

# Houston Forum

**"The Best Revenge Is A Great Lifestyle"**

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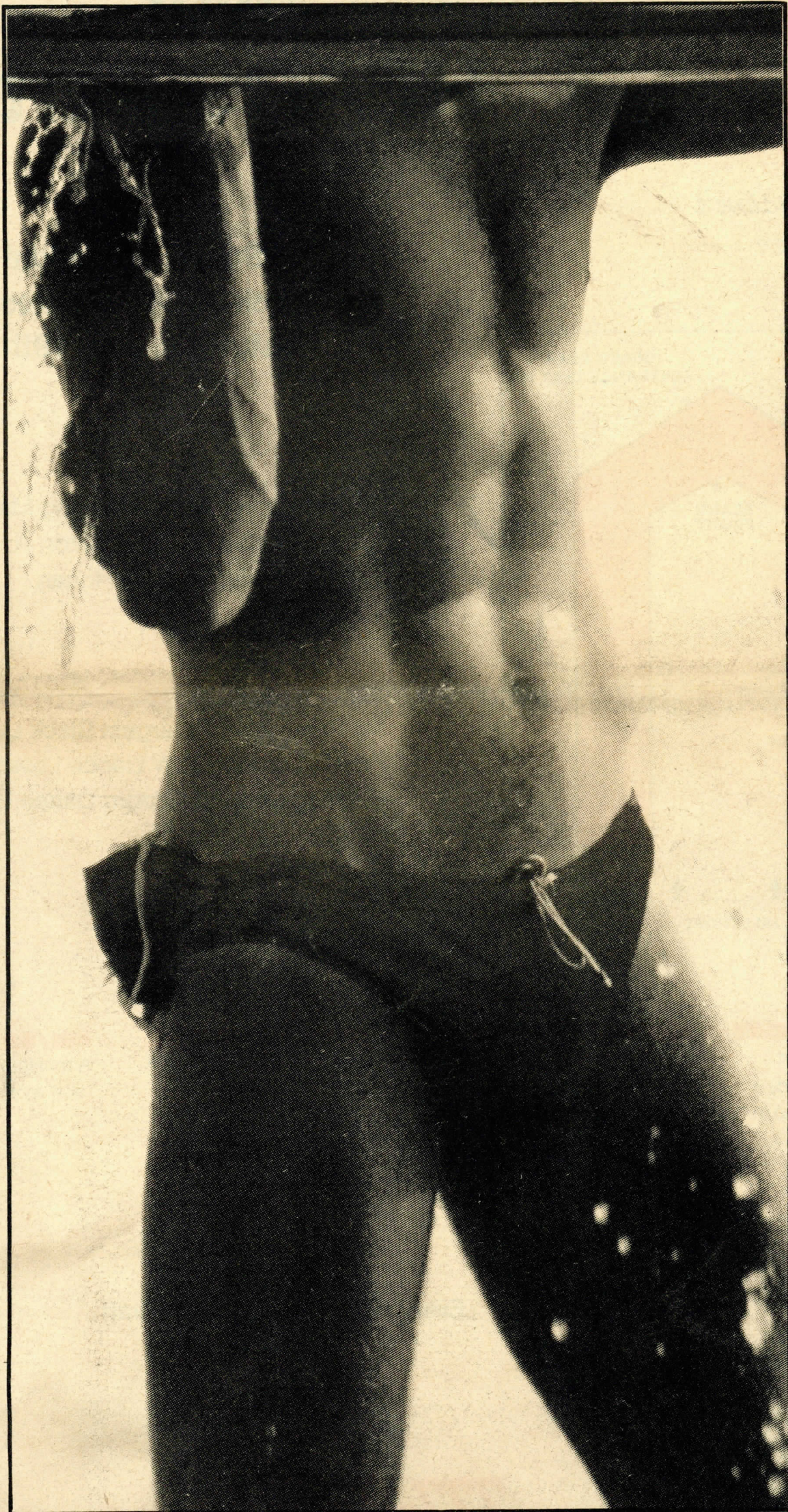
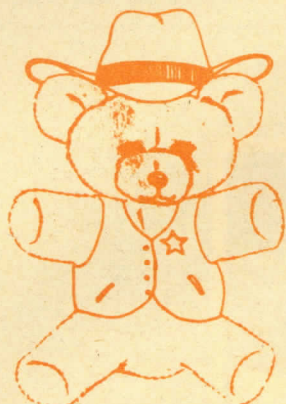


Photo by Peter James From Down Under From T.L.C. Annex



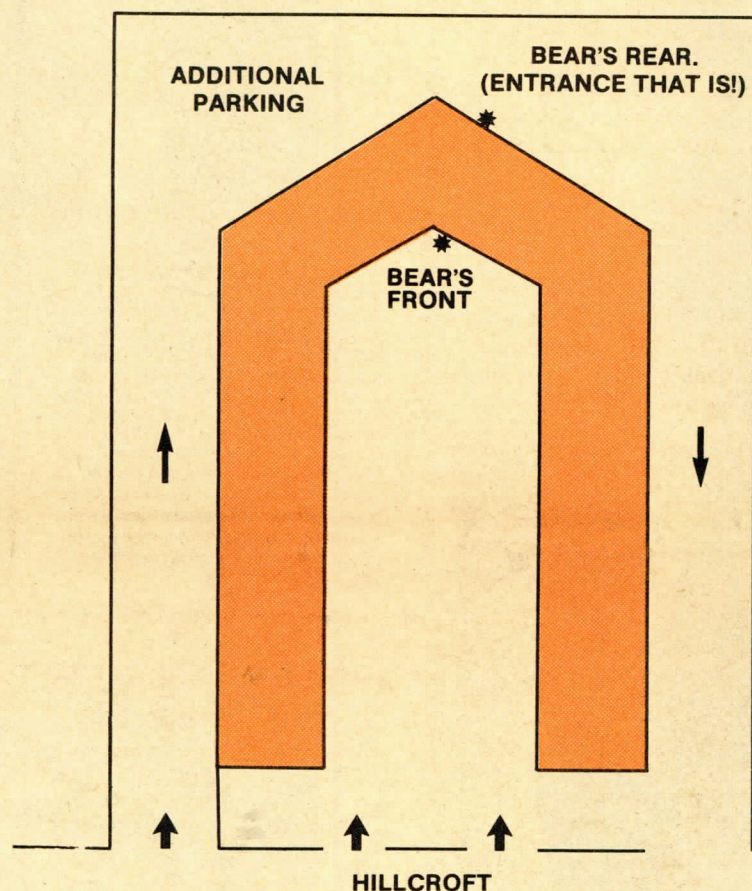
BEAR'S



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# Let's Get Real

By Randy Brown

The Forum welcomes opinion, commentary, dissent, and questions from Readers.

We invite you to use this column to voice your hopes about the future and to contribute to the kind of informal dialogue that provokes thought and community awareness.

Please note that we cannot return submissions and that the opinions expressed here and not necessarily those of the magazine.

Address letters to the Editor, Houston Forum, 1110 Bayland, Houston, Texas 77009.

In response to Dr. Wonnacott's question: Are there any differences between gays and lesbians?

I hope not. because we are just as criminal in this state and there's going to be a lot of work ahead of all of us to change that.

Sue Jackson, Houston

In response to Bar Wilson's comment on the Georgia Case -- calling for commitment, action and bravery:

Who are you kidding? With our political groups as fragmented, divergent and weak as they are, is it even safe to retreat to our closets?

Name withheld by Request

The white lady, snow, nose candy. Crack. Somehow the new name sounds like it's a harder drug. Sure, it's all cocaine, but remember when coke was thought to be a sort of harmless (if expensive) pick-me-up that wasn't addictive?

Remember when it was a status symbol, served at only the best of homes? Remember when usage was a casual thing?

Now all kinds of people are dying of this stuff, and it's getting really scary.

The first time that coke jumped into the scary column was when Richard Pryor almost barbecued himself while freebasing at his home. Freebasing? What the hell was freebasing?

Well, we found out, and all of a sudden, everyone was doing it. Okay, not everyone, but a lot more people turned to freebasing after Pryor turned himself into a torch than before. Why? Wasn't it clear that this stuff was dangerous? Yeah, it was clear, but it was also clear that freebasing provided quite a kick, quite a high.

We had to know that. It was in all the papers. The press leaped to explain that the reason that Pryor was doing this very dangerous thing was because it provided a

fantastic high. So, people who hadn't been doing it started to find out what all the excitement was about. Besides, Pryor was only one guy in thousands who did freebasing, and obviously he got careless. And, he recovered, didn't he?

Then somewhere along the way, someone figured out how to make it "safe" to smoke the stuff. Instead of having to deal with flammable chemicals, the user can now get coke as crack, which has been distilled into hard, smokable nuggets, ready for consumption.

People in Houston go to rockhouses to buy and consume. And the people are not your upper-class or white-collar professionals dealing with an elitist drug anymore. No, most of those people are still dealing with the powdery form of the stuff. Now, the use of cocaine has proliferated in the lower middle class - particularly among blacks.

Statistics show that as the potency of cocaine has increased, so have the deaths - thirteen so far this year in Harris County, and the number is rising. The old pick-me-up seems to be turning into a put-me-down - six feet down.

Of course, the deaths of Don Rogers and Len Bias gave most people a jolt. Here you have two guys in great shape, top athletes, young and, bam, they do coke and croak. Not a good commercial.

But will their deaths stop people from getting high? Get real. Everyone thinks it always happens to the other guy, right? And it keeps happening to the other guy

until you're the other guy. And by then, it's too late. And you know what? Then you're just the other guy to someone else.

Sure, there's a lot of difference between using a drug and letting the drug use you, but when that line - in this case, that white line - gets stepped over, how do you find your way back? And, by that time, do you want to get back?

A lot of people are spending every penny they have just to keep a buzz. Every last cent. Bills are shoved aside, food is shoved aside, considerations of health are shoved aside. And why? What are we all trying to forget? How about: nuclear war, random violence, prejudice, lousy Supreme court decisions, AIDS, bad economic conditions, personal problems, etc., etc., etc.

But, folks, forgetting your problems does not make them go away. Getting high while letting your life go down the crapper is not a solution to a crappy life.

People are dying out there. People are losing it. People are alienating their friends and lovers. And for what? To put more dollars in the pockets of big-time drug dealers?

I'm not suggesting that everyone stop having an occasional good time, but I am suggesting that we all should take a look at how we have that good time. Is the price we're paying for that good time higher than it should be?

Could the money spent be better spent by using some of it to help out other problems?

Crack. It sounds like something snapping, doesn't it? But, if you got into it, you can snap out of it, too. If you've got a problem with cocaine or know someone who has, try calling 1-800-262-2463.



Pamela Stanley, Harry Goldberg, Robin Stanley at RICH's

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"The best revenge is  
a great lifestyle."

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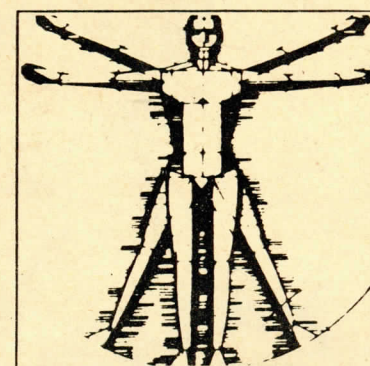
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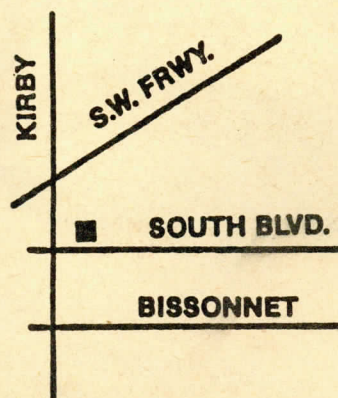
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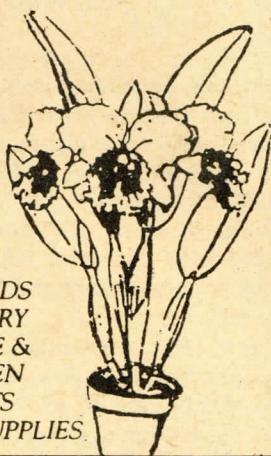
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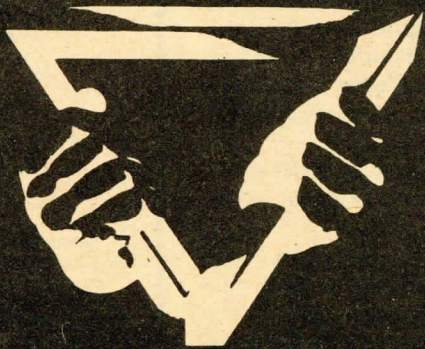
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## Network

By Jeff Bray

Sometimes you accidentally see something that really can change your life. It doesn't have to be something that takes lots of time. It can be something that just passes by, or that just appears in a fraction of a second, and that one glimpse can stay with you forever.

I was sitting at home, watching TV and looking through the mail. It was a normal afternoon, and I was glad to be home after a long day at the office, just like millions of other people around the city at the same time. As I looked at the TV, I continually pushed the channel button, rotating channels as I looked, displeased with almost everything on the screen. Then, in frustration, I stopped the switch on Channel 8, where they were showing a documentary on babies.

Now before we get into this, let's understand that I'm not what is commonly known as a baby lover. I've always said that babies are wonderful as long as they belong to someone else. In fact, recently, I had commented to a friend that babies were horrid little things, interested only in eating, sleeping and soiling their diapers. That brought laughter, of course, from the group I was with.

The documentary was about the emotional development of infants, and they showed a nice healthy little baby boy -- about six months old -- sitting in a little chair, laughing and gurgling with his mother. They were touching and giggling, and she was saying all sorts of baby things, goo-gooing and just doing what mothers so often do with their babies. The narrator called this "dancing," this is actually a highly developed form of communication where the baby gets his first intonations of the world around him, focusing on his

mother and developing coordination and trust. They played together like this for about five minutes, while the narrator talked about the physical and mental processes going on.

Then, they played a little experiment on the unsuspecting infant. They showed the baby and mother again, and the baby was smiling and gurgling and waving his little hands in the air, only this time, the mother just sat there with her arms crossed, staring blankly at the child. She did not smile or move or anything. She just looked blankly at him while he tried desperately to gain the usual loving reaction. For about four minutes, the baby wiggled and giggled and gurgled and waved, until suddenly, he looked away from her and the most incredible look of terrified confusion overcame him. He stared at his hands, almost as if saying, "God, something's wrong! What's happening? Why is she doing this to me?" Then, in a desperate attempt, he looked at her again and smiled and cooed, but she continued to just glare at him. This went on for another two or three minutes, until the infant suddenly did the most heart wrenching thing I've ever seen.

He simply collapsed. He stopped looking at her. His body started shaking spasmodically with hiccups, he began to drool heavily and suck on his hands, and worse yet, the look in his eyes simply disappeared. He began to look away, and all the life went out of his little eyes.

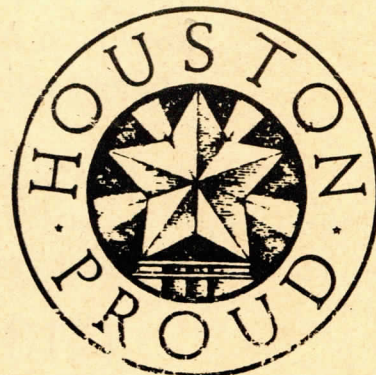
First off, I thought it was amusing. Then, I couldn't believe how pitiful it looked. I couldn't believe that mother would subject her child to that sort of abuse, even for an experiment. Then, they showed that poor little thing just sitting there, looking almost embarrassed by what had happened, uncertain as to whether he had done something wrong, unsure of what was happening because he wasn't getting the proper response. In fact, he wasn't getting any response at all.

Suddenly, I thought of myself and people I know and have known. All the looks we had looked for and hoped for. All the response we expected and never got. All the things that should have happened that didn't because we just sat there like that woman while someone else tried to get our attention and finally gave up, breaking off contact, looking horrified at their feet and hands, and finally turning away in despair while we continued to look on unmoved. And I know that I had also played the role of the baby, trying desperately to get the desired response without success. It was something that went to the beginnings of my childhood and had continued through to the present. And I realized just how important those first months of life were, and how an unhappy mother can permanently affect a small child. And I knew that millions of children have grown and are growing up emotionally handicapped by that blank stare that continues all their lives.

And I cried.

## The Quest Sunday, 6 p.m. BRIAR PATCH

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July 27 - Cousins  
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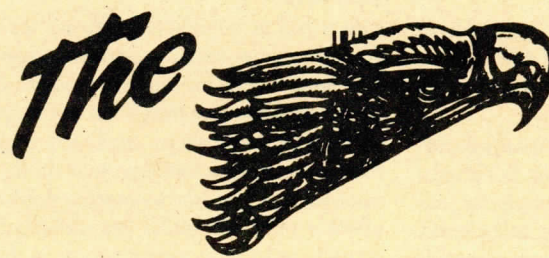
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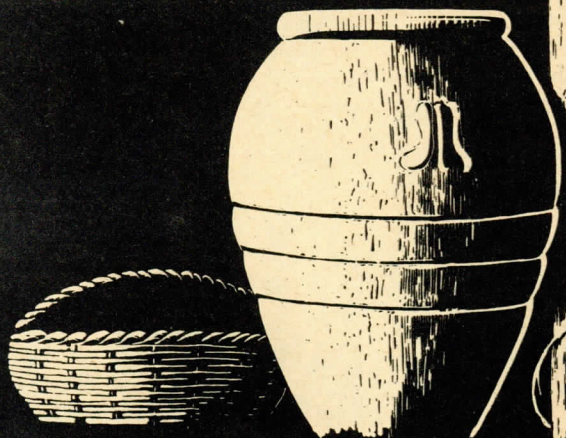
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Dear Mona:

I'm in love with a man who doesn't love me. It's so classic. What do I do?

Signed: Pining in the Woods

Dear Pine:

C'est la amour terrible!! I sympathize with you completely, and you are right. It's a completely classic thing to have happen to you. Unfortunately, the classics are still classic, and still pertain to everyone in modern life -that's why they're called classic. Advice in this category is also classic, and there are many forms. I could tell you to forget him, since you are wasting time, and there are others you are missing, and you can't see the forest for the trees. I could say that there are plenty of other fish in the sea or pebbles on the beach, or that a storm doesn't rage forever and darkness only lasts 'till dawn. But, of course, that advice is all too classic, even though it pertains perfectly to the situation. All Mona can say, my dear, is that you will suffer, and when you get real sick and tired of feeling miserable and wasting time on this man who obviously doesn't appreciate you, you will wake up one day and find that he no longer takes up that much time in your heart. Meanwhile, express your feelings to friends and family, if possible, and stay away from this man if you can. Unrequited love is classic poison, like hemlock.

Dear Mona:

What do you do when you just find out that your lover has AIDS? I'm not talking about me. It's a friend of mine, and he's really upset. He doesn't sleep good, and he's having a hard time at work because of it. he thinks he's going to get it, too. What do you think?

Signed: B. in Clear Lake

Dear Clear:

Hmmmm. Your friend wouldn't be related, would he? Anyway, for you or your friend, the best advice is to seek therapy and talk it out. Of course, we always refer our friends to the Montrose Counselling Center, but you can also get in touch with the Gay Switchboard. This is a very pressing problem that is affecting thousands of couples, and tragically, the number is growing. Your friend must be patient and act in a same and rational manner for his lover's sake. Meanwhile, he needs to talk to someone about his feelings and share his fears so that he can feel better about himself while retaining hope and optimism for someone who really needs him.

Dear Mona:

With the horrible results from the Supreme Court, I'm thinking of moving from Texas. Lots of my friends are thinking the same thing. Do you think it's wise for us to react this way, or do you think it's the thing to do?

Signed: Movin' On

Dear ON:

Sure! Go ahead! Leave your friends -your loved ones. Leave your city and state. Abandon it to the savages. Let it slip behind into the dark ages. I hope you enjoy yourself wherever you go as long as you can, because once everyone stops fighting here, you will be faced with a much more serious problem in the future no matter where you go. So there!

Dear Mona:

I am what is commonly known as a Drag Queen. People say that I'm really very good, and I think I am. But lately, I've been wondering why I'm not getting the audience response like I used to. I invest tons of money in my costumes, and looking in the mirror, I wonder if I haven't done enough to make myself look pretty. Does that make sense to you? I recently had a nose job, and I'm worried that it's affecting my career and I've made a mistake.

Signed: Who Nose

Dear Nose:

Life is full of incredible problems, isn't it? I don't mean to sound insensitive, dear, but your nose is not the biggest problem in the world, and I'm sure that it has nothing to do with your decrease in audience response. Maybe you need to look into your act for some inspiration. Or maybe you need to think about whether the clubs you're entertaining in are actually attracting enough people in the first place. If you haven't heard, there's been quite a drop in bar attendance lately due to the Big A. Don't blame yourself. Look beyond your SELF and you'll find much more happiness, and maybe you'll even become more useful!

Dear Mona:

Your comments last week about moustaches was pretty severe. That guy was really trying to ask for help and you were putting him down. besides, moustaches aren't the best thing. I used to have one, and when I cut it off, I thought I looked much better and so did everyone else. Don't criticize people just because they like something you don't or don't like something you do.

Signed: Your Conscience

Dear Your:

By the wording of your sentence, did you mean that people thought you looked better without a moustache, or that you thought other people looked better without your moustache?

Dear Mona:

My mom recently found out I'm gay, and she's really upset about it. I'm a girl, and I moved to Houston two years ago and have been pretty happy here. Now I'm laid off like everyone else, and my mom blames my being gay for my getting laid off, even though about 4,000 others got laid off, too. How can I convince her that it's not my fault?

Signed: Harassed by Mom

Dear Harassed:

Your mother isn't making things much easier for you, is she? I remember when I was laid off years ago (it's true!), I felt so guilty and so worthless, and my parents told me to move home and I told them I'd rather die, and it turned into a big mess! Anyway, I eventually found another job, and it all blew over, and things worked out. Mothers worry about their babies, my dear, and she's feeling that she has failed you because you are gay. You feel that you have failed her because you are unemployed. so, why don't you just agree to help each other by finding yourself another job and telling your mom to stop calling you if she can't give you any encouragement. That's the best way she can help you without losing you.

Dear Mona:

I have a very dear friend who drinks too much. Every time we get together, he makes a fool of himself, and I get embarrassed and feel terrible. Last weekend, he said something to some guy, and got a black eye, and I had to break it up. In the process, I lost a front tooth and it's going to cost a fortune to fix -not to mention what it's done to my own looks. What am I going to do with him? He won't stop because he doesn't think he's got a problem, and I'm going crazy. Help!!!

Signed: Loyal to the End

Dear Loyal:

Don't be loyal to someone who doesn't care. An alcoholic doesn't know he's sick because he doesn't think it's a sickness. There are many alcoholic groups in Houston where he can get help, but if he refuses, the only thing you can do is leave him be. Give him up and let him fall alone, because someone like him can so easily cause grief to those around him -your tooth is a graphic example of that! Remember, if you're on a sinking ocean liner, you don't want to couple up with an octopus.

Dear Mona:

Recently, I met a man at a dinner party who was simply unbelievable. He was everything I've ever thought I wanted in someone, and he seemed very attracted to me. The trouble was that he was already "married," and his lover is a friend of one of my best friends. I know I shouldn't even think about it, but would you go ahead and ask this man out even though it could get you into lots of trouble?

Signed: Snake in the Garden

Dear Snake:

No, I wouldn't, my dear. It's far too dangerous. But that doesn't necessarily mean that I SHOULDN'T! Mona has always believed that an ending in one place could mean a great beginning somewhere else. But you have to remember. If you are successful, you may incur the hatred of some of the other people around you. It's still deeply frowned upon to "steal" someone's lover away, even if the feeling is mutual and every soap opera and television series seems to encourage it. Also, you must remember that if this man dumps his lover for you, he may just as easily dump you for someone else.

Dear Mona:

Do you ever get any hate mail! If so, why don't we ever see any?

Signed: Curios

Dear Curios:

Any handicap that can be hidden from public view should probably be hidden. Hate mail is the handicap of my business. I hide it from public view. Unless, of course, it's unusually witty or psychopathic. Then, the public should view it.



## DRAG QUEEN OF THE MONTH

THE FORUM SALUTES TAMBI PHELPS

Editors Note: Congradulations Tamby

Phelps we asked her, in his own words,

to tell us all abit about herself, where she's been & where she's going. Here she is!

The first and foremost point I would like to get across is that I prefeere the term illusionist or impersonator over Drag Queen.

If anyone had told me six years ago that I would be wearing a dress and heels I would have called them a liar to their face! But one Halloween I did it on a dare and cracked quite a few faces. After that it became fun to dress up with the sisters and go out on a terror.

The first time I ever stepped onto a stage was the first year I worked at the Galleon and we did a bartender's benefit show for the referendum. To say the least I was nervous and got quite full! All my friends showed up for my debut and the minute I hit the stage they started hooting and hollering and I froze!

Since then, I've become more relaxed on stage and even have coordinated and MC'd shows for the Galleon.

So, if putting on a dress and heels will help raise money for a good cause, I'll be the first one to throw mine on and do my part. As long as people want to be entertained I'll do my best to entertain them.

But remember: I'm not a drag queen mind you, I'm an Illusionist.



*Tambi Phelps*



## "They Said it Couldn't Happen"

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## Amanda

By Amanda B. Recondwith  
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Amanda has just about had it with the Supreme Court, Dear Fans. It's really asking too much when they expect sane Americans to live up to all the constitutional expectations when all we really get are slaps in the face! Right now, Amanda's face is slapped silly! We don't even need rouge!

We are very aware of what is going on in Washington, Dear Fans. Most people out here in the hinterlands don't know the wheelings and dealings of the Capitol, but then, they really shouldn't know because it's all just too depressing. We remember when Nancy and Ronnie moved into that big white house. We had known Nancy through some other friends in Santa Barbara years ago. We had been sitting on the sun deck of the Biltmore, watching several sea lions attack a blonde beach baby with a huge multi-colored ball. There were all sorts of people standing nearby, screaming for a lifeguard or running to call the police. But Nancy just sat there, like a Roman empress, staring with the most amazingly austere smile. Then, as the sea lions finally dumped the girl under the waves, Nancy actually lifted her hand into the air and pointed her thumb down! It was then that we wondered who the weird cruel woman in red was, and my dear friend Joni Mitchell told me it was the ex-governor's wife!

Well, imagine my surprise to see that same woman waving from the balcony of the White House several years later! We couldn't believe that the American public would fall for the Galanos gowns and the coiffed hair. It was just too much! But then, Ronnie can be so convincing, and she just followed on her husband's tail.

We finally met Nancy at a Washington ball, where our dear friend George McGovern introduced us. Nancy always liked George, even though (she told me this later) she always thought he was a pinko commie faggot. But he did know just about everybody who was anybody in Washington, and Nancy had to know the same people! We remember that night so well. We were wearing our finest white tulle pseudo wedding gown with satin honeymoon suckled lace bodice and thrill-frill sleeves with torn edges for a little violent impact. Nancy loved our dress and wanted to know where we got it. Of course, we couldn't tell her we had just picked it up at a flea market in Milan from a little old street lady who chewed tobacco and kept her cat on a leash.

Anyway, after that evening, Nancy began to confide in us, telling us about Ronnie's fetish for cold hard long things like submarines and missiles. Then, she told us about how Ronnie saw Star Wars 73 times until he became convinced that it was all real -kind of like a reverse of all those people who think the moon walk was unreal. Then, she stopped confiding in us because Joan Rivers and Amanda had made some unkind remarks about her spending habits. Don't ever piss off the First Lady, Dear Fans. You find yourself checking for mail that ticks!

No, Dear Nancy has finally reached the end of her rope. She has confided in Amanda that the reason the Supreme court has ruled against homosexuals is because her very own son is one! Of course, we didn't tell her that everyone already knows this, but she went on about the "fixed" marriage, and how he used to try on her square dancing dresses when he was a little boy, and how he hated horses and hated Ronnie because he always smelled like a horse. It was dreadful! And



lately, Ronnie has been having such a tiff with his son over his continued lifestyle under the ruse of marriage, that he has appointed only the most conservative, anti-gay, homophobic members of a pseudo fascist organization to the Supreme Court. These people aren't interested in anything but conservatism for the sake of conservatism. And they don't like gay people at all! They're threatened by them!

Well, Amanda has very little time for judges anyway. Anyone who could possibly make a living judging other people simply has to have a mental problem or two. But the fault of the supreme court lies mostly with our poor dear deranged President, who thinks that the 19th century family is the family of the future. And dear Nancy is simply devastated that her son can no longer legally be himself! And now, poor Nancy can't have sex the way she really likes it, without the threat of some policeman breaking down the door and carrying her and Ronnie off! You see, even First Ladies eventually get it in the end!

# Briar Patch

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Sunday, July 13th, 6 PM

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Charlie, Peter, Diann

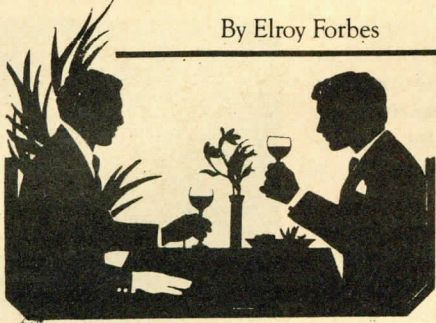
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# Can We Talk?

By Elroy Forbes



## GOOD NEWS OR BANNED IN BOSTON

After a Pacific St. rendezvous, we aimed ourselves toward the Intercontinental Airport for a dawn flight to Boston. I have never flown at 3 a.m. before: to see the people packed terminal with bodies on the floor, a shock! But we boarded our Eastern Airline Flight to Columbus, OH and on to Boston MA. We were **Mr. Tony** (a player in disguise), cheerleaders **Francine DuBoise** (a former New Orleans madame — **Frank**), **Dilbertha Warmwalk** (former Zuni Indian dance — **Gilbert**) and me — correspondent for the Free Press. We were banded together to help The 611 Softballs at the MinuteMan Series in Boston.

The Eastern Airline flight was like zombies in a tube. My first impression of Boston was that it looked like an airport. But Mr. T shouted out from the Men's Room: It's Okay'. He found a slogan on the stall wall that read: Beat Me! Beat Me! Then Say You Love Me! Mr. T's reply: We're in the right place. **Mike** of Boston and his close ally, **John** met us and drove us out tunnels and bridges, down Soldier's Field, past Boston Gardens where our Rockets were shot down, past Radcliffe (pronounced Adclaf), Harvard (pronounced Havid) aiming the kaa (car) around the arba (harbor — Bostonians speak funny, i.e. peecan rolls & pie, but we thought they meant well.) to Cleveland Circle where the playing fields were located with Boston College in the distance.

Everything was so green! Clover in full bloom! Birds on wing — it was more like Spring! It was a wonderful 4th of July. We saw people filling the area before the great band shell on Esplanade, floats gathering, holiday events. The weather was in the high 70's, blue skies with fluffy white clouds. The 611 won their Thursday game (most of the team came for the Thursday events) so everything looked rosy. I was still recovering from the flight. Trying to

Question of the Week: How do I get back to boston?  
Answer for last Week: About Thanksgiving.

keep Gilbert in his seat, Tony off the headsets and Frank out of the flight bar. We met up with the other Houston followers: **Wayne, Kim, David, Bob, Kitch**, and 611 manager **Terry** (who was confused over what the Minuteman Series really meant), 2 cheerleaders and a real reporter/photographer.

Suddenly the team arrived: **Loretta, Phyllis, Lorane, Mavis, Ms Third World, Lulu, Agness, Beaver, Kim, Buck Wheat, Grace, Ms. Telusia, Olga, Antonetta, Poca Beads and Carlotta**. Immediately they warmed up — the discipline showed on their skins — and went into action against The SALOON SPURS of Minneapolis. **Mark, Tony, Mr. Tony, Jeff, Craig, Carl** (pronounced KAAL), **Bucky, Phil, Bill, Big John, Guy** and **Dennis**. The girls went to work:

Pull their titties!

Pull their nuts!

Go 611 —

Kick their butts

Everything was very proper. A close call on Tony was ruled safe bringing the score 12 to 0, bottom of 3rd inning, with only 1 out. Then John hit the first home run, 15 to 0, as 3 runs came home. Then 611 was back in the field.

Good, Better, Best!

We'll put you to the test!

Three outs and 611 was back at bat, bottom of the 4th. A rapid return from The Saloon and 3 outs put 611 back in the field. The rules called for The Saloon to have 6 outs and an opportunity to catch up the score because the score is 15 to 0 at the 5th inning (some Yankee ruling). This could end the game, instead of 7 innings. If the Saloon catches up before 9 outs, 611 gets to bat and have 6 outs? Well, it's Boston! Three fly catches and a return for 4 outs. Another out with a retrieve and then a home run. Score was 15 to 1.

Another run, 15 to 2 and one on 2nd. Tony as catcher caught a retrieve and another out for a total of 6. The 611 gains 2 and 3 outs for 17 to 2 at the top of the 7th inning. The Saloon's 2nd hit resulted in a double out. Then a fly catch. Results: 611 - 17, Saloon - 5. That game was fun, because we won. But the next game was a real nail bitter. Frank lost two under coats of Miami Red Nail Enamel as we were beat by Boston's Ramrod Team 10 to 8 — probably one of the very best games of the Series.

For the next game, we were to move out to the woods near a lake called Daisy Field. For a brief time we were forced to court. There was this beauty named #11, **Terry** of D.C. Rouges, **Rob** of Los Angeles, several cuties from Boston, and even several real girls — who made many of the northern teams, **Brenda Bajorek** of L.A.

At the 3rd game, Fritz of Boston gave 611 an opportunity to rally. With powerhouse #44, Big John at bat, a power swing brought all the bases home to a rousing 7 to 3 by the top of 7th inning. The cheerleaders were asked to be QUIET. Full concentration was needed to put 611 back into the mainstream. I confessed, I took a slight nap as the good tymes rolled. I stepped off into a small wooded area near the diamond to relieve myself and ran into a nest of wild bunnies. Two fled, but one watched me, I swear he carried his cotton tail on the right side and winked at me as I finished up. Back to the game, 611 was into the running. Ms Third World sipped her Bud, belched and returned to duties. Moving the team down the field to another mean confrontation.

Next 611 took on the D.C. ROUGES and instantly D.C. made 5 points.

N-E-L-L-Y

You ain't got no alibi

You're Nelly! You're Nelly!

Your mom's a dyke;

Your dad's a queen;

That's the reason you're on our Team

You're Nelly! You're Nelly!

Ms New World brought 611 up to 2 against 7.

From across the field came:

We play Softball

We play Fair!

You can't play with your legs in the air!

The yells became bolder and bolder, but the score remained.

Sticks and Stones,

May break my bones . . .

One out, then:

Pitcher's Nelly!

Catcher's Worse!

Who's that dyke playing first!

If looks could kill . . . Then mighty 44, Loretta, brought one in; 8-3. The dyke caught a line fly and 611 was out and she meant every glance she shot all of us. Now at bottom of the 5th, 9-3 an the Rogues were out. Finally Mark hit to bring in one 9-4. Bases are loaded when #44 steps up. The tension mounted. John's fly caught but the score is 9 to 5.

The 611 made 3 outs on the next 3 plays and took over at the bats. Ms Third World was up and when her alka seltzer

kicked in, she was mean. But beautiful #11 of the Rogues caught her foul ball. Hit and 2 on bases with Bucky up. But Dennis was up next and out on first. Game Over. The Rogues clobbering 611, 9 to 5. This sad game was end of the tournament for us and the beginning of PARTY.

The Cheerleaders and I were asked to the banquet, but the Sportsmanship and 5th place trophies went to The 611. Private Awards were:

Mr Third World — longest Eyelashes in the field

Ms Mark — best legs in striped shorts

Ms Jeff — best hair do, despite Rain

Mr. Tony — Support hose award for most injuries

Big John — foul balls award

Bucky — over acting award

Beaver — Best performances in bad drag.

The 611 plays RICH's Saturday 7 p.m. at Lawrence Field when the girls of these divisional leaders return to the run ways!!! NEXT WEEK: Meet Mother Cyleste and tours of Boston.

Read how the Ramrod crowd parties and all about 1270. . .

Also next month: Read: YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE LONELY in the **Houston Forum**.

## AROUND THE LOOP

You ought to be in pictures: Spies tell me that **John Holmes** treated **Jim Davenport** to a trip to downtown Tomball. As John shopped Jim began to amuse himself. Having a nelly attack, was not enough. He spied the photo machine. Jumping inside he began posing for those special photos when an idea hit him. Dropping his pants, he hopped onto the little seat, slipped off balance, flipping the entire machine out WalMart's window and into the parking lot. With only the tiny curtain wrapped around him, Jim faced the full wrath of the manager who banned him from WalMart of Tomball — FOREVER. John calmly continued shopping, not really knowing those people . . . A gay group for fat men & women and their admirers are starting a social and support club. Rap sessions are planned as well as socials, dances, dinners, parties, trips. Call **Chris** 520-6811 . . . Tuesday July 15 is General Meeting for NORTH MONTROSE CIVIC ASSOCIATION, 7 p.m. at 1324 W. Clay, 524-0416 . . . A PLACE IN THE SUN has established their own tax number and in departing I/H, Inc., donated their bank balance of \$246.76 toward retiring the umbrella group's debt. **Rev. Gracie** also resigned as V.P. Catch Up **Mike Cooley** is Guest DJ Monday nights at the RIP-

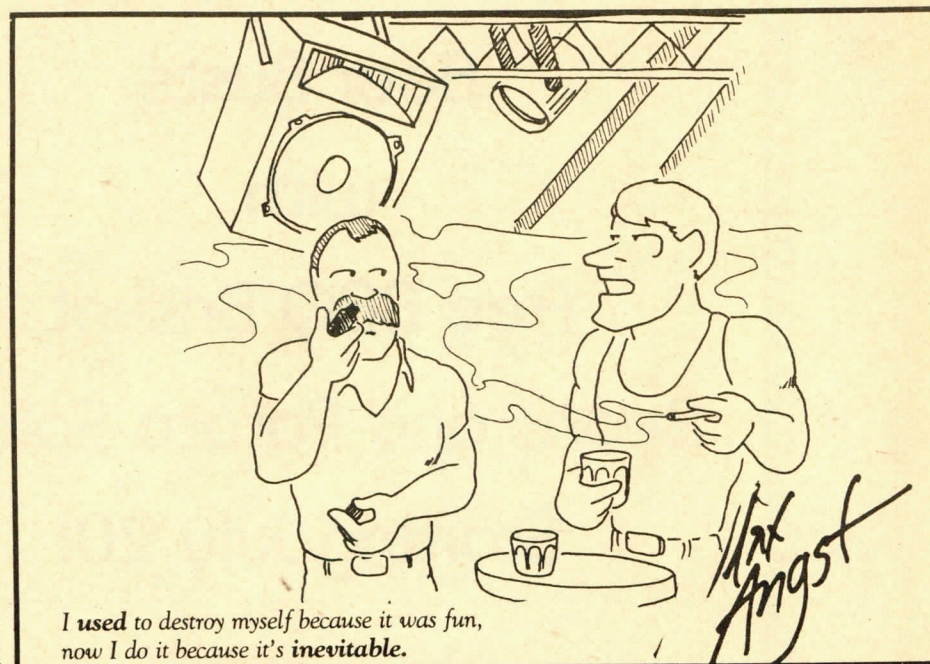
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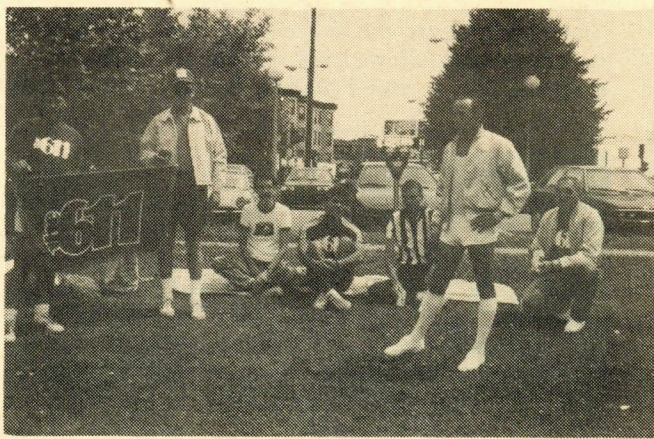


CORD. Have you seen the new island bar? FYI they made a ramp out of the step everyone used to fall off going into the TV gameroom area . . . Artist **Pete Coleman** opens Sat. night 6-8 p.m. at PLAIN FOLK GALLERY, 1114 Barkdull, acrylics on canvas, color pencil and charcoal on paper . . . J.R.'s, HEAVEN & MINING CO. now belong to Houstonian **Charles Armstrong** . . . Due to Lady Liberty pyrotechnics, **Bill Kischer's ZOO** will open later in the month . . . Speaking of openings: FYI **Ron' MICHAEL's** is shooting for this weekend with no Bar B Q or smoked hor d'oeuvre. C.J. over at PAPERMOON will open in a week . . . Speaking of Liberty, **Bruce Herman** of INTERNATIONAL FLAG CO. is back from festivities in NY . . . CYB: Police barricades on all highways into Manhattan advised visitors to leave their autos and find another route . . . RICH's 3rd Annie is featuring singer **Loleatta** (Love Connection, etc.) **Hollaway** from NY, **Debbie Jacobs** and **Slyvester** . . . **Euphoric Heat** (FYI not a rash) is limelighting CLUB FLAMINGO . . . **KIRBY GLEN's Robby** is back from a plant Safari in Austin . . . THE QUEST was a big success at VENTURE N, this Sunday try BRIAR PATCH. Tonight is First Friday at the Firehouse Gallery, sponsored by POETS WORKSHOP/HOUSTON, 8:30 p.m., **Hermine Pinson**, professor of English Dept. TSU, Post-Grad of Rice U reading her poems. 521-3519 . . .

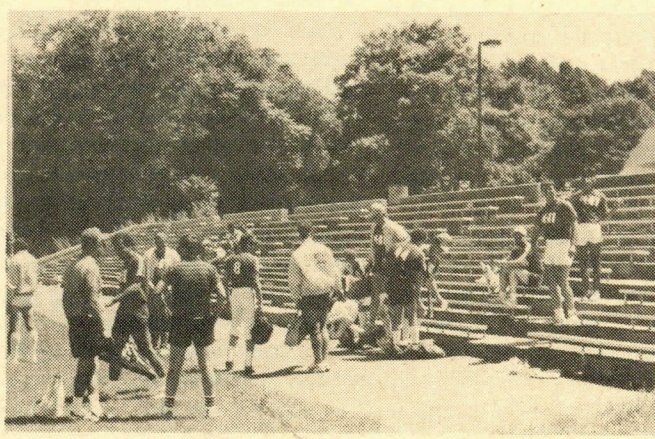
Until next Friday, CAN WE TALK?

#### POST SCRIPT

FYI: after 32 years the EXILE is closing --and moving to a new locaiton, 1010 Tuam, near the VENTURE N . . . Invitations are in the mail from BEARS for the big event July 19 Sat. night to **Corazon Aquino** to mud wrestle (Swiss mud only) with **Imelda Marcos** as **Hulk Hogan** referees -- CYB? . . . Garage and Bake Sale for I/H, Inc. Interact, Lesbian & Gay Archives, Montrose Art Alliance, Montrose Chemaber Singers and Montrose Symphonic Band Sat. & Sun. at 1507 and 1633 Dunlavy Street.



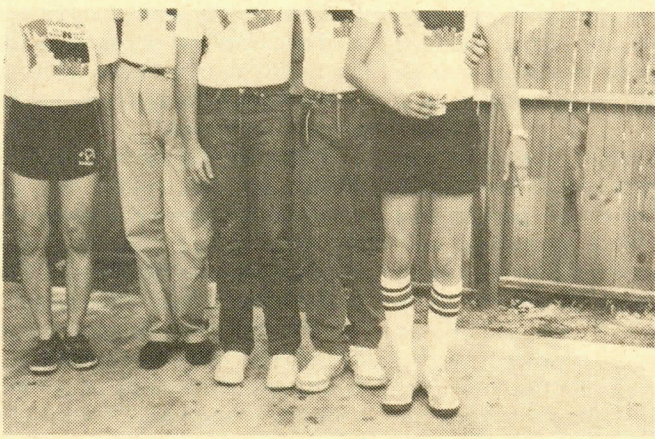
Chilly morning greets The 611 supporters in BeanTown.



The Team prepares to get back in the 'running.'



The 611 Cheerleaders belt: You're Nelly!



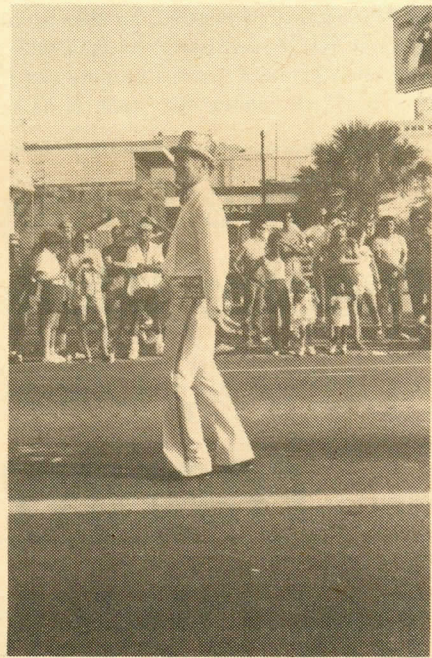
Five Founding Fathers of Parade Party '86.



Mark hits one while the Umpire (quiet a hunk) looks on.



Ricci Cortez sports the new "Just" Marion & Lynn's t-shirt.



Phil Johnson: Mr. Dallas on Tap!

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After numerous nights out, endless hours listening to the pounding of the dance music, and too many liquor busts you have finally met "Mr. Right" in a local bar. Breakfast is in order and the two of you stroll out into the early morning only to discover that your car is missing. You rush back into the bar imagining that your auto has been stolen but NOOOOO! It has been towed away by a wrecker. How rude!

This scenario is played repeatedly in Houston, but it is especially indigenous to the GAY areas. Let us examine the three species of tows: A. police ordered; B. Contracted by owners of private property; and C. Illegal.

If your car is towed under the direction of the police, you obviously have committed a parking violation and, more than likely there were visible signs warning you not to park in the area. Since you have violated a city ordinance your best recourse is to pay the fee and chalk it up as experience.

If a contract wrecker tows your car, usually the property owners have posted signs warning you not to park in that particular area. Once again, you were warned. Property owners have their rights and face it, how would you like to get up in the morning and find YOUR car blocked by someone else's car -- in your OWN driveway!!! It happens, especially around the bars. Contract towing is the most effective means to deal with this problem. Mark Schmidt, president of the Neartown Business Alliance and owner of Jim's Gym informed FORUM that just about every business establishment in the Montrose area uses contract towing to

ensure that they have ample parking for their customers. It is just another aspect of business in the Montrose.

Now let us explore the ILLEGAL tow. These are made too often by over-zealous and greedy wrecker drivers who infringe upon YOUR rights. If you are towed, you can determine if the tow was indeed legal or not simply by following a couple of guidelines. First, go back to the place

where you were towed from in the daytime and inspect the immediate area. Look for any signs warning you about parking in that particular area. City law, code 1968, Ordinance number 82-2002, section 8-184 states, "No person may tow any vehicle from a parking facility pursuant to signs posted on the property prohibiting persons from parking in the parking facility unless there are signs readable from the entrances to the parking facility informing the vehicle owners of the storage lot to which unauthorized vehicles are towed."

Take note that the law states "READ-ABLE"; not just visible. this can be a determining factor establishing whether a tow was legal or not. Another criteria involves who the PROPERTY OWNER is. If the legal owner of the property (and this does not mean the person renting the property) does not contract a towing service anyone towing a vehicle from that property is not legal. Only the OWNER can authorize a towing contract.

Armed with this knowledge, you may be able to combat some of the wrecker drivers who prowl OUR area, illegally towing our private property, to wit, our cars. If YOU are towed and determine

you were towed illegally, go to the Justice of the Peace in the Harris County Courthouse and file an appeal. You will have your day in court and if the rules for towing were not followed, you will win. If everyone who is towed illegally would

take the violators to an appeals court, these "Happy Hookers" would soon have problems maintaining their license.

FIGHT BACK! The system works if you use it . . . but it also helps to watch where you park.



Birthday Boy, oh boy!

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The Forum is proud to introduce  
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**Imelda Marcos**



Dear Fans,

Yes, it's true! I'm going to be writing a column for the Forum. The negotiations were just furious and almost broke down over one clause in my contract --you see, in the past, when dealing with Queens I've always worn at least a tiara! It took just the longest time to make these dear boys understand!

You'll just love my column. It's going to be called helpful hints from Imelda and I promise to tell it all --How to throw parties, reviews of those private fashion shows in Paris and New York, how to sing and dance, and the philosophy of shoe and bra purchasing!

P.S.

Come and see met at RICH's Anniversary Party!  
(I've promised to teach Bart how to sing. He already knows how to throw a party!)

— Imelda



# Fast Copy

By "Perfectly" Frank Carello

(Note: In case last week's column stopped making sense to you about half-way through, that is because a chunk of the column was inadvertently left out during paste-up. Sorry for the confusion.)

Most of the U.S. supreme court just didn't want to hear anything about Texas sodomy this week. Everyone on the Court except Justice Thurgood Marshall decided not to listen to the Texas challenge to the state's sodomy law governing the sexual behavior between consenting adults of the same sex.

That's another two points for the fundamentalist forces who are growing ever stronger these days. And another blow (no pun intended) for Texas gays who are tired of being made out to be criminals because of who they love.

So, dratted 21.06 is still firmly in the Texas law books. Fast Copy guesses that all of us sodomites have to go back to square one. But at least we've passed the starting line.

And the fundamentalists aren't going to stop until they make this country conform to rigid, narrowly defined Christian guidelines. In Greenville, Tennessee, a group of parents is suing school officials for teaching evolution and other things that they believe are anti-Christian.

Greenville is only 125 miles away from Dayton, Tennessee, where John Scopes was put on trial in 1925 for teaching evolution. It was known as the "Monkey Trial," because the fundamentalists claimed that evolution taught that man descended from monkeys. However, the modern fundamentalists seem to be prov-

ing that some men, at least, don't have the sense God gave monkeys.

These people want "alternate" textbooks that teach their children only what the parents believe in. Great. Institute that throughout the United States in all schools. Then Jews can insist that no mention of Christ can be made in textbooks, atheists' kids can put their feet down firmly on any mention of God (god) whatsoever and gay parents can scream about a whole school system that excludes any mention of them or their lifestyles.

Everyone can have a different set of texts, and no one would ever be offended.

Of course, the Supreme court ruled this week that the schools have the right to limit the freedom of speech of students. Only two justices dissented. One was Justice Thurgood Marshall. Remember him? He's one of the justices the fundamentalists recently had a pray-in about. They actually prayed to God that Marshall would die, so that a decent right wing, freedom-squashing person could replace him.

He's also the only justice who dissented on the Texas sodomy case. Fast copy is going to sent him a thank you note.

The biggest boy-hunt in England's history ended with Boy George saying that he wasn't a heroin addict. At least he's not denying being a drag queen.

Wimbledon was won by a German hotshot (Boris Becker) and a Texas sodomite (Martina Navratilova).

Kevin John Barlow and Brian Jeffrey Chambers were hung at dawn Monday for heroin trafficking in Koala Lumpur, Malaysia, despite the efforts of Amnesty International, Great Britain and their

native Australia. At least, it's still safer to be a sodomite in Texas than to be caught with more than 3.3 ounces of heroin in Malaysia.

Other Australian tragedies include the strange deaths of a large number of Koalas. About one in five koalas is dying for no apparent reason. Some blame stress. Since the koala is addicted to it's diet, as well as nourished by it, perhaps they have been reading the papers and are being scared to death at the thought of drug convictions.

Another endangered animal is being killed off also -this one in our own state of Texas. The American bald eagle is apparently being poisoned by ranchers who have had sheep and goats killed by the natural predators. Anyone want to take any bets as to whether these guys favor the death penalty and call themselves pro-lifers?

And, of course, this past week had the spotlight on Texas as far as the plight of the farmers was concerned (thank you, Willie) as well as on the Lady of Liberty (who looks like a d.q. to F.C.).

In the Big Apple of Lady Liberty's eye, the order of the day was disorder, but since everything was covered with glitter -or perhaps three and a half miles of gold mylar -and the musical numbers were flawlessly overstated in the traditional American kind of way, the 100th anniversary of the Statue of Liberty came off as wonderful glitz, if not conservatism.

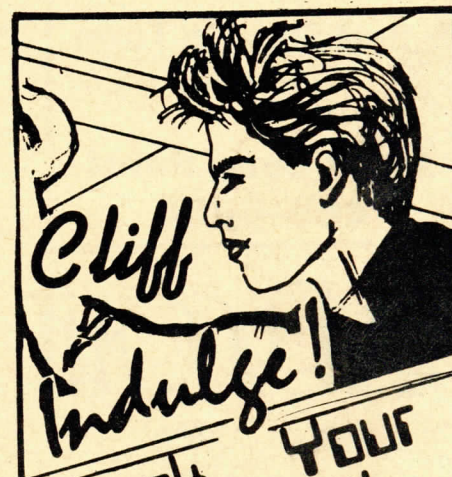
Richard and Connie Nichols of McPherson, Kansas, had more than their share of Americana, New York style, when they -along with nine others, two of whom died -were slashed on the Staten Island Ferry, as they took pictures of the Lady, by a madman from Cuba, who

went on a rampage with a sword bought in Manhattan, while screaming, "Freedom for all!"

It didn't take long for Richard and Connie to realize that they weren't in Kansas anymore.

## The Quest

July 13 - Briar patch  
July 20 - Galleon  
July 27 - Cousins  
August 3 - Cutters  
August 10 - Bears



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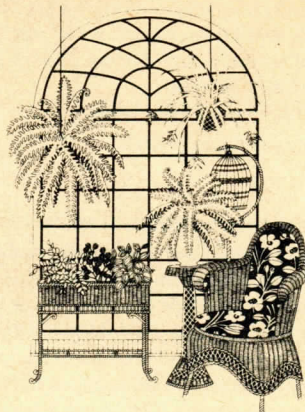
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# Horoscopes

**HOROSCOPES for Week of July 11 - July 17, 1986**

**by Sister Inez, Faith Healer and Crystal Gazer**

The MOON continues to wax through the signs of VIRGO, LIBRA, SCORPIO, and SAGITTARIUS. The SUN continues its transit of CANCER. I will be spending this week in Los Angeles at the American Federation of Astrologers biennial Convention learning more about the wonders of our mystical science. Maybe I'll find love and romance in LA since VENUS, the planet of romance, enters VIRGO on Friday and JUPITER starts its retrograde motion in PISCES on Saturday. PLUTO goes direct in SCORPIO on Tuesday. MERCURY will make a difficult aspect to PLUTO on Wednesday. VENUS makes fortunate aspects to NEPTUNE on Monday and PLUTO on Tuesday, but makes a difficult aspect to SATURN early Monday morning. This means that we will pay more attention to the things that count in romance for the next several weeks. We could also experience a growth in inner power when PLUTO goes direct on Tuesday. JUPITER is visible in the early morning while VENUS, MARS, and SATURN can be seen in the evening.

**ARIES:** There could be a romance on the job or maybe a renewed interest in your current occupation. With VENUS moving into the area of your life dealing with health and employment, you should look into ways to improve your general health and well-being. Maybe you should take some vitamins, but don't think that vitamins are the great panacea. A generally good diet, good exercise, and good social habits are all needed.  
\* Favorable Days: 11th, 16th  
\* Unfavorable Days: 13th, 14th

**TAURUS:** If you don't have a lover currently, make plans to get involved with several romantic entanglements in the next several weeks. With VENUS entering your house of love-affairs, this means you will actively seek out romances. But I must caution you that none may turn out to be a long term serious-type relationship since this transit is not in your house of partnerships. This will be a good time to redefine your goals and aspirations.  
\* Favorable Days: 14th  
\* Unfavorable Days: 15th, 16th, 17th

**GEMINI:** This is an unfavorable time for you to communicate your thoughts and ideas since your ruler, MERCURY, is moving backwards. This indicates misunderstandings in your neighborhood or with your brothers and sisters. VENUS enters your home life which indicates that you should enrich your home environment with objects of intrinsic value (forget the posters and buy real art!). You may discover something of value where you least expect it.  
\* Favorable Days: 13th  
\* Unfavorable Days: 15th, 16th, 17th

**CANCER:** Romantic encounters are expected in your neighborhood. If you live in an apartment complex, you should spend just a little more time around the pool -- a romantic encounter with a VIRGO is highly favored. Put higher level learning on the back burner for several months and just rest your mind. Don't do any money transactions for the next several weeks. Leave your money where it is and don't buy real estate or stocks.  
\* Favorable Days: 11th, 15th, 16th  
\* Unfavorable Days: 14th

**LEO:** Continued difficulty in communications - until August 2nd. Be very careful what you say and who you say it too. You may also misunderstand others...JUPITER, the planet of luck, is currently traveling backwards so you must lay back and try not to get too involved. However, with JUPITER transiting your house of sex (still!) that part of your life should be very fun. Work on your inner person.  
\* Favorable Days: 12th, 15th, 16th  
\* Unfavorable Days: 14th

**VIRGO:** Now is the time for you to shine. People will notice you. When you are out-and-about make sure you are "lookin' good". This is a very favorable time to work on your wardrobe and maybe even get a new hairstyle. You should get involved in a regular exercise routine also. You will soon be attracted to some very powerful people, so learn from them. Communication difficulties could cause you some anxieties and mental stress.  
\* Favorable Days: 11th, 12th, 13th, 17th  
\* Unfavorable Days: 15th, 16th

**LIBRA:** If you have considered therapy, now is the time. It will make you a beautiful person both inside and outside. The inner part is what really counts - as we all know! Some of your goals may be put on hold for the moment, but this will only be until August 2. You may feel that you are just treading water with your job, but that's OK - it's because of the backwards motion of JUPITER. Don't expect any progress until November 9th.  
\* Favorable Days: 13th, 14th, 15th  
\* Unfavorable Days: 17th

**SCORPIO:** It's about time you emerged from the doldrums. With your ruler, powerful PLUTO, going direct in SCORPIO on Tuesday you will feel a renewed burst of energy and motivation. You will again begin your half yearly cycle of power - tell the weaklings to stand clear! Watch what you say in regards to your career and social standings. Be tactful - at least until August 2nd, then say exactly what you want!  
\* Favorable Days: 15th, 16th  
\* Unfavorable Days: none

**SAGITTARIUS:** Your ruler, JUPITER, goes backwards on Saturday and will remain in retrograde motion until November 9th. So just sit back for the next several months and don't start any new projects. Also don't begin a new job unless it is absolutely necessary. This is a time for you to renew your inner strength which will certainly be called on during the Christmas holidays. Don't travel.  
\* Favorable Days: 15th, 16th, 17th  
\* Unfavorable Days: 12th

**CAPRICORN:** Did you know that 7 of the 10 planets are going backwards? These include your ruler, SATURN, and the two planets transiting your sign MARS and NEPTUNE. This is a good time for you to build your strength for the time when you will really need it. In other words, play no cards now and do not show your hand. Many people will try to second guess you, but hold your ground. Things could be bothering you mentally and causing some anxieties. Don't take on more than you can handle.  
\* Favorable Days: 13th, 17th  
\* Unfavorable Days: 14th

**AQUARIUS:** Be very careful with all of your finances. Lucky JUPITER is currently beginning its backwards motion in your house of finances and resources. This means to use care in all money matters until November 9th when JUPITER again goes direct. Your heart is currently where you job is so give it your all. Avoid any confrontations with a lover. Romantic and sensual sex is highly favored since VENUS is moving into your house of sex.  
\* Favorable Days: 14th  
\* Unfavorable Days: 12th

**PISCES:** Don't overextend yourself. JUPITER is going backwards and will make you take note of your assets and your self worth. Your runaway luck may be coming to a standstill. Don't expect any improvement until November 9th. Your heart is still searching for a romance, but once you "have" them, you don't want them anymore - see how you are! Take care in communications on your job, you could be misunderstood.  
\* Favorable Days: 14th, 15th  
\* Unfavorable Days: 11th, 12th, 13th

**QUESTION:** "Can you tell if a person is a homosexual or have homosexual tendencies by their horoscope?"

**ANSWER:** "Absolutely not! This has been discussed and researched frequently, and you certainly will get many different opinions on this question. But make certain, when you go to an Astrologer, that you use an accredited one. An Astrologer cannot even tell the SEX of someone by their chart, much less their sexual preference. You could cast a horoscope of a rock, a tree, a garage or even a telephone pole - and there is not much sexuality with these objects. What happens all too often, is that "Pseudo-Astrologers" or mis-educated Astrologers misunderstand exactly what a horoscope is and what it is not. Because the planet URANUS deals with the odd and the unusual or NEPTUNE deals with the unsure, if someone has either of these planets prominent, they are mistakenly interpreted as being gay or having gay tendencies. A gay person would consider gay sex quite normal and certainly not "odd or unusual" and most gay people that I have been around were quite "sure" what they wanted in bed."

BS

INEZ

**UNDERSTANDING ASTROLOGY:** If you have any questions concerning your relationships or any questions in general, please mail them to SISTER INEZ, c/o Houston FORUM, 1110 Bayland, Houston, Texas, 77009. Please include your date of birth, place of birth, and time (if known) of birth. If this concerns two people, include their information, if known. They will be answered as time and space permits.



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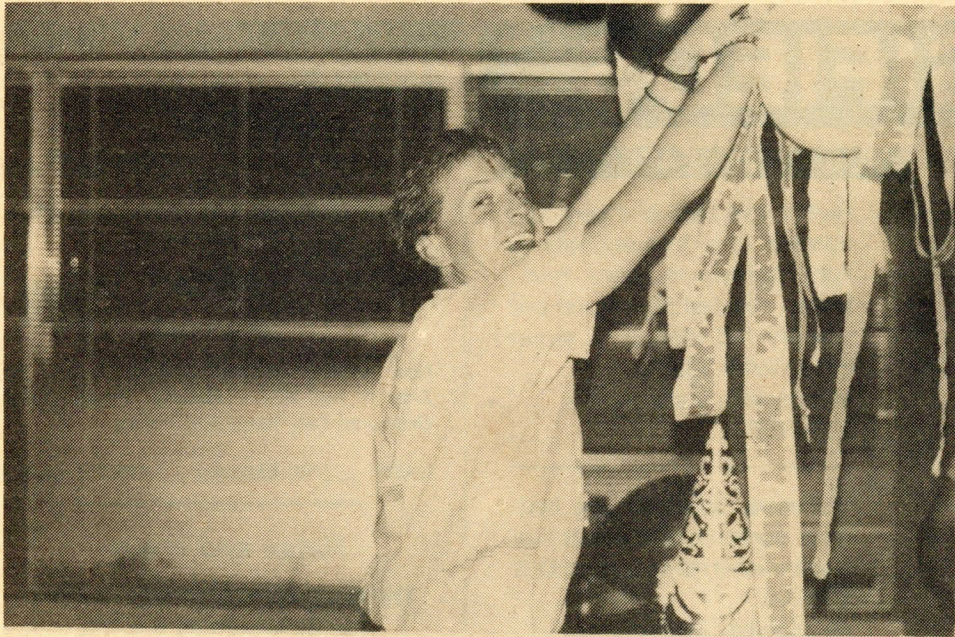
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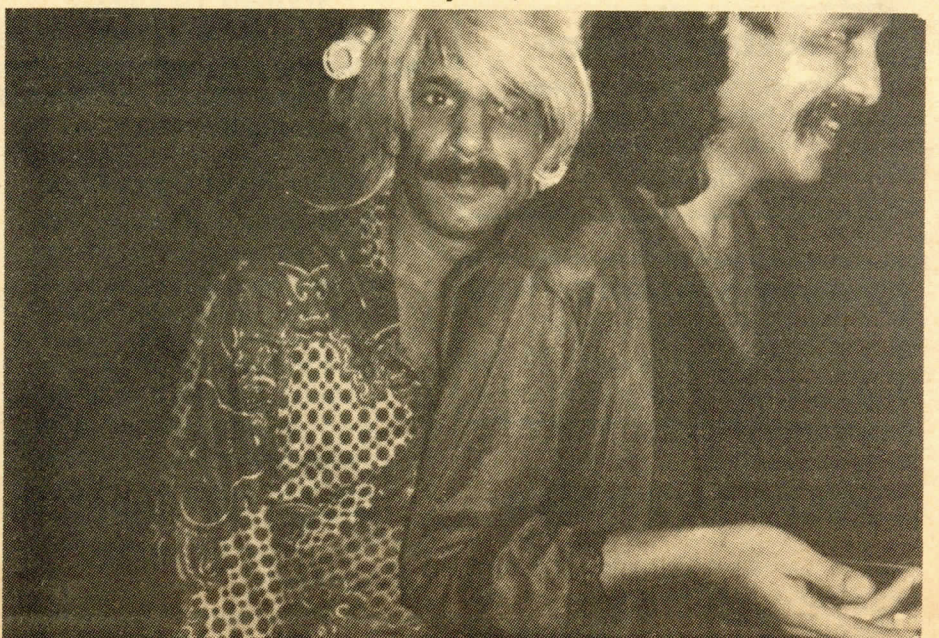
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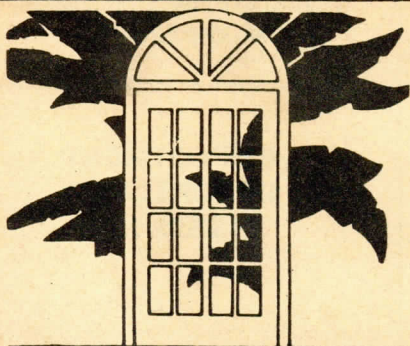
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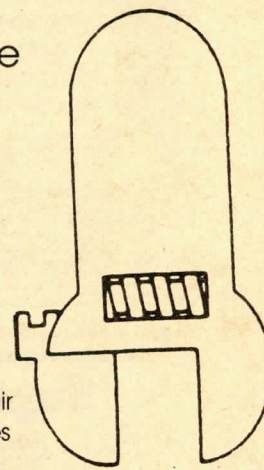
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