bank Westheimer
Commonwealth Financial Group
Med Center Bank
Interfirst Bank Fannin
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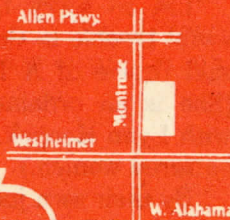
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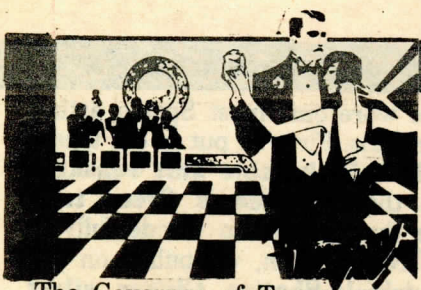


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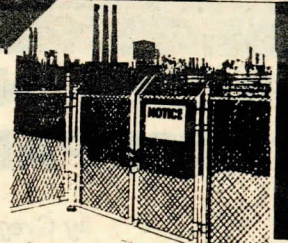
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T.D.C. OR T.D.C. COUNTRY CLUB WAREHOUSE?



The Governor of Texas now says that the Texas Department of Corrections is a "country club". Mr. Pro-cunier, the Director, insults us by saying that he won't join our club. Well, if it's a country club, how come we haven't been honored with the Governor's presence at any of our parties? After all, he doesn't need a written invitation to get in, but he would have to leave most of his bodyguards at home, as we have a little space problem at present.

The reality is, no matter what is done to improve conditions here, the doors will still stay locked, psychosis will remain the order of the day, and the barbed wire will decorate the fences 'round about. These things must be and will always be so for most institutions of a penal nature.

Every aspect of your life is in the hands of others; others who don't place much value on you. "So he wants to kill you? Can't you see I'm busy. Go make a shank (knife) and be a man, boy!" "Procedures must be followed, so if you want to see a dentist to do something about your abscessed tooth, put in a request, and we will try to get to you in a few days." Your life becomes something like riding in a car with a drunk driver. It's out of control. All you can do is hold on. Your only goal is to survive.

"Human warehouses" is a very fitting description of what prisons currently are. Rules and regulations are

applied in great number to 'keep the stock in order'. The stock consists of society's rejects: retards, poor, schizophrenics, manic-depressives, and a choice selection of nuts and assorted vegetables without labels.

To survive in this milling mass of men, you must make adjustments; forget everything of your upbringing in American culture. Things go back to their wild state. Trying to get along on such things as fair play or right and wrong will stack the odds against your survival. What works is what is 'right' here. A regular check of your feelings is a must. Slip up with the wrong reaction, and you could go home earlier than you thought.

Always present in your emotional rhythm is a low voltage, high amperage current working at your circuits, seeking a weak spot. The generators that keep the current pulsing are the insanities of daily life. The people who adapt best are the ones who can shed the conditioning of civilization and who can revert to primitive thinking and basic value systems.

To your captors and fellow captives alike, you must grit your teeth and bear it like a man. But how long can you go unchanged? Those who care that you are in prison are too ignorant to understand that your punishment is only what the law can give—time—nothing else. Their corn-fed idea of what a man is and what he

should be is Neanderthal. For years, the men who have operated the prisons and their families have developed a culture around tormenting prisoners assigned to the penal farms in remote areas of the state. Cause and effect logic is beyond them. They never see the results of their torments when the prisoner is eventually released into a city. Do released prisoners turn back into civilized beings after years of negative conditioning, the purpose of which was to deprive one of human qualities? After some time passes, you can cry without a tear and scream without a sound.

You look at clocks wherever you see one. Calendars and mirrors are other things you look at a lot. One tells you how many days, weeks, months, or years have passed; the other tells you what they have done to you. After a while family pictures (if anyone will send them) can become painful to look at, if you let them.

Support from family and friends can become like a life preserver to a drowning man in a stormy sea. It can literally hold you together. The realization that a letter gives you that you are a person worth caring for becomes addicting. If the vital support isn't there, or if it is withdrawn, men become uncaring beasts that are likely to charge the first thing that moves. Some men simply "do themselves in". You are on your own

and you must love yourself is the bottom line. Few can deal with this reality, and no one does it without scarring.

Your mind roams, constantly disregarding your will, to things you would rather it didn't: the painful past, the should haves, the should have nots, and the bleak future of an ex-con. Beneath the skin of your individuality, your mind crawls—probing, testing, and examining. You fight to maintain your perspective and balance. You see the psychopath that is within you, (and in all of us), and watch in horror as it emerges in others who have lost their grip. Once the 'Demon' is in control, he is 'King' for life.

Governor, you will not find country club material here, only men who need breathing room, a chance, and no torment. Please keep in mind, as you go about your duties, that in prison far worse crimes are committed against men than those they committed in the free world. One 'wrong' does not make a 'right'. Harm gives birth to more harm. We challenge you to break this vicious cycle.

by "The Pen" and "Peewee"

Wynne Unit, Huntsville, Texas

The Houston Forum has been in correspondence with The Pen and Peewee for the past month. We are pleased to print their articles for your consideration, for we feel that their stories should be heard and the public made aware of their condition.



COVENANT HOUSE— —AN ALTERNATIVE . . .

by Ed Martinez

Street children on the loose, with no one to help them, no place to turn, except crime, prostitution, or drugs. Is there really no alternative? One answer to children on the streets is Covenant House. Located at the corner of Lovett and Yoakum in a beautifully remodeled property that was purchased from Catholic Charities, Covenant House has been in Houston since June 27, 1983. Covenant House offers food, clothing and shelter to anyone under 21, and there is no waiting and no red tape. If a child wants a clean bed and something to eat and is under 21, Covenant House will take him or her in.

Founded by Reverend Bruce Ritter in New York City in 1969, Covenant House operates facilities in five cities: New York City, Toronto, Guatemala City, Houston, and, next month, in Fort Lauderdale. From a college in New York where he taught theology, Father Bruce, as the folks at Covenant House know him, went to the Lower East Side of Manhattan. Father Bruce believed strongly in helping street people, and soon found himself taking young people into his own apartment. This blossomed into the first Covenant House, and soon the groups qualified for federal

aid, and now receives 15% of its funding from the U.S. Government.

Most of the money to operate the various houses comes from private donors, individuals as well as corporations. Covenant House in Houston has a staff of 65 full time counselors, as well as an Executive Director, Ms. Lynne Halbert, who assumed the post in December of 1984 after serving as acting administrative director. Jodi Goodman, a graduate of UT in public relations and journalism, serves as public relations director.

The house is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and has an open admissions policy. This means that they will not turn anyone away who is under 21. The house is a 98 bed facility, and usually operates at capacity. The home offers food, clothing, shelter, medical and counseling services, and is kept neat and clean by the residents. There are recreational facilities, and the house also boasts a swimming pool for the young people there.

The main thing the house hopes for is rehabilitation, although there is a policy in force of permitting residents to go out and, if necessary, come back. As Ms. Goodman put it, "Who knows whether the first, second, or seventh time around will do the job. We try not to put limits on the

number of times a resident may return, but we will not let anyone abuse the services of Covenant House."

The main criteria that Covenant House uses is whether or not a resident is sincere about working on a program of recovery. To do this, five standards are employed. The first is immediacy, the basics: food, clothing, and shelter are provided immediately, and there is never a requirement for repayment from the residents. It is never expected. The second is sanctuary; regardless of what has happened on the street, it does not intrude into Covenant House.

Third comes value communication. Residents are made to understand that the values of the street do not apply at Covenant House. Lying, cheating, and stealing are definitely out. Fourth is structure. Discipline, a word that has become almost a curse word in modern society, is imposed. There is a 9:30 p.m. curfew for the residents, and no drugs, weapons, or aggressive behavior are permitted.

The final standard is choice. Any resident is totally voluntarily present. He can come or he can go, there is no coercion of any resident. Although this could lead to a revolving door type of clientele, the home has become adroit at screening out

those who are there to make trouble or who have demonstrated by their past behavior that they are not sincere in meeting the goals of Covenant House.

Covenant House has helped over 2,600 residents in the time it has been in Houston, on an average of 100 per night. The average length of stay per resident is 11 days. The house is licensed as a 30 day child care agency, although extensions can be granted when it can be demonstrated that it will contribute to the rehabilitation of a resident to stay longer. The residence attempts to encourage each resident to work and save his or her money so that they can afford to obtain an apartment or dwelling of their own when they leave Covenant House and not just be on the streets once again. Although each resident knows that he or she can return if necessary, the goal is rehabilitation and independence, and the entire aim of the people at the house is to give the residents the ability to survive on their own.

Ms. Goodman summed it up when she said, "If we respect the resident, they will respect themselves." Self-respect is the one thing these young people are devoid of when they come to Covenant House. It is the one priceless possession they take with them when they leave.

CHILDREN IN THE STREETS PART II

by Gregg Russell

John Merrideth is a private investigator. He is currently employed by a wealthy Houston businessman to find his 11 year old runaway daughter, Jammie. Jammie has run away from home on two previous occasions, only to be rounded up by her father's henchmen.

Unfortunately, most parents do not have the money to afford Merrideth's services. Jammie is only one of nearly 80,000 runaway children who try to escape from their families each year, in many cases because of physical, mental, and sexual abuse ... what John Merrideth refers to as 'communication problems in the home'. Its byproduct is the teenage prostitution problem which has reached epidemic proportions in the Westheimer business district. It is a problem which threatens the well-being of thousands of Houston families.

It is also a problem which is affecting the pocketbooks of many Westheimer business owners. It is a situation which has caused them to seriously examine the dilemma. In their examination of the problem, they have produced some worthwhile ideas and suggestions.

Janice Jones, Owner and Manager of 'Whitney Cafe', is one business owner who has spoken out on the problem. "The hustlers and prostitutes are bad for the neighborhood. They litter tremendously, they appear sleazy, and a lot of people are uncomfortable being around that," observes Jones. "People identify 'sleaziness' with 'dangerous'. A lot of people are afraid of being mugged or hurt. A lot of people do not want to come to the nice places in Montrose because of it."

Like a lot of business owners, Jones does not feel that attempts by the City to curb the problem are effective. She refers to the actions of the HPD with considerable skepticism. "Kids are going to do what they're going to do. What we have to do is work with what's here," Jones notes with some optimism. She views the recent attempts by the HPD to eliminate the problem as inconsistent and ineffective. "The cops have given out 250 citations one week, but the next week they aren't out. There's a total lack of

consistency. What isn't helping is having the cops and vice arrest and harass these kids, most of which are underage, only to let them go without any corrective program. They need to redirect their young energy."

Jones sees the need for the City to provide some form of 'integration' program for Houston's troubled youth. "You need something between the police department and a runaway center. There is no quick solution. These kids need to have extensive counseling, friendships, guidance, and lots of love."

A more law and order approach to the situation is taken by Renu Parnarom, Owner of Renu's restaurant on Westheimer. Renu is understandably disturbed. She reports that her restaurant business has dropped by 30% in the past three months because of the Westheimer prostitution and teenage problem. "The police should pick them all up. We recently had to start towing cars. There's just too many people hanging around late at night. It is terrible," Renu says in absolute frustration.

A more sympathetic approach to the problem is taken by Patty Andrews, Manager of 'Spud-U-Like', located in the heart of the Westheimer prostitution strip. "I have not found, personally, that there is a problem," she says. You can sense a deep concern in her tone. "They come in, they are usually polite, and they always order something. The majority of our

AMANDA (cont. from page 1)

something. But as we drove on to the Voice, we began to wonder if maybe there weren't other broader horizons out there for us. After all, we had already danced the light-fandango in Madrid with a Polish Matador. We already roller skated on the Great Wall of China with a political dissident from Thailand. We had even bathed in the Ganges with seven thousand raving Hindus during their yearly Brahma festival. Yet, we were beginning to feel in a bit of a rut. So we decided to make a change, Dear Fans. Leaving the Voice was like leaving South Dakota. It was painful, but necessary. We love the Voice, but new horizons have dazzled our eyes away, with the chance for new and broader experiences. And besides, our accountant approves of the move!

So, every week, you will be able to join us in HOUSTON FORUM, Dear Fans! We think it's exciting, and we already have some pretty game experiences lined up for you! Amanda will be doing some heavy traveling over the next few months, and of course, she will take along her trusty AT&T Personal Computer to log it all down just for you!

But then, not wanting to change the subject, but changing it anyway—wasn't Easter weekend just TOO FAB? Oh, Dear Fans, Amanda jumped at the chance to dart off into the country side with her two friends, Steve and Greg, and we went off on small country highways to look at the wild flowers.

We wore our finest Spring attire, Dear Fans. First we put on our trusty Nuclear Pink cable knit sunskirt, with the Pyrotechnic Green tulle cape that billows so wonderfully in the breeze! Then, we pulled on our Windshield-Shatter Glitter silver lycra sweat tights to fend off those nasty burrs and stickers that lurk out in those fields, just waiting to turn a girl's velvety legs into hamburger. Then, we put on our Mississippi Barge Flat-Bottom four inch wedgies for extra traction on rough turf, and our eight-inch Saturn Nebula brimmed hat with the dazzling Star of Pasadena on it to send signals to wandering satellites. Of course, the Spring sun can do much damage to our pearly skin, so Amanda was forced to put on her Photon-Storm proof white dove's corpse lip gloss and accompanying Dusky Dank Dungeon Gray eyeshadow under her eyes to shield them from glare. The whole thing was wrapped in our Speed-O-Light wrap-around sunglasses with infra-red refractors.

Steve and Greg wore shirts and shorts and tennis shoes.

So, off we went in a little Honda that had plenty of room, considering its tiny size. Amanda gave Sebastian the weekend off so he could fly back to England and visit Mummy. Besides, taking the Limo or the Bentley into a rice field would prove far too conspicuous!

It was a dazzling day, Dear Fans. The roads were quite untraveled, once off the freeways. The sky was

(cont. on page 6)

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PHOEBE AND THE FREEWAY!!!

Phoebe Quartermaine finished wedging the last stick of furniture on the back of the little Chevy Luv Truck and turned to her friends, J.P. and Lenny. "Well, that does it!" she said as she dusted off her hands. "Now, you guys tie that down tight while I go in and freshen up, we don't want it going anywhere." J.P. glanced at heaven and whispered to Lenny, "Let's finish off the Lone Star, it'll be at least 45 minutes before *She* gets back. She'll change clothes four times and re-apply her hypo-allergenic make-up at least twice."

True to form, Phoebe unlocked the bathroom door promptly 45 minutes later dressed in her latest creation. "I picked this up at Fiesta Mart last week and I've just been dying to wear it!" she exuded. "I found this little ensemble right next to the 'Evil Begone' aromatic incense. That's the wonderful fragrance I'm wearing!" J.P. checked the heavens again, "Do you think it's going to rain or what? I'd hate to have to pay to have the sizing put back in this taffetta." "Come on," said Lenny, "We've got over thirty miles of rush hour traffic to fight!"

"Lenny, do you have a can opener? The roof keeps knocking my hat off!" Phoebe snapped. "Listen, Easter was over last week, I don't know why you even brought that refuse from Edith Head's Design Studio!" sneered J.P. "Listen, you're the one who asked Phoebe for her incomparable packing skills," retorted Lenny. "Well, I don't call 'dumping all the kitchen drawers into separate pillow cases to dump them back into the kitchen drawers at our new place so we'll know where everything is' exactly what I had in mind." "OK, I've moved hundreds of times, so **LAY OFF**. I guess I'm just going to have to start reading the tiny print on those lease agreements. Who'd ever think they could kick you out just for throwing a 'Wesson Oil' party in the swimming pool?"

As they approached the entrance ramp, Phoebe clutched the dashboard, "Oh, I broke a *nail*, has anybody got a file?" moaned Phoebe as she began to dig in the glove compartment. "GET THAT HAT OUT OF MY WAY, I've got to fight my way into this **TRAFFIC!!!!**" yelled

J.P. "FLOOR IT! J.P." hollered Lenny, "all I can see driving the next car is blue hair and white gloves, it's got to be that ol' bat, Cassandra!"

"WWWWHHHEEEEE!" went Phoebe, "VVVRRRRROOMM" went the Chevy, "CRASH, CLUNK, BAM, CLANK, POW!!!" went the furniture as it slid off the back of the truckette.

J.P. slammed on the brakes, "BAM!" went Lenny into the windshield, "KA-CHUNK!" went the point of Phoebe's hat as the silver aluminum point on it imbedded into the roof of the cab. "OOOOHHHH!" went Phoebe as they pulled to a stop. "Where's my purse, I need a valium..."

Several confused minutes later, Phoebe, Lenny, and J.P. stood by the side of the expressway as cars, trucks and busses veered around the unsightly mess that once was the personal belongings of Lenny and J.P. "I TOLD you twerps to tie it down tight!" bellowed Phoebe. Lenny looked sheepish as he kicked a rock and said, "Weeelllll, we forgot about it while we were finishing off the beer." "You DOLTS!!! I spent hours balancing that stuff on top of the TONKA TOY, and you forgot! Let me tell you, Louise and Ophelia are going to barbe-que you over hot coals when I'm finished... how *embarrassing*... to think my children would do this to me..." "Oh my God, she's starting into her 'Mildred Pierce' routine, we've got to do something quick!" SMACK! SMACK! "Straighten up, Phoebe, we've got enough problems without Joan Crawford getting into it!" said J.P. as he shook Phoebe like a rag doll. "Oh, yes, yes, I forgot myself, can you ever forgive me?"

"Now, our main problem is to salvage what hasn't already been crunched to smithereens!" said Lenny as he rubbed his chin thoughtfully. "Well, if one of you darling boys will just go out there and fetch my overnight bag, I think I can help!" Phoebe brightly said. "WHAT! Not one of you machos has the courage to brave 610 at rush hour for one little overnight bag! Well, stand back, here I go! EEEEEEEKKKKK!" clickety, clickety, clickety, click! went Phoebe's stilettos as she dashed into the speeding traffic. "You know, she kinda sounds like Trigger when she

runs like that!" observed J.P. "Looks like him too!" added Lenny. "I HEARD THAT! EEEEEKKK!" yelled Phoebe now making her way back. "Here, I snagged this blanket on the way back. Now just hold it up and let me change clothes."

Three minutes later, unveiled before hundreds of cars speeding past the disaster site was Phoebe Quartermaine, in a *skin-tight, sequined, Grand-Canyon, V-necked, lycra floorlength "Diana Ross-I Hear a Symphony"* dress. "How do you like it?" quieried Phoebe, as she piroetted. The sun splashed on the sequins sending out a myriad of sparkles. CRASH! BANG! CRUNCH! went the traffic. "Effective, Huh?" smiled Phoebe. J.P. turned green, Lenny was retching over the guard rail. "I borrowed it from Amanda, she just moved over into my neighborhood. Now stand back and watch this!!!"

Lenny and J.P. beat a quick retreat as they exchanged worried glances. "I saw this in 'Personal Best' and I've just been dying to try it!" Phoebe assumed a semi-squatting position,

"One for the money, two for the show, three to get ready and four to GOOOO!" sang Phoebe as she launched into a full gallop, extending into a gigantic broad jump. "That's certainly one good jump for a broad," exclaimed J.P. "especially in spikes!"

BAM! Phoebe landed in the exact center of 610.

**"STOP! IN THAT LANE
RIGHT THERE . . .**

(flinging out her right arm)

Before you run me down . . .

STOP! IN THAT LANE

RIGHT THERE . . .

(flinging out the other arm)

Or at least please go around . . .

Don't run me o-o-o-ver-r-r-r . . .

Don't run me o-o-o-ver-r-r-r . . .

J.P. propped his feet up. "Well, thank God we got most of our stuff. You know, it really was our fault, we should have been more careful and Phoebe really did save the day . . . by the way, where is she?" "She's still out on 610 . . . by the time we left she had worked all the way through "Last Time I saw Him . . ."

CHAMBER'S OFFERING *(cont. from page 1)*

downtown business community, a factor which will ensure significant campaign funding, it is probable that Welch will have some difficulty in overcoming the age issue. Whitmire, on the other hand, is extremely popular among young urban professionals (YUPPIES) who constitute a considerable portion of Houston voters. Furthermore, Whitmire has already raised in excess of 400,000 from downtown business contributors.

It is also likely that Welch will be faced with the issue of his involvement in the Sharpstown State Bank scandal of 1971. The issue was first raised by former Mayor Fred Hofheinz who alleged that Welch had connections with former Houston financier *Frank Sharp* before the bank empire crumbled. The controversy, which became a major issue in Welch's last bid for Mayor, involved the questionable purchase of 10,000 shares of the National Bankers Life Insurance Company by Welch at the reported suggestion of *Financier Sharp* in January of 1970. In order to purchase the shares, Welch obtained a \$235,000 loan from a Dallas bank which was controlled by *Sharp*. Later the loan was transferred to the defunct bank. although the issue was raised over ten years ago, it is probable that the issue will resurface in view of such current scandals as the *Herman Estate affair*.

Although Whitmire has been at odds with members of some city unions, Welch has also had serious fallout with city unions, particularly police and fire unions. As late as 1975, while serving as *Chamber President*, Welch went on public record boasting that he had kept city unions powerless during his administration. According to Welch, "Never at any time did we have any problem in dealing with them because there was never any authority given to them other than just recognition . . . it was never used as collective bargaining in Houston." Such an anti-police union policy is likely to cause members of the Houston police

unions, which influence significant portions of conservative Houston voters, to have second thoughts about a strong anti-Whitmire position.

The most significant factor against Welch is his lack of rapport with black voters and black organizations. Between 1950 and 1962, during his entire tenure on city council, Welch failed to receive the endorsement of the Houston Counsel of Organizations, the most influential black political organization in Houston. Although Welch is courting *token black support*, it is likely he will fail to sway the solid black voter support which Whitmire has developed over the past several years.

It is this total lack of rapport with black political organizations and voters that will most likely be Welch's greatest albatross in a modern political environment. As an old time politician, this issue will surely be among the 'excess baggage' which led to his decline as mayor in the early seventies. If one carefully examines his lack of coalitional support, though he may have money backing him, his campaign is viewed as token opposition by many Whitmire supporters.

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HOROSCOPE

ARIES: This should be a good week for you to sort out some of those personal problems you have been putting off in your mind. Your fourth house of Relationships is being affected by Neptune's erratic behavior in the heavens this week.

TAURUS: Isolating yourself will do no good. If you are disappointed with some arrangement, make it change. Only you have the power to change your life situation, and this week is the prime time for you to go about doing it.

GEMINI: Love is in the air this week. But it may not be love like you've ever known it before because of the troubling star systems at this time, your sign shows some pretty strange situations happening. Don't be surprised if love comes from totally alien and unknown sources.

CANCER: Venus is kind to you this week. There is love in your forecast, and it should prove to be quite lasting for a change. Because Venus is in your third house of business, you should do well to pay more attention to new co-workers.

LEO: GRRRRR! The lion in you is bristling lately over some pretty heavy stuff! It's time to confront someone about something that has been bothering you for a long time. Keeping it inside will only serve to make you miserable, and that is not in your nature. Be frank, but be diplomatic.

VIRGO: No, life is not a bowl of cherries. But that is no reason to be gloomy all the time. This week, the stars are quite ambivalent toward you. You can make this week anything you want it to be—either good or bad. Why not be more positive?

LIBRA: Recent conflicts have taken their toll on you. You need to get yourself together and throw more attention into your professional life. This week, your house of work is being influenced by the shadow of Mars, whose war-like tendencies will prove disastrous should you let them. Work hard and silently.

SCORPIO: A recent letter or phone call is working upon your mind this week. Improve your communications with someone special. Don't continue to feel guilty because you never call or write back—just go ahead and do it, and you will be amazed at the results.

SAGITTARIUS: Throw away your tendency to ignore the unpleasant this week. Someone has problems and you need to listen. Not only will this someone prove more interesting than you thought, but this someone may be connected to your rather obvious connection with Venus this week! Listening and sensitivity may pay off with great romance.

CAPRICORN: Come down from that high horse. The world seems rather dull to you at this time, but you are naturally bored with the ordinary during this week, because Pluto, the planet of discontent, lingers over your friendships sign. Your friends may bore you now, but don't overdo your dissatisfaction because this mood will pass, and you want friends when it's all over!

AQUARIUS: Why are you so finicky, your life is constantly revolving around your material possessions, yet you feel there must be something more to life. Well, this week, your fourth house of Romance is being pulled upon by Venus, the planet of love. Get over yourself and start thinking about those who are paying attention to you. What good is wanting the moon if you can't even get your mind out of your mirror?

PISCES: There is a recurring pattern of unhappiness that follows you this year. For some reason, because of the alignments pertaining to Jupiter, that gloomy, stormy planet, your moods swing back and forth, making you happy one day and unhappy the next. This week will be especially trying. Seek company with friends and people who have positive attitudes. Avoid confrontation and unhappiness.

AMANDA (cont. from page 6) completely cloudless, and the wild flowers were like multi-colored carpeting along the ditches and in the medians and over the hills. Brilliant reds and oranges competed with lovely dark blues and yellows. It was what Texas is all about, Dear Fans. And as we played our **Shondels** and **Supremes** tapes we were carried off in a frenzy of nature's wonders and Texas delights!

Suddenly, somewhere just outside of New Ulm we decided to pull over and have a picnic. Greg had just slaughtered a pig and brought a light snack along in a convenient **oil barrel**, which we rolled into the middle of a lovely flower-speckled meadow. Then, we spread an aluminum **Lost-in-Space** picnic blanket and began to have a very civilized picnic in the meadow, with the bees buzzing and the breezes caressing our camera lenses.

At one point, Amanda heard nature calling, so we excused ourselves and darted gracefully across the meadow to an abandoned farm building near a clump of trees. Of course, Amanda couldn't help but feel that gnawing **Stephen King feeling** that comes over her when she gets out into the country and around abandoned old buildings. Even though it was a lovely sunny day, there is always the possibility for mind-shattering experiences, Dear Fans. And sure enough, just as we were hiking our tights back up, there appeared the most enormous **rabbit** we had ever seen!

Dear Fans, we're not talking about your normal cutesy little bunny rabbit. This was a **major rabbit**—about 5 feet tall wearing a bizarre bow tie and a straw boater with multi-colored ribbon around its rim! It likened to scare Amanda right out of her hygiene!

"Oh my god!" we gasped, backing up against the wall of the little building. "What is that?!!!"

"I'm the Easter Bunny," it said, coming toward us from the dense woods. The sunlight speckled over its huge white body, and Amanda felt herself go quite faint with fear.

"Well, that's all fine and dandy," we said, "But shouldn't you be bouncing about the world giving little kiddies their Easter eggs?"

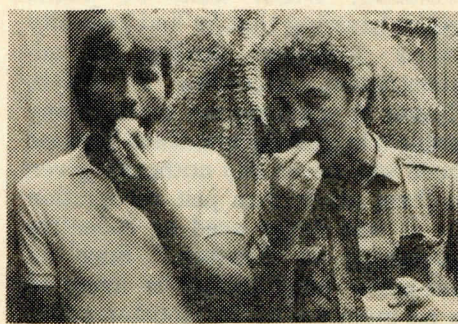
"Yes," it said, but then it turned and pointed to its big four-toed foot. There was a big rope with a knot tied around the ankle. "You see, it's really very embarrassing," it said. "I was just walking by the other night, when this crazy farmer saw me and threw a net over me and knocked me out. The next thing I knew, I was back here tied to this tree!"

"Well," we said, getting a little less afraid, "Why don't you just untie yourself and run away? Easter is tomorrow!"

He held up his huge hairy paws, and gave us the most curious look and said, "Look, lady. How am I supposed to untie a knot with paws like these? I can barely get them through a basketball hoop!"

We laughed in embarrassment at the obviousness of his dilemma. Then, we went over and untied the knot with our razor-sharp **Florence Evening Murk Pink** fingernails.

"Thank you so much!" the huge rabbit said, hugging Amanda warmly. We tried to be pleasant, but really, Dear Fans, have you ever **smelled** a rabbit? Then, we walked toward the clearing and he waved goodbye to us and darted off into the woods again.



STREETS (cont. from page 4)

customers are very open minded. It's just those who come in from outside the loop who don't seem to understand the problem."

Patty sees the problem in a much deeper light than many business owners. She observes, "The street people themselves are only symptomatic of the problem. The problem isn't the street people as much as it is the fact that the street itself has become neglected. It's sort of like a back alley between the rich neighborhood and the poor neighborhood."

Patty suggests that a possible solution to the problem would be to turn many of the abandoned houses along Westheimer into juvenile residencies with qualified counselors "who have been there and understand the problems of these people." She feels that the City should fund such a program and views it as a neighborhood development program which would also benefit property owners. "If the landlords could get anything for rent, it would be better than people breaking in and staying there for free." Patty is referring to the fact that many of the teenage runaways currently reside in abandoned buildings in the area. She notes that some of the property owners could qualify for a tax write-off under such a proposal. She also points out that the residents of the homes could be required to improve and beautify the abandoned buildings which would increase the value of lower Westheimer properties.

The issue of property development is also raised regarding the regulation of Montrose area motels, game rooms, and bars which clearly sanction and encourage the teenage prostitution problem. Some business owners, although protective of the rights of business enterprise, feel that teenage prostitution is being exploited by some Montrose area businesses. One business owner suggests, "The people who own the motels and game rooms definitely have a right to free enterprise but some requirements to prohibit solicitation and loitering should be implemented. If they aren't going to do that then pressure needs to be exerted on the landlord of the property."

The manager of one Montrose area motel which is a frequent hang-out for many of the hustlers and prostitutes admits that some of his business practices are questionable. "I don't get my rent money in advance," he maintains, "I get my rent all night long. I let them slide a little if they don't rip me off." While he claims to work in total cooperation with the HPD vice "in serious matters like felonies," he admits that the flexible payment of rent allows the prostitutes and hustlers to "pay as they go." It is practices such as these that other business owners feel need to be regulated to prevent the proliferation of prostitution.

Renny Valdes, Owner of 'Nothing Sacred', a small card and gift store located in the 1400 block of the Westheimer 'curve' sees the prostitution problem with some ambivalence. "Sometimes I don't want them on my corner but on the other hand, they do add local color," Valdes observes. He

sees the major problem as a question of vandalism and shoplifting. "They'll steal anything. Some shop owners are being robbed blind."

Like other business owners, Renny feels that the present approach in dealing with the Westheimer prostitution problem is inadequate, "I would like to see a City policy adopted to try to help them rather than just arrest them. The solutions of the HPD are just chipping away at the problem." Renny is quick to note, however, that recent innovations in the HPD are leading to the development of new ideas and approaches. "Unfortunately, as the situation stands right now, the City resources are not great enough to deal with the problem although they are putting forth more effort than they have in the past," he reports.

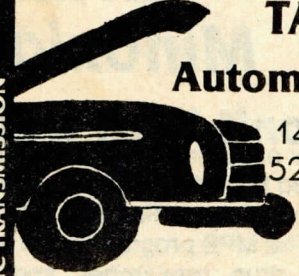
Another shop owner, Lynn Richards, proposes that greater pressure should be put on the parents of runaways to deal with their children. He views responsibility for the runaways clearly on the shoulders of parents who he claims have subjected their children to "alcohol problems, spiritual, mental, and physical abuse in the home." Richards has largely assessed the problem as one of upbringing. "A lot of parents teach religion ... they don't teach spirituality. They need to talk with their children about sex and self-esteem. Ask them to look at themselves and their whole upbringing. The whole world needs to go into psychotherapy. I don't know anyone who can't use it. It doesn't mean we're insane."

Richards also feels that the expense of housing child runaways should be shifted to the parents. "Make the parents pay for the sheltering of the runaways. The responsibility rests with them, not the government." Richards claims that by forcing the parents to assume responsibility for their children, much of the problem would be eliminated.

Whatever the solution may be, it is clear there is a problem. No longer can the issue simply be ignored by officials of our City and County. As some have noted, the problem is extensive. There are no quick fixes. In future weeks we shall explore some of the solutions which are being developed by both private and government resources to deal with our **Children in the Streets**.

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AIR CONDITIONING

'WOMAN ENOUGH'

On April 19, 1985, at 8:00 p.m. in Theatre I of Houston Community College's Fine Arts Center, 3517 Austin, Anita Lemon will perform her first solo concert entitled **Woman Enough**. Lemon, who is best known to Houston dance audiences for her outstanding performances with Chrysalis Repertory Dance Company, Houston Contemporary Dance Company, and the Roberta Stokes Dance Company, will showcase a collection of solo works. "Woman Enough" includes twelve dances through which Lemon attempts to share her personal viewpoints.

The concert is part of Houston Community College's Annual Spring Fine Arts Week. In preview of "Woman Enough" Ms. Lemon will present a lecture demonstration, open to the public, on Wednesday, April 17 from 12:30 p.m.—1:30 p.m. in Theatre I of Houston Community College. Seating for the April 19 concert is limited, and reservations are recommended by calling 630-1138.

GAYS AND THE CHURCH PART II

(cont. from page 1)

sides of the world. If people loved their children, or their neighbors as themselves, as they are told to do if they believe in the Bible, none of this would have happened."

Herrick explained that the verses so many pastors in the opposition to civil rights were fond of quoting in January, referred to a specific circumstance.

THEATER BEYOND THE LOOP DUKE

Life beyond the 610 loop used to be calm, cool, and collected; in a word: boring. That was before the Texas debut of playwright Arne Sultan's 'Duke' left both suburbanites and inner-loop venturers in shared hysteria. The common consensus: There is life beyond the loop.

The play, which stars actor **Pat Harrington**, revolves around three 'good old boy' friends who are confronted with the fact that their best friend, *Duke*, who has allegedly been away on an engineering job, suddenly emerges in a completely new form. Duke has actually been away undergoing a sex-change operation. The scenario follows as friends and family are confronted with the changes and as Duke is forced to examine his own previous attitudes about women.

Director Jack Payne has skillfully and tastefully dealt with the issues at

hand in a humorous, thought provoking, non-political presentation. Duke promises to be a favorite among those who favor causes, but is, strangely, also enjoyable to those of more suburban background. With the help of local talent like actress *Lin Carrol*, who wonderfully portrays the character of Duke, the story unfolds in a fast moving and humorous dialogue which leaves everyone delighted.

The play is presented in the open-set environment of the Red Windmill Theatre, which affords intimate dining pleasure in a buffet style service. Inner-city residents can feel relaxed in the friendly and moderately progressive atmosphere extended by the staff of the Windmill, which is located at 390 Town and Country Blvd. in West Houston. Reservations can be made by calling the Windmill: 827-0302.

"Leviticus is a survival manual for the small remnant that came back from Babylon." Everyone was assigned a place according to sex. Their main concern was to make babies so they could keep their people going. That's why there are prohibitions against same sex and birth control, as well as masturbation. Their crisis was underpopulation, not sex.

Homosexuals are mentioned in the Bible. "The man who carried the water pitcher for the last supper must have been a flaming queen,

because that was a job just for women. Also, David and Jonathan supposedly had a homosexual relationship, and even King James who had the Bible rewritten was allegedly gay.

Gays exist throughout Biblical history, as much a part of time as rain.

"There's a pamphlet I've seen entitled 'What Christ Said About Homosexuality,'" said Herrick "but you open it up, and it's a blank page."

—more next week—

ISSUE

(cont. from page 1)

This corporation has negatively affected all citizens—gay and non-gay—who supported the job referendum, if you have spent your monies at any of the following establishments in the Houston Center real estate complex, which was developed with a subsidiary of the Cadillac Fairview Corporation, Ltd.

This complex includes an athletic/dining club, the Four Seasons Hotel, four office towers, two parking garages, a two block retail/office complex, and The Park in The Houston Center. The space and some money were given by the Houston partners for the development of The Museum of Art of the American West at The Houston Center.

It is time for all citizens to take steps to help educate individuals and businesses to stop discrimination. As you discuss Human Rights with others, you will quickly find discrimination is not just a gay issue.

All citizens need to take action to make discrimination known in all its forms.

If you and your friends will document discrimination, a difference will be made.

The Houston Gay Political Caucus Documentation Committee is collecting information regarding any kind of discrimination. We need your assistance with documentation in the areas of violence against persons, divorces, job discrimination, housing discrimination, and harassment, in order to support future efforts to combat these abuses.

Documentation forms will be available in local drinking establishments and at the HGPC office by calling (713)521-1000.

Your reports will be kept in the strictest of confidence.

by Alice Belle Williams
HGPC Economic Response Committee

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**HOUSTON
TENNIS CLUB**

In 1980, **THE HOUSTON TENNIS CLUB**, formally "The M.S.A. Tennis League" was founded with Chuck Meredith serving as acting president. Later in that year, a ladder was devised to stimulate competition between club members.

In 1981, officers were officially elected for the first time with *Rick Fry* serving as club president. As president, he initiated "The First Annual Texas Cup Challenge" with the city of Dallas. In the first year of the first year of the Texas Cup Challenge, three matches consisting of seven singles and four doubles were held. The first match was held in Houston, and the *Montrose Tennis Club* was victorious. The second match was held in Dallas, where they too defended well at home. A coin was tossed to decide which city would host the third round match. Dallas won the toss and Houston, led by *Freddie Lopez*, marched to Dallas in quest of bringing the Texas Cup home to Houston. The Houston team was triumphant and the trophy was displayed in the club's home bar, *The Galleon*. Houston hosted and retained possession of the cup for the next three years. In 1984, the format was changed, allowing Dallas a chance to host the "The Texas Cup Challenge" at home. With possession of the Texas Cup and Houston's top players, *Randall Dickerson* led the Houston team to Dallas to defend the cup. The Houston team was easily defeated on Dallas' home courts. The **1985 Texas Cup Challenge** will be held in Houston, June 22, the weekend of *Gay Pride Week*. Led this year by *Ronnie Mauss* of the Houston Team. It's revered spot awaits the cup at the *Galleon*.

Another tournament was established in 1981 was the **Annual Hou-Tex Tournament**. It has grown to National proportion and is respected as one of the top tennis tourneys on the *Gay Tennis Tour*. Hou-Tex V will be held in November of this year and promises to be overflowing with entrants from all over the country.

In 1982 the 'Spring Open' tournament was established to encourage membership. It is comprised of A, B, C and D divisions; allowing everyone at every level of play the opportunity to participate. In 1984, the name was changed to the **Membership Drive Singles Tournament** to reflect the



The girl, **Monday**, in the article "Children in the Streets, part 1" is offering a rebuttal which will appear in the April 19th issue of the Houston Forum.

nature of the tournament.

In the fall of '82, having outgrown the five allotted courts at Memorial Park Tennis Center, the club set out to find a new place to play. They were received with *open arms* at McGregor Park Tennis Center, where there were no limits on courts or court time. The day of play was changed from Thursday nights to Sunday mornings, in an effort to coordinate with other sports.

In 1984, The Montrose Tennis Club changed it's name to **The Houston Tennis Club** to reflect the club's membership and area of service. Being a citizen of Houston is by no means a prerequisite for joining the club. They have members from Beaumont, Port Arthur, Corpus Christi, Dayton, Spring, Bellaire and Pasadena, just to new a few. The outreach of the club to the greater Houston area is tremendous.

The purpose of the Houston Tennis Club is to create a relaxed, yet competitive atmosphere. For those serious about their tennis game, the club offers the ladder competition and an assortment of tournaments. For those not so serious, the club offers friendly competition on all levels of play, as well as a great atmosphere to meet new friends and tennis associates. The club also offers "rain-out" brunches, parties and by-weekly newsletters to all club members to keep on top of the club functions. Now, in the middle of a massive membership drive, the Club is issuing posters and flyers to all gay establishments in hope of reaching new members as well as old.

The Houston Tennis Club wishes to extend a warm and hearty "thanks" to **Jay Allen** of the *Galleon* for his relentless support of the club in their times of need.

by *Ronnie Mauss*

**AIDS
INSURANCE**

KS/AIDS news release

In recent months a number of companies have begun offering health insurance for persons with AIDS. Since the cost of caring for individuals with this condition can be extremely high, \$50,000 to \$100,000 in some cases, the benefits of having some reputable form of insurance is obvious. However, great caution should be exercised when enrolling in any of these insurance schemes. Before paying for health insurance and in order to avoid a sense of false security, be sure to ask an independent insurance broker whom you can trust exactly what it is you are paying for and whether all eventualities are covered. In particular, try to find out what, if anything, is excluded, i.e. read the small print with care. There is nothing worse than subscribing to an insurance scheme which makes false and misleading claims only to find that you are not adequately covered.

We encourage you to have adequate medical coverage!

If you have specific questions about the legitimacy and financial stability of any insurance company, please call the State Board of Insurance at (512)475-2444.

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R. (Bob) Vernon Morgan, directs the **MSBAND** in an evening of light Classics (Little English Girl, Knightsbridge March, etc.), Hollywood (Lawrence of Arabia) and Broadway (El Capitan) music. Come, bring your family and friends for this performance of good music and art. **THE MONTROSE ART ALLIANCE** will have a lobby display of the outstanding winner of **ARTSPACES**, the recent walking art tour of Montrose. MAA will also present the top three winning artists to the audience.

This evening of the **ARTS** is available for only a \$5.00 donation—your next IRS deduction! Tickets are available from all **MSBAND** members, **SHOWTIX**, **WILDE & STEIN BOOKS**, **UNION JACK**, **EAGLE LEATHER** locations, **THE RECORD EXCHANGE** and **HALF PRICE BOOKS**. Call (713) 524-0409 for more information.

Dear Louise

Dear Louise,

R.R., one time friend and roommate to a friend of mine, has recently produced one of the most hideous kinds of "Bad Karmic Experiences" for several people. From several conversations with this individual, I have sifted the following information, though how valid it may be, I don't know. The information has been known to change as many as three times a day. R.R. comes from a home where child abuse was practiced. Every job he has had in the past year, has been a fiasco of one sort or another, the various stories he has related include: "I quit because of sexual harrasment," or "I was fired because I wouldn't give them sexual favors." Since I have known him, he has been unemployed (approximately four months.)

I was witness to one incident that should have clued me in immediately, but I considered it a personal problem between two friends and so kept silent. His friend, let's call him "Mr. Baggins", had been supporting R.R. for an extended period of time. Mr. B. had repeatedly emphasized that R.R. must find gainful employment as the man could not continue to pay all of the household bills without assistance. R.R. left the apartment (after finally going to fill out an employment application at a health food store and being scheduled for an interview) to go to the appointment. Not five minutes later, he returned to the apartment with a "new found friend" he felt he would rather entertain for the afternoon than spending his time becoming employed. Mr. B. felt a great deal of anxiety because of this and left the premises to avoid an unpleasant scene. R.R. apparently felt it more necessary to forego acquiring a job and to "wile away the day" (or at least 15 minutes of the day) rubbing two mucous membranes together.

However, to make this story march faster, endless repetitions of this kind of behavior eventually caused Mr. B. to make R.R. move out regardless if he had gainful ewmployment or not. Two weeks later, the Greek returned bearing a gift, a single red rose, saying he had learned a valuable lesson in life and various other 'tap dances' that swayed Mr. B. to let him return. One such dance gave the impression that R.R. had found a job. Another was that he had turned his life over to God. The first number must have been an exercise in the "Art of Mime", the other he must have left a message on the recorder. Mr. B. laid down new ground rules which R.R. vowed to adhere to.

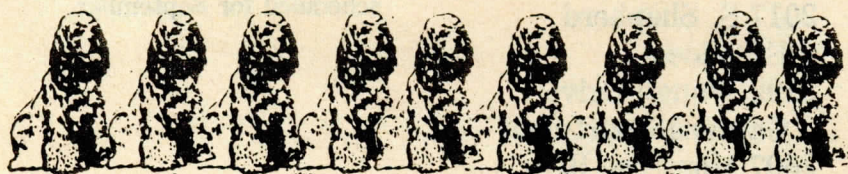
Within 10 days, several pieces of valuable crystal "vanished" from the apartment, (incidents of this nature had occurred previously). Finally, it was learned where the crystal had gone, what it was traded for, and it was eventually regained. I, at the time, giving R.R. the benefit of the doubt, had "slipped him money" on at least two occasions fearing that he had nothing to eat, ignoring the times money was taken without benefit of offer from Mr. B. or myself. Eventually all of this drivel led to a "Final Conflict" during which it was learned that R.R. had "dognapped" Mr. B.'s dog to hold as hostage. At this point, Mr. B. lost his cool and the insuing fight must have been unpleasant. It probably would have been even more unpleasant had I been there. Mr. B. and I would have had a fight over who was going to have a fight with R.R. Eventually we learned that he had taken the dog to a total stranger and performed another 'tap dance'. Mr. B.'s "abused his dog" and R.R., being the kind, good-hearted person that he is, had taken the dog to keep it from being injured further. This stranger and his wife were eventually located. They appeared to have been taking dance lessons from R.R. for they tapped their way through several different variations on the same theme. What it boils down to basically is that a rather emotionally and mentally immature person poisoned the environment around him to the point that his distorted views of the "real" world made him lash out at others because of his own inabilities to cope. Granted, he may have come from a broken home, or one in which he was abused, but if the recent occurance my friends and I have had to deal with is any indication, I probably could empathize with his parents!!

There are always two sides to each coin, and I'm sure there are as many abused parents as there are abused children, but it would sound silly turning your own child in for emotional, mental or physical rape and/or assault on his parents.

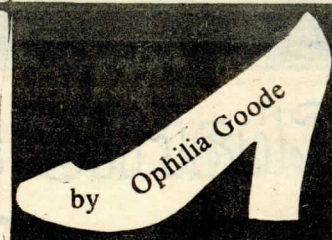
The group of friends involved in this fiasco (without the company of R.R.) sat down and discussed what had actually happened. Our conclusion left many things unresolved, but we were able to dredge out a lot of the hate (although some of it will remain with each of us forever.)

If the Karma created by this person for himself is any indicator, R.R. is going to spend a lot of time on the "wheel of rebirths" before he can advance beyond the petty, vicious and socio-pathic nature he nurtures in his soul. I'm sure there are a couple of people out there who don't believe what I have related. To both of you I say, not only is it true; if EVERYTHING that transpired was told, I would REALLY hate to be tap dancing in R.R.'s shoes.

A Concerned Friend



Cooking in Heels



Sweets for the sweet, ma cher. As everyone knows, the absolute CLIMAX of any meal is what happens AFTER the meal. I'm talking about the desert! I, for one, think it's just about time for a climax or two. Don't you agree?

The one I'm going to describe for you will make everything 'come together' beautifully. After all, that is what you want after all that effort, isn't it? Not only is it pretty to look at, but it's good inside . . . and easy. (Sounds like an old friend of mine . . . pretty good and easy!) It can be whipped up at the last minute with just a little foreplay, and can be kept around as long as you like 'til you're ready. Ready?

Let me confess now. I love to spend time in the kitchen. However . . . ! If some of the things I need can be purchased in a prepared state as good as I can make them, or, if it is an item no one short of Julia herself will know the difference, and then only on a good day, I buy it ready-made. Such is the case with this desert. Unless you are an experienced baker or have a sincere dedication to self-punishment, go out and buy an angel food cake. To say nothing of the eggs you'll undoubtedly save, think of the wear and tear on your nerves

Set the cake on a counter and cut it horizontally into three layers. Between the layers spread two of your favorite ice creams softened to spreading consistency. On the bottom layer I put pistachio with a few slivered almonds sprinkled around, and then I use strawberry for the top filling with a little fresh fruit cut up in it; but be as creative as you like. Don't let them get so soft that they run, however. You should have a large round ice cream sandwich with a hole in the middle. Before you are tempted to do something 'kinky', wrap it in foil and stick it in the freezer for a couple of hours at least, or until you're ready to deal with it.

Before you remove it from the freezer, turn on your 'Suzy Homemaker' oven to 500°. Next 'whip' or 'beat' whichever you prefer, six egg whites with 1/2 cup sugar and a pinch of cream of tartar 'til they are absolutely 'stiff'.

Take the cake from the freezer, remove the foil, ice it with the meringue and pop it into the hot oven. It should be ready to serve in one or two minutes. Watch it closely, and when it starts to brown on the swirls, it's done.

Serve it immediately and enjoy the raves for your "Baked Alaska Cake"!!

until next time . . . Don't burn your buns!

Dear Friend,

The Art of Living or Life is a learning experience should continue until the very last. The way one travels down the road of Life is largely dependent on one's attitude. Some lessons are easy, some are hard, some are relearned time and time again. A wise man once taught me that how one feels (the emotional state) is a decision usually made subconsciously. Learn to intellectually itemize your emotional responses and find out your motivations. This sounds easier than it really is, but with perserverance and a lot of determination, you can root out bad karma and let it go. This does not include externally produced "vibes", but they can also be dealt with by this method. But as with any variable such as this, it really depends on the strength of the outside influence.

It is easy to backslide, and you will have to repeatedly re-examine to keep little things from 'sneaking up' on you. After a while, you can maintain a kind of status quo, but spring cleaning around the attic of your Id really needs to take place at least once a month.

It is unfortunate that souls as young as the one you have described cannot be helped from their predicament but as with every young mind, the belief that one has all the answers is quite common. It is usually dispelled more quickly than this. Maybe he is a slow learner. Don't let this experience 'sour' you on letting others past your guard; sometimes you have to be reminded what the bad times are like to properly appreciate the good ones.

Love, Louise

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The Texas Gay Rodeo Association is pleased to announce that the 1985 Texas Gay Rodeo will be held November 1 through November 3 at the Houston Farm and Ranch Club in Bear Creek Park, twenty miles from the Montrose area of Houston. The site is most easily reached by taking I10 (the Katy Freeway) west to Addicks and then going two miles north on Highway 6 to Bear Creek Park.

The facility includes a large covered arena, ample parking, and a large pasture where horses may be boarded. A limited number of box seats are available for the three days for a price of \$280 for an eight-person box and \$150 for a four-person box. The box seats and VIP seating at shows, awards program, and dance events will be on a first-come basis. General admission prices will be announced later, as will entertainment, dance exhibitions, bar tours, shows, and details of the Mr., Ms., and Miss Texas Gay Rodeo contests.

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City Hall—222-3011

Fire—227-2323

Gay Political Caucus—521-1000

Police—222-3131

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* Albritton's Cafeteria—905 Waugh—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

* Eats—714 W. Alabama—524-EATS

* Eddington's—6121 Hillcroft—981-6121

* Frankies—Montrose at Westheimer—529-7896

* Fruit from Shady Tree—50 Waugh Dr.—869-4541

* Happy Buddah—516 Westheimer—527-8494

* JV's Bar & Grill—402 Lovett—527-9666

* Matt Garner BBQ—138 W. Gray—527-8488

* Gyro Gyros—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 at 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

* Taureas Mexican Cafe—529 Alabama—528-2394

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* Brazos River Bottom—2400 Brazos—528-9192: country

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* Chicken Coop—535 Westheimer—526-2240

* Club Laradon—12726 North Fwy—443-6566

* Copa—2631 Richmond—528-2259: disco-impersonators

* Dirty Sally's—220 Avondale—529-7525

* Drum—1732 Westheimer—521-2306: leather

* E/J's—1213 Richmond—527-9071

* Eddington's—6121 Hillcroft—981-6121

* Exile—1011 Bell—659-0453: country

* Galleon—2303 Richmond—522-7616

* Hole—109 Tuam—528-9128

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* Lazy J—312 Tuam—528-9343

* Lola's Depot—2337 Grant—528-8342

* Mary's—1022 Westheimer—528-8851

* Midnite Sun—534 Westheimer—526-7519: disco-impersonators

* Montrose Mining Co.—805 Pacific—529-7488

* Mother Lode Cafe & Saloon—804 Pacific—523-0511

* Numbers 2—300 Westheimer—526-6551: nu-wave

* Odds & Ends—3012 Milam—528-6988

* One on One—1016 West Gray—528-8503

* Outlaws—1419 Richmond—528-8903

* Peppermint Palace—400 Westheimer—523-0170: nude shows—BYOB

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* Ripcord—715 Fairview—521-2792: leather

* Risky Business—2700 Albany—528-3611: cabaret

* Shady Tree Lounge—Memorial Park Motel—50 Waugh Dr—861-1311: shows

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* The 611—611 Hyde Park—528-9079

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☆☆ 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—POB 66711 77266—527-9255

Astro Rainbow Alliance—520-9451 (voice)—520-0552 (TTY)

Avondale Assn—POB 66054 77266; meets 7:30pm 2nd Thurs, Women's Christian Ctr, 310 Pacific

Azulao Womyn's Magazine—6130 SW Fwy, #335—266-5237

Bayou B'lue Singers—Robert Moon, Dir—209 Stratford—868-3084

Bering Memorial United Methodist Church—1440 Harold—526-1017; svc 10:50am Sun.

Choices Unlimited—POB 70996, 77270—529-3211 (Gay Switchboard); meets 1pm 3rd Sun, Masterson YWCA, 3615 Willia; "Social Mixer" 7:30pm alternate Fridays; Sunday brunch 12:30pm 3rd Sun

Christian Church of the Good Shepherd—1707 Montrose; svc 1pm Sun, Bible study 7:30pm Thurs

Church of Christian Faith—217 Fairview—529-8005; svcs 10:45am Sun & 7:15pm Wed; Bible study 7:30pm Wed; choir practice Wed after Bible study

Citizens for Human Equality (CHE)—3317 Montrose #B32—659-6148

City Hall—901 Bagby

Clippers—342-6502

Colt 45's—meets at Brazos River Bottom, 2400 Brazos—528-9192

Committee for Public Health Awareness—POB 3045, 77253) 528-6333, 522-5084; "Sharing Groups for the Worried Well" meets Fri, 7-8pm, Montrose Counseling Ctr

Community Political Action Committee (C-PAC)—POB 2005, 77252—236-8666

Community Gospel Ctr—3207 Montrose—523-6018—668-0259, 692-9002; svcs 2:30pm Sun, 7:30pm Thurs

Cong Aytz Chayim—meets at CCF, 217 Fairview—688-8997; dvc & social 8pm 2nd & 4th Fri

Crisis Hotline—228-1505

Dharma Study Group—2700 Mason—524-5791

Dignity—523-7644; meets Americana Inn, 3301 SW Fwy, 7:30pm Sat

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Gay & Lesbian Archives of Texas; affiliate of I/H Inc.

Gay Far East International Club—2615 Waugh Dr #289—522-5322, 649-6225; meets 3pm 2nd & last Sun

Gay Hispanic Caucus—868-5252

Gay Nurses Alliance—880-9486

Gay Political Caucus (GPC)—POB 66664, 77266—521-1000; meets Holiday Inn, 4640 Main, 7:30pm 1st, 3rd & 5th Wed.

(Hou) Gay Pride Week Committee—POB 66821, 77266—Stan Ford 523-7644 or Cathy Lenahan 868-6256; meets 2:30pm Feb 24, Mar 31, Apr 28, May 26, Jun, Kindred Spirits, 4902 Richmond Ave; Houston Gay Pride Week Jun 13-23; national Gay Pride Day, "Alive with Pride in '85" Jun 28

Gay Switchboard—POB 66591-77266—6591—529-3211—information—TTY—AIDS Hotline

Greater Montrose Business Guild—522-9333

Hazelwitch Productions—2615 Waugh Dr.—No. 266—77006

Houston Community Clowns—862-8314

Houston Gay Students Assn.—747-3098

Houston Motorcycle Club—Mary's—528-8851

Houston Tennis Club—524-2151

I/H—Art Alliance—Gay Archives—694-1732

Integrity—Episcopalian—439-1209

KPFT radio—FM 90—526-4000

KS-AIDS Foundation—524-2437

Lambda Ctr. Gay AA—521-9772

Lutherans Concerned—453-1143

McAdory House—524-9816

* MCCR—1919 Decatur—861-9149

Montrose Art Alliance—694-1732

Montrose Church of Christ—777-9286

* Montrose Clinic—803 Hawthorne—528-5531

Montrose Counseling Ctr.—900 Lovett—529-0037

Montrose Softball League—524-3144

MSA Bowling—692-4597

MSA Pocket Billiard—973-1358

MSA Women's Softball—868-6256

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* Taft Automotive—1411 Taft—522-2190

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* Tommy's Barber Shop—2154 Portsmouth—528-8216

* Warwick at the Park Hair—Warwick Hotel—5701 S. Main—lower lobby—526-1991x1209.

* Academy—2030 Westheimer—526-0929

* All-Star Adult News—1407 Richmond—528-8405

* Appearances—1338-A Westheimer—521-9450

* Asylum Adult Bookstores—1201 Richmond

* Ball Park Adult Bookstore—1830 W. Alabama

* Bentley's 1136 N. Shepherd—862-4266

* Books—Kirby at Westheimer—529-4238

* Boulevard—Plaza Hotel—5020 Montrose—524-3161

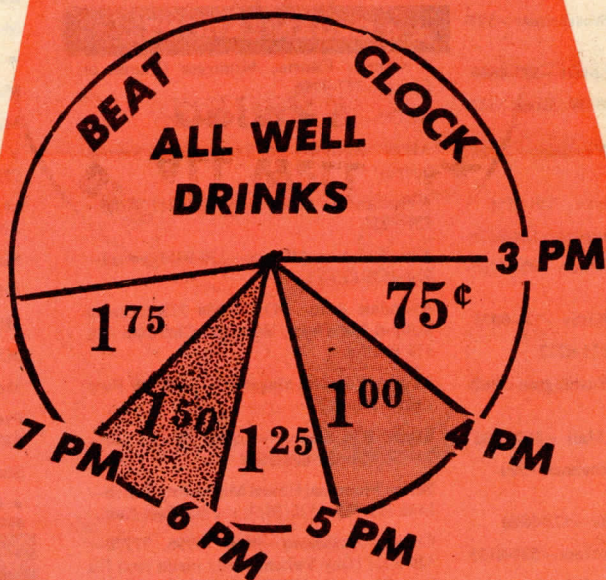
* B'zzarrio Plants—704 Fairview—522-7695

* Cactus Records—Alabama at Shepherd—526-9272

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1st Prize—\$75 2nd Prize—\$25 3rd Prize—\$15

FRI: '2 Cover (til Mid.) Madness Party 'til 4 AM
(after Mid.) '3 COVER Free Chamgagne

SAT: '2 COVER (til Mid.)—Free Chamgagne
'3 COVER (after Mid to 4 AM)

SUN: '1 COVER (3 PM) T-DANCE & Free Draft (til 8 PM)
'2 COVER (8 PM) Supper . . . Show starts at 11 PM

with Tommy Ross, Tina Renee & Socca Simone

1318 WESTHEIMER 521-9030 521-9041