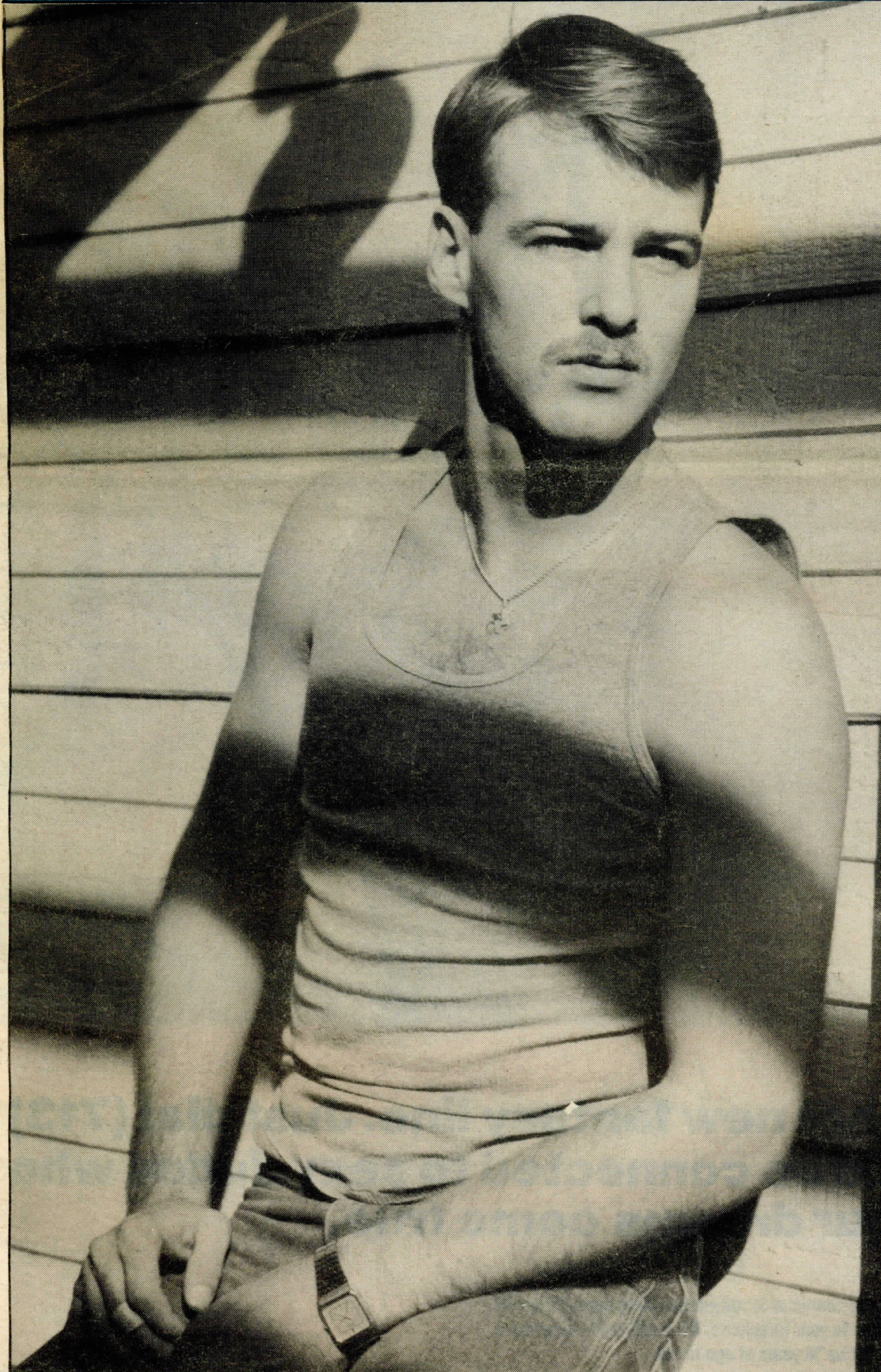


Volume 2, Number 51

H O U S T O N F O R U M

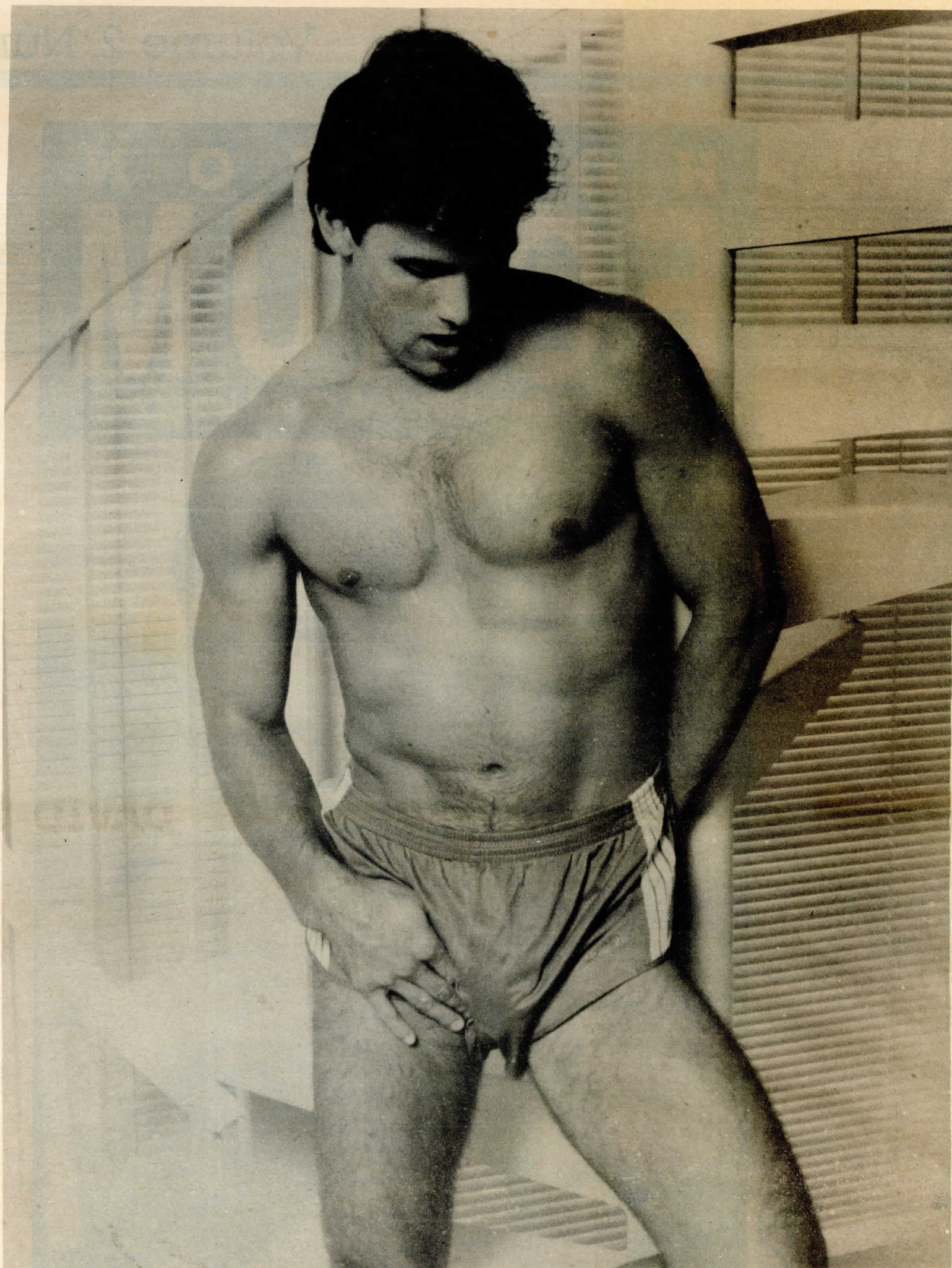
"The Best Revenge Is A Great Lifestyle"

DAVID VENSKE



December 26, 1986

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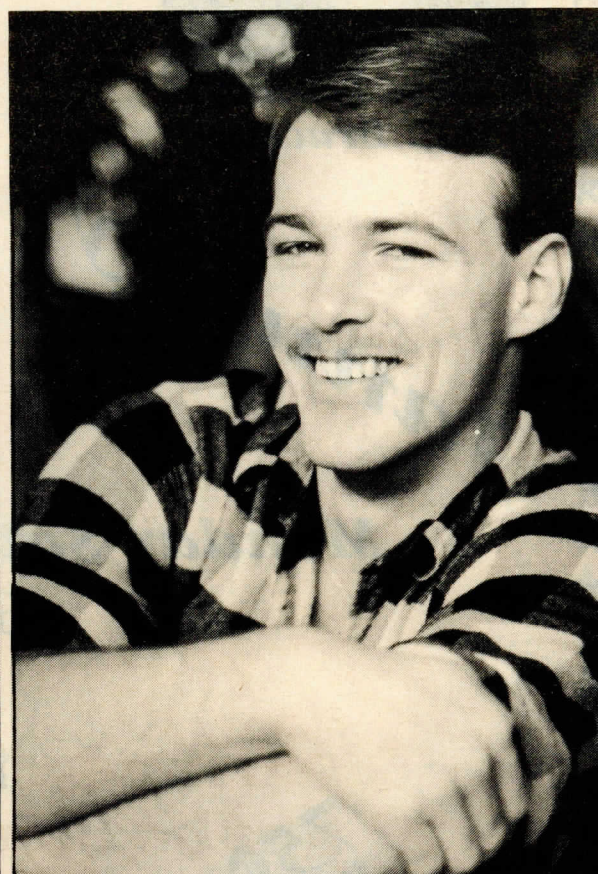
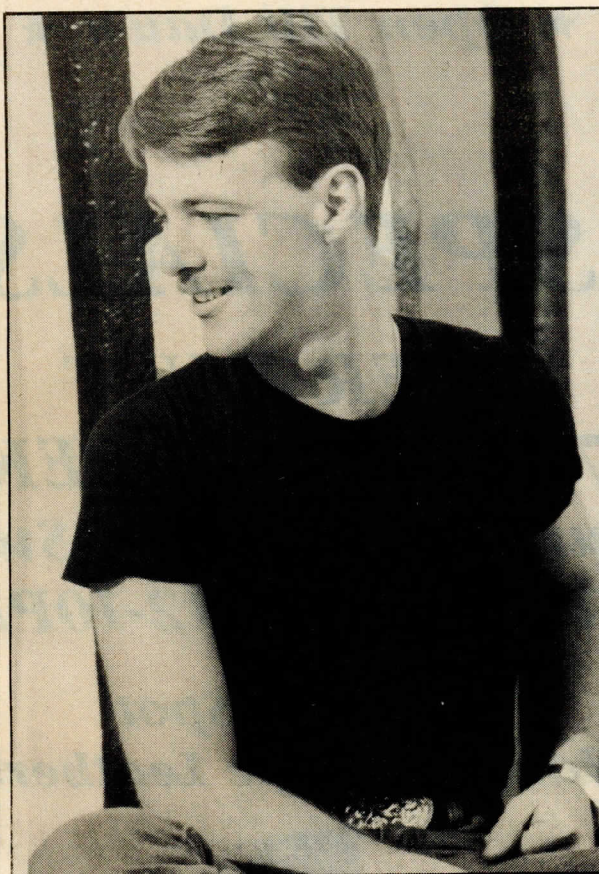
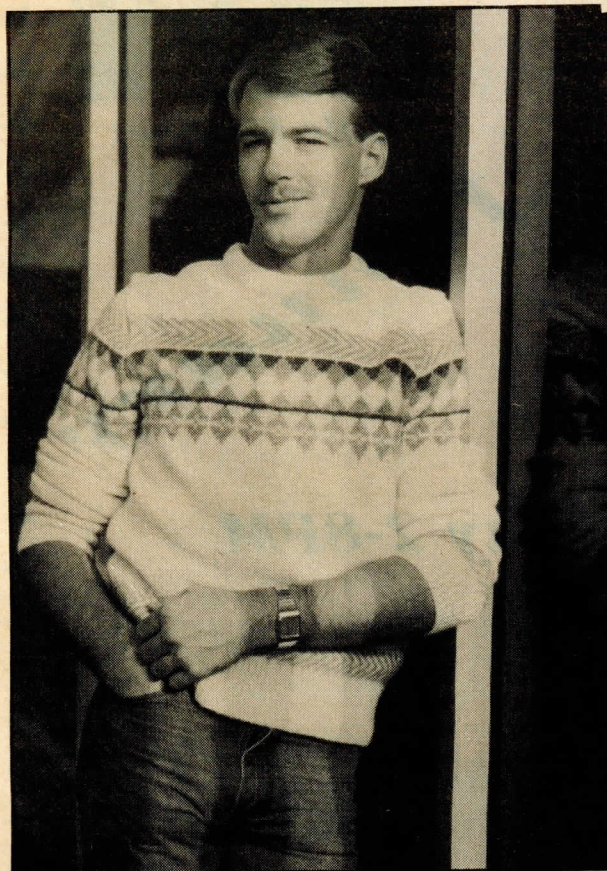
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BEHIND THE FRONT COVER

DAVID VENSKE

Photographs by Ken Rabalais



Occupation: Bartender at Hot Rod.

Favorite kind of man: Dark hair, intelligent, attractive and older.

Hobbies: Skiing, working on cars.

Favorite Bar: Hot Rod and The Mining Company.

Current Projects: Working on my house.

Favorite Activity: Bartending.

December 19, 1986

Favorite thing about Houston: My friends. "I've met a lot of good people."

Is there anything you would like to say to our readers? Please have a happy but safe New Year's.

Born: Amarillo, Texas
Lived in Houston: For 5 years.
Age: 23
Height: 6 ft.
Weight: 165 lbs.

HOUSTON FORUM

Page 3

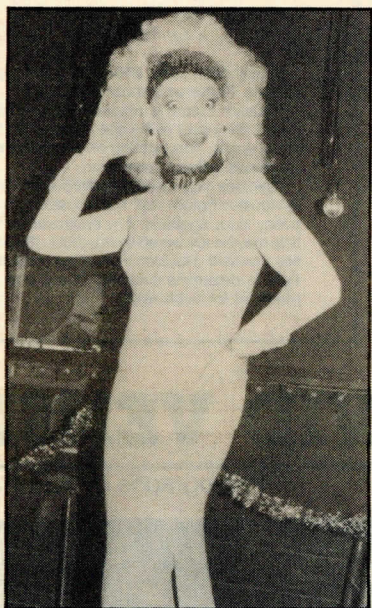


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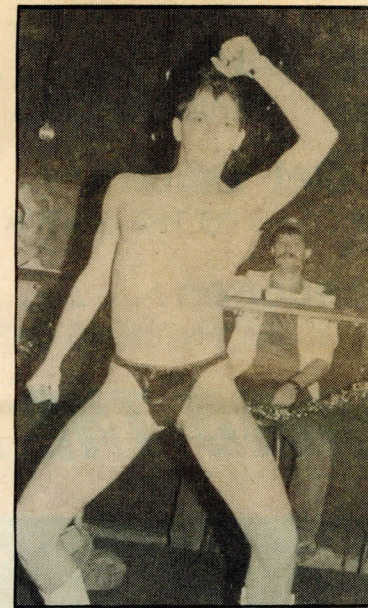
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EDITORIAL: **LET'S GET REAL**

For anyone who has not been reading all the neighborhood publications or listening to the buzz in the bars, here's the story of Paul (Falcone) Bannan in a nutshell.

This guy came to town about a year ago and started telling various people various things about his background, his family and his connections. Since most of us tend to believe what a person tells us about his life, Bannan's stories were not questioned. Besides, he wasn't doing anything harmful even if he were to be bragging or exaggerating about certain aspects of his background.

That is, it didn't seem as if he were doing anything harmful unless you were a person who wound up trusting him and then getting ripped off. Now, all the evidence is not in on all the allegations, and (as far as I know) Bannan has not been charged with any wrong-doing here in Houston.

But it is a fact that he did some things that were very, very wrong. And, worse than that, he got a lot of dedicated, honest people in a bad situation with his deceit when he became the director of the Happy Hollydaze show that was a benefit for Omega House, AIDS Foundation and Aid for AIDS, and promised so many things that never materialized. Luckily for the community, Bannan's background had some light shed on it by a letter from Bruce White, who gave names and phone numbers of theatres and an individual who had charged that Bannan had stolen from and/or lied to them.

On December 5, the Tower Theatre suspended sale of tickets because they felt the letter showed that the benefit might be the springboard for some fraud. The Tower had been patiently waiting for a deposit, because of the fact that the show was a benefit and because many of the people involved with the show (especially staff and management of Mary's) were known to

them. On Monday, members of the cast talked to Steve Shimer of The 611, and he went down and put up a large deposit to guarantee that the show would be financed and would go on.

The show went on, money was raised and the community dodged a large bullet.

Now, it seems that Bannan collected money for tickets that never were delivered, besides never coming through on his promises.

And could someone else come into this town with a string of stories and REALLY give us the shaft?

But the big problem is, how did he get so many intelligent people in the community to trust him? How did he convince some of the brightest minds in Montrose that he knew Elizabeth Taylor and that she was going to show up for the benefit? How did he get anyone to believe that he had worked on Rendezvous Houston, the Statue of Liberty Celebration, Night of a Thousand Stars and the 1984 Olympic Extravaganza? Why didn't anyone check out this guy's credentials?

And could someone else come into this town with a string of stories and really give us the shaft?

One thing that seems likely is that the first person he convinced was himself. Some of his lies were so blatant that there is no way that he could possibly have thought that they would not be exposed. He told people in the various publications on December 4 (the day before the fan got fouled) that over 700 tickets had been sold. Only

"How Did He Do It?"

By Randy Brown

14 had. He told the rest of the organizers that he had sets and costumes being shipped down from New York. They never existed.

But why would anyone question those supposed facts given to them by someone who seemed to have it together?

And are we going to have to question every person who comes up with a big plan to aid his fellow man? Where does good judgment end and paranoia begin?

I don't have the answers to all the questions I've asked. I don't think there are any cut-and-dry guidelines that would keep this from happening again, but I do have some suggestions for future planners.

First of all, never have just one person in charge of the organization and finances of any fundraising event. Secondly, if a person is not a well-known figure in the community, it would not be a bad idea to do a tiny background check or to get references if that person is to have a position of power in a community function. Thirdly, if something does not seem to be quite right, don't hesitate to check it out.

It should be pointed out that Barry Petrie was in a position to account for money generated by the show, and he did a good job. Also, several people had begun to suspect Bannan's stories and do some checking on their own before the letter hit. These things helped to minimize the damage done.

One other thing should be done. Any evidence of theft or fraud by Paul Bannan should be gathered and charges should be filed on any provable instance. He should not be allowed to run off to another city scott-free and have the opportunity to do it again. Petty theft may be a minor charge compared to the grief caused by his actions, but it's better than letting the man get away with it entirely.

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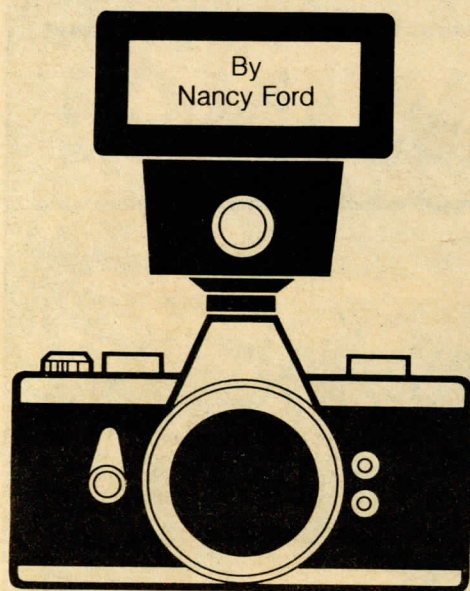
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CAN WE TALK...

CAN WE TALK and how! 1986 is out of here and has been one set of 365 days that will be talked about at cocktail parties for sometime to come. And talked about. And

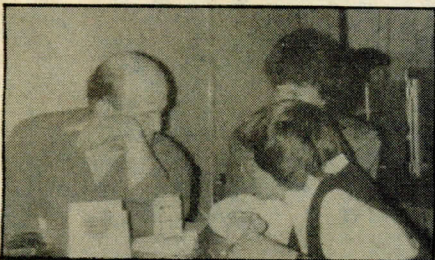
talked about. And, with a number of highly descriptive words. So, illustrating that a picture is worth 1,000 of them—here's 1986 in **26,000 WORDS OR LESS.**



We posed,



And didn't.



We dished,



... we were butch,



we were fem,



And we grew neon antlers.

December 26, 1986



We carried on at Just Marion & Lynn's,



and we carried on at Just Marion & Lynn's.



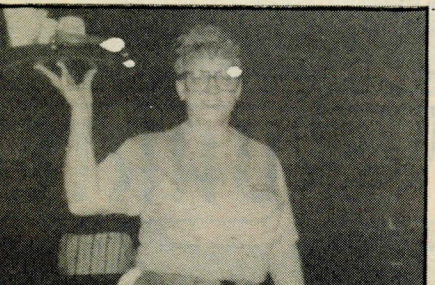
We were voted FORUM Bartender of the year.



We dressed ...



... And we didn't.



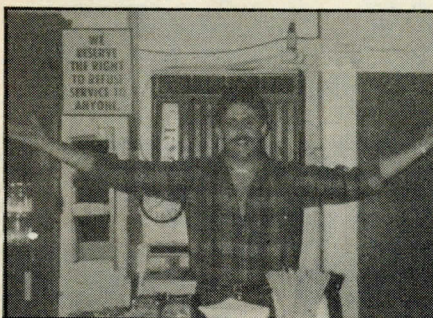
We came back.



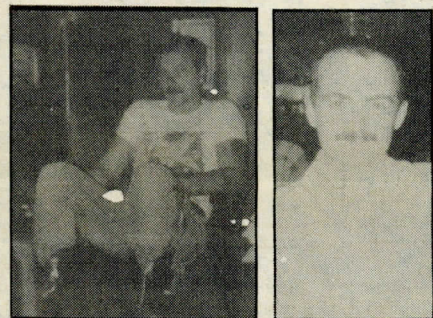
We laughed ...



And we remembered.



We exaggerated.



We "shined" ... And we didn't.



We rallied,



... and played.



... And played,



... and played,



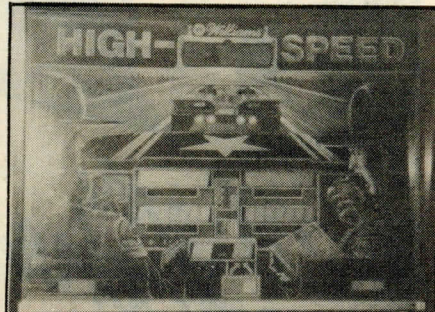
... and played,



... and played,



... and played,



... and played,

So, to all the above—as well as to our friends at: We Deliver Videos, One Hour Quality Photo, Taft Automotive Center, The Tire Place, GLC Tours, TexEscort, Tom's Pretty Fish, Jaliciense, Metropolitan Management, B&G Plant Co., Lobo, Chutes, Cousins, The French Quarter, Lambda's Unlimited Dating Service, Basic Brother's Menswear, Dramatika, JR's, The Mining Company, Heaven, The Barn, Brazos River Bottom, The Briar Patch, The Pot Pie, Club Flamingo, The Hunt Room, Charlie's Coffee Shop, "Just" Marion & Lynn's, Dirty Sally's, KJ's Northside, EJJ's, The Galleon, Hot Rod, Kindred Spirits, Omega House, Mary's, Rock 'N' Horse, Mecca, Bacchus, Michael's, Crystals, NRG, The Ripcord, Outlaws, Numbers, The Finch, Studio 13, The Zoo, Venture-N, the office of Dr. Wonacott, Steve Shimer's 611, and to all of you out there in **Houston FORUM-land**—here's to a loving and united 1987 full of strength, support and peace for us all.

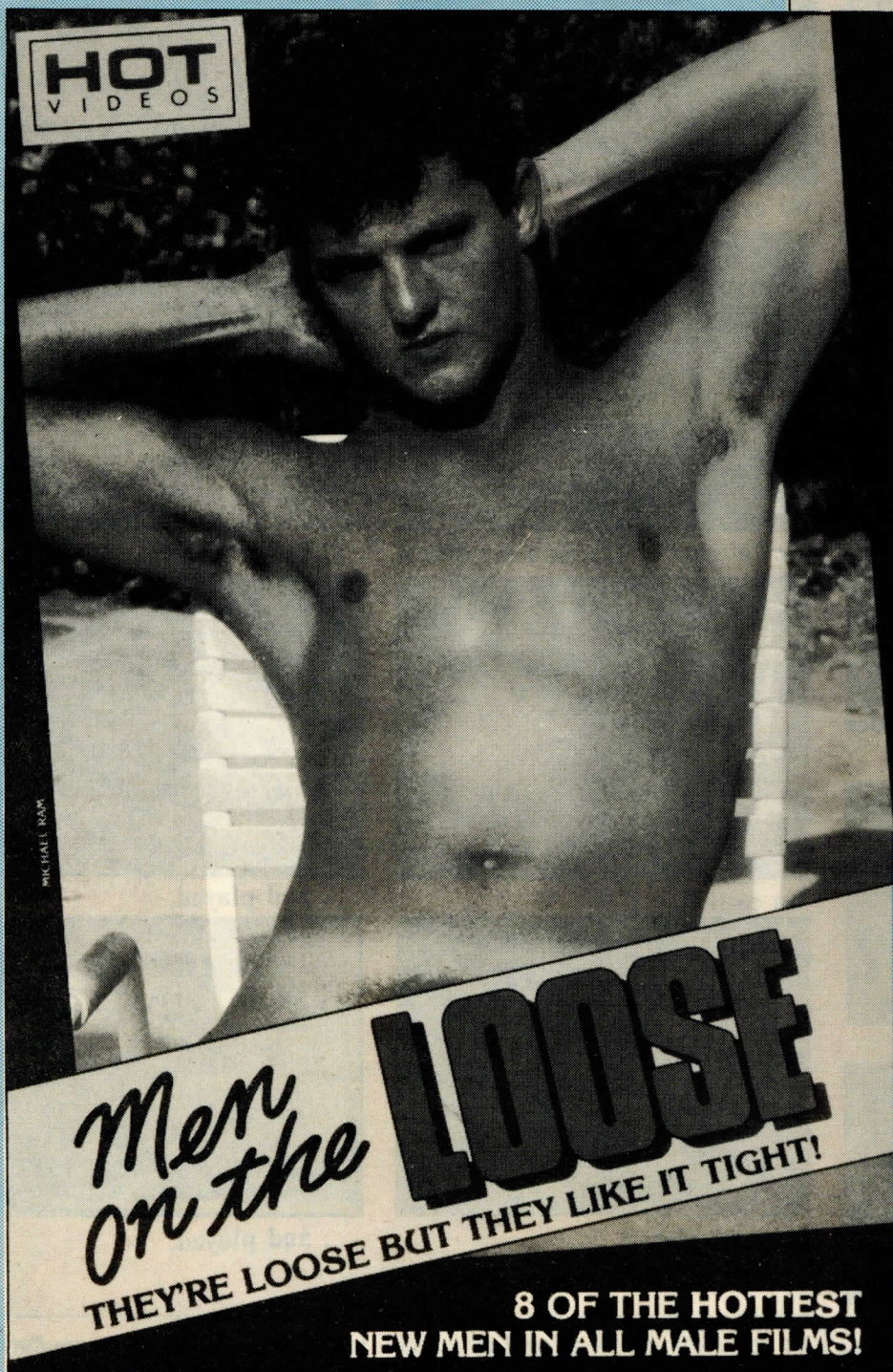
Cheers, Nancy

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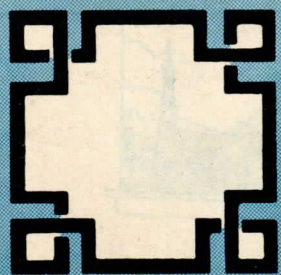
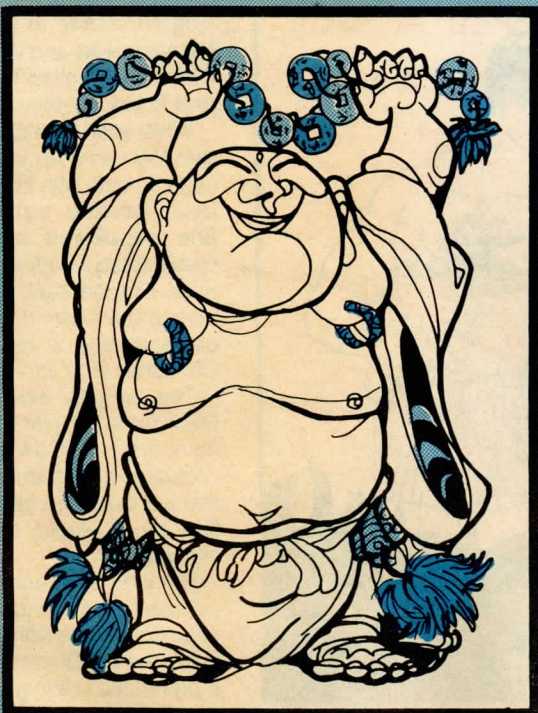
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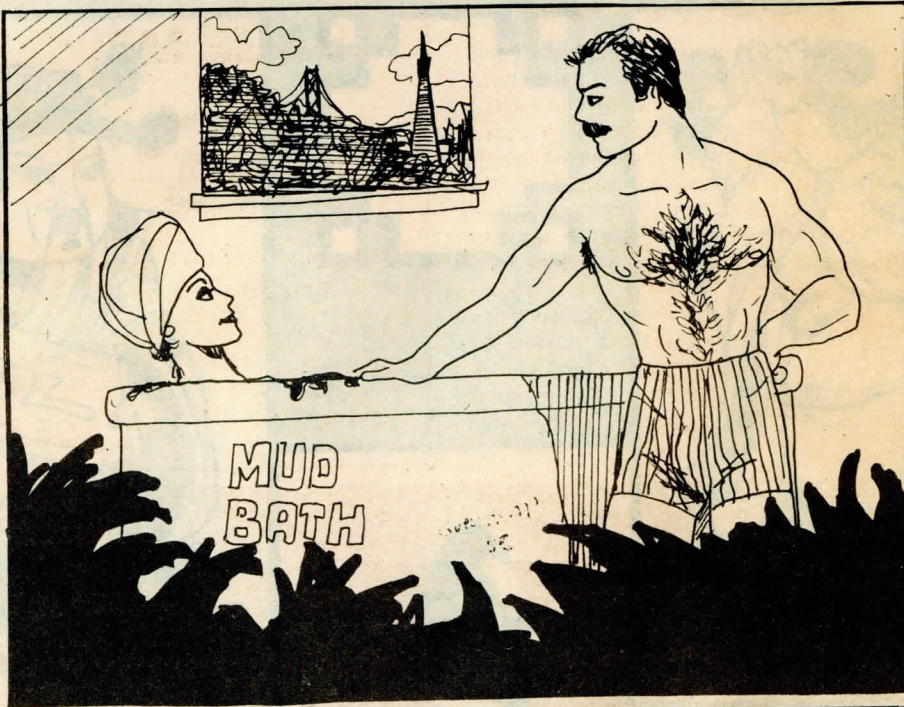
Sunday • Muscles in Action • Door 8 pm

By Amanda B. Recondwith
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Well, Dear Fans, Amanda is writing this article after an exhausting Christmas in San Francisco, visiting her good friends, David and Barry. David's family lives south of the city, and we were most eager to meet them, since David is a unique and interesting person, and very handsome. We had heard that his family is fourth generation San Franciscan, and we knew that would make them quite interesting, but we weren't ready for what we found!

You can't imagine the culture shock for a die-hard Yankee easterner like Amanda to suddenly be confronted with real California liberalism, Dear Fans! It's something we Houstonians can only imagine, since we're all rather Anglo in our lifestyle anyway, you know. David's parents are most charming, however, we were a little distracted by the fact that they are NUDISTS! Yes, Dear Fans, Amanda was met at the airport by a middle-aged man wearing a bathrobe and blue fuzzy slippers, and nobody even looked at him! In Houston, they'd think he was an escapee from a home, but in San Francisco, nobody pays much attention to anyone. Anyway, he was a very friendly man, and he put us into a massive Cadillac and drove us out to the family estate, which was a rambling and impressive place south of the city. The view was simply incredible, Dear Fans. From the tennis court, we could look to the right and see the linear ex-cellerator at Stanford, and to the left we could see the deep gorge cut by the San Andreas fault. We were assured, however, that should there be an earthquake, the house would stand, because it was built on bedrock.

We had a wonderful time, chatting with David's mother, who likes to cook from the Whole Food Cook Book and saute raw liver in wheat germ for TV snacks. David at-



You can't imagine the culture shock for a die-hard Yankee easterner like Amanda to suddenly be confronted with real California liberalism, Dear Fans!

tributes his marvelous good looks and physique to the fact that he ate raw liver and wheat germ while watching TV as a child. We can't dispute the fact that he is exceptionally attractive, but we found ourselves sneaking to the nearest U-Tote-M for a bag of nacho cheese-flavored tostidos!

Barry met us in the city with his charming mother, who was an exceptionally

plucky woman who lives in Marin County, across the Golden Gate. Of course, as we do on every new trip, we did research and read the entire four-volume series of *Tales of the City*. We also researched what clothing to wear for this time of year, and decided to leave all our California wear at home and break out our New England Foggy Fall wear instead. We looked like an

English nanny in our tweed skirts and leather jackets and fur coats, Dear Fans, but it was invigorating to experience the fogs and fickle weather of the Bay Area!

While sitting on Castro in a cafe, a sudden fog came upon us, and we lost complete contact with Barry's mother, who had been smelling some carnations nearby. She reappeared after having caught an unexpected surprise from a passing Chinese Dragon float, and Amanda had no choice but to pile onto an unknown street-car and take off for Grace Cathedral for Christmas Eve services.

The service was simply magnificent, Dear Fans! We just couldn't believe it! The cathedral is truly a real church, but we kept dreading a sudden earthquake, knowing that just one brick falling from the hundred-foot nave, would most likely knock us senseless!

Right now, Amanda is basking in a local curiosity that David's parents have turned us on to. We are sitting in a mud bath, watching the bubbles pop before us much like a prehistoric creature probably would have eons ago. It feels very good, but we can't help thinking that this is the strangest Christmas we've ever spent! In South Dakota, we would most likely be sitting in the house, watching a football game or something with the folks. In Houston, we would be busy cleaning up after the Christmas festivities. But in San Francisco, we are lying in a mud bath, waiting for the Big One to hit any minute. It's so... well... NATURAL. We only hope Sebastian can get this report flown back to the **FORUM** in time for publication! He ran off without washing himself, and we're afraid the mud will dry before he reaches the airport! We hope you had a Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!!

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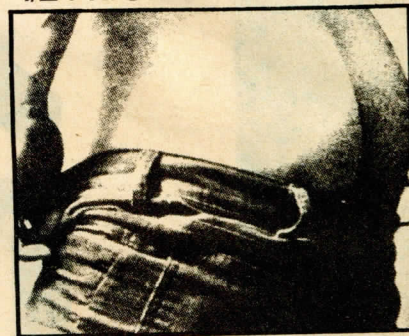
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**SOME OF THE NEWS
THAT MIGHT BE FIT TO PRINT**

By "Perfectly" Frank Carello

We All Make Mistakes

An unidentified man in Miami got a great send-off, but the funeral was intended for someone else. The family of Raul Reina was a bit torqued when they found out that they had spent \$5,000 to bury a stranger. Some of the mourners noticed that he looked a bit too dark at the viewing, but they chalked that up to the fact that Raul died of a drug overdose. We all know how drugs can change a person, but you'd think someone would have noticed that the guy in the coffin was not the guy they knew. In fact, the guy in the coffin had been dead for a month and was decomposing, making it so difficult for the funeral home employees to embalm him that the funeral had to be delayed. The family plans to do the whole thing all over again. They shouldn't complain; they're getting two funerals for the price of one.

Someone who should wish that people would mistake him for someone else is good old Geraldo Rivera, whose *American Vice* show continues to be its own best satire as more of the suspect rounded up in the live raids have been set free. The woman arrested by a gleeful sheriff's department here in Houston is suing and the Bahamians arrested in Florida have been set free because of lack of evidence. If only Al Capon could have gotten Geraldo to arrest him, he could have died a happy man, and even put something away in a vault somewhere for posterity.

Three blacks in New York mistakenly thought they were in a free country when their car broke down in a white neighborhood. They were chased by baseball bat-wielding whites until one of the blacks was hit by a car driven by the son of a police officer, who then drove off. One can only assume that the people who chased the man will insist that he be buried in an all-black cemetery.

Some Are Innocent

In follow-up stories from the past week, John Z. DeLorean was acquitted of embezzling \$8.5 million from his own car company. That guy can't get convicted of spitting on the sidewalk.

Ryan O'Neal's son Griffin Patrick O'Neal was acquitted of manslaughter in the death of Gian Carlo Coppola, son of director Francis Ford Coppola, but he still faces marijuana and reckless driving charges in California. Defensive driving courses around the country, for both cars and boats, should use pictures of O'Neal as scare tactics for their students.

The big winner in the court scene is Wayne Newton, who was awarded \$19.2 million in damages from NBC in his libel suit against him. Come on, the case took place in Las Vegas, where Newton is virtually a king. What else do you expect?

In new court news, a Bay City woman has charged that Dr. William Michael Clark talked her into being spanked for a "pain study" for which she was to be paid \$2,500. He also had sex with her, she says, so that he could get "a specimen." Dr. Clark lost his license in Louisiana for similar offenses. Since the story came out, however, several Montrose residents have tried to become patients of Dr. Clark.

It Doesn't Make Sense

Someone better explain to me how the U.S. can ship arms to Iran, run planes down to Nicaragua to supply the Contras, but 120 tons of relief supplies donated for earthquake victims in El Salvador is still stored in Houston because there is no easy way to transport it to Central America. Can't we just put it on one of our spy planes and drop by El Salvador on the way back from Nicaragua?

And in the international spotlight, it looks mighty like George Bush is running for president, with his speeches about how he and Reagan must take some of the blame for the Iran-around Contra-versy. Yeah. Take it. You deserve it.

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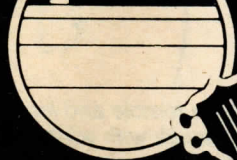
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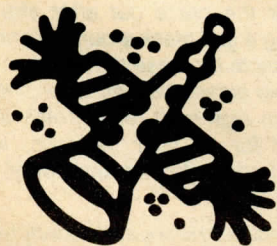
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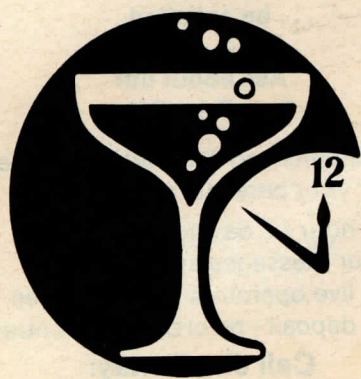
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By Jeff Bray



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Well, it's another year, and I wonder what 1987 will bring us? The other year went out with a quite a series of scandal in Washington, and lots of misgivings and fear on the part of Texans and Houstonians about their economy and the general governing of the state. Will there be more taxes? Will there be more injustice on the part of the judicial system? What does the national government have to offer?

All in all, 1986 was a pretty strange year. For many of us, it was a year of immense change, complete with tragedy and sorrow, mixed with a fair amount of joy. Probably every year is like that, but the older I get, the more I wonder about the meaning of the passing of the years.

In 1986, I had to come to grips with the fact that many more people than I ever dreamed of would most likely come down with AIDS. I had to reach a personal conclusion about how I was going to deal with that problem. The conclusion I reached was that I would have to live every day as if it were my last. I would have to treat friends as though they were always about to take a long trip. And I had to come to grips with the fear and the grief of losing those who were stricken.

Politically, 1986 wasn't a very happy year, although I was happy to have the mayor of my choice. I was disappointed that Texans would re-elect an old governor with all the "Good Ol' Boy" attributes that went along with him. I had thought that Texas was more grown up than that, but I guess I was wrong.

1986 was a horrible year for employment in Houston. I watched friends lose their jobs and move away, until my rolodex became as empty as a ghost town. Now I have expensive long-distance bills, and I write more letters than ever before, because my friends are scattered around the country—lost in

the vast economic shuffle.

Terrorism loomed its ugly head over our lives again, almost making me cancel my trip to Europe in the summer, but I went anyway. After all, terrorists can't stop the world, can they? Can they? It was a new experience walking around London, wondering if I was too conspicuous as an American, and whether I may have been a good target. But that fear was alleviated, also, and I had a wonderful time.

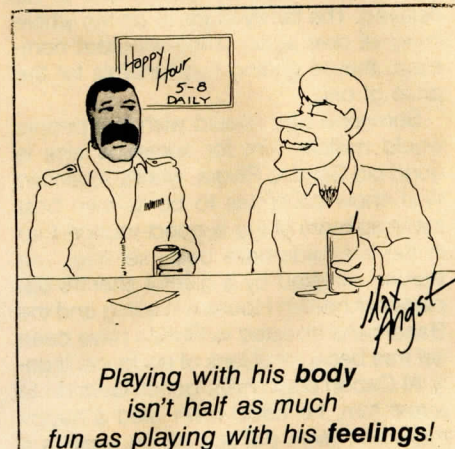
**... 1986 ... was a year of
immense change,
complete with tragedy
and sorrow, mixed with
a fair amount of joy.**

Houston as a city began to clean up its act, repaving streets, and remodeling old buildings on a great scale. As people fled the city, abandoning homes and businesses, many strip shopping centers were left for dead, and grass fields again replaced the cheap brick and metal facades that used to occupy not-so-prime space all over the area. Meanwhile, Montrose Boulevard experienced a great revival, with new and interesting architecture and shopping opportunities. Everything from San Francisco-style trolleys to English pubs occupy once vacant space, and it's a much better quality now.

More than anything, 1986 forced a lot of us to grow up and face the music. We no longer live in paradise. Our city is no longer a Boom Town. Our lives are no longer safe, and our health is no longer certain. Our whole culture has been forced to face facts on a terrifying scale, and those facts have

begun to result in a much deeper sense of being for most. Personally, I think it's a change for the better. People are no longer taken so much for granted. The days are short because so much has to be packed into them. It's a realization of the quality and sanctity of life that permeates every phase of Houston and especially Montrose.

The most bizarre fact is that this feeling of purpose and of being should always have been there. I think that's the most important thing 1986 did for me. It made me realize that life is very precious, and to have life and health are two most important things—everything else is secondary. Let's hope that 1987 won't put us through so many trials, but that we'll at least profit from the lessons we learned in '86.



MONA: Advice & Beads Read

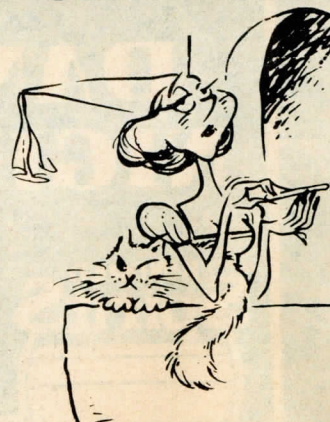
Dear Mona:

Christmas always makes me so depressed, and I know everybody feels this way. It seems to me like we should just forget Christmas anyway. After all, it's nothing but a big money-making scheme now, and when you're single and without a family things get even worse because you remember all those childhood things. I don't know if any advice is needed, I just wish we didn't have Christmas. Ever since I came out, I've always dreaded it.

Signed: Logical About Christmas

Dear Logical:

Bah, Humbug! You poor thing. You need to live in Russia where they celebrate Christmas by parading nuclear missiles in Red Square. Look, we all know Christmas



can be a terrible and lonely time. Try getting in touch with your feelings instead of avoiding them with logic. If you're depress-

ed about Christmas, cry about it, for heaven's sake. Don't just sit there and be brave, explaining it all away like some sort of medical prognosis.

Dear Mona:

Do you ever get tired of answering mail? It seems to me like I'd go nuts having to face people's problems all the time. Don't you ever have problems of your own?

Signed: Curious in Montrose

Dear Curious:

Of course I have problems of my own. I'm not superwoman, you know. But I do enjoy my job, and I think I help people much of the time, which in turn helps me. It's nice to know that we're all together on this earth with all our little troubles (or big). Nobody is without problems, and sometimes giving advice is the best therapy for me.

Dear Mona:

My lover's mother spent Christmas with us, and I thought I was going to go crazy. She smokes like a stack, and I can't stand the smell. What am I going to do with her here all the way through New Year's?

Signed: Gagging in the Binz

Dear Gagging:

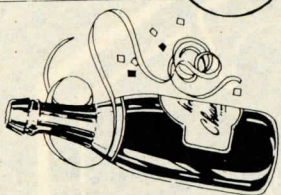
Knowing mothers-in-law the way I do, your best bet is to just open the windows and air the place out after she leaves. Wearing a gas mask around the house only serves to increase the problem. Let her enjoy her cigarettes, and when she's gone, you can sigh with relief. Think of it as a reward for all your patience, and buy several cans of Glad and spray!

Need advice? Having a particularly hard time of it all? Write **Mona**, care of the **HOUSTON FORUM**, 1110 Bayland, Houston, Texas 77009.

December 26, 1986

Another Dirty Sally's enterprise...

K.J.'s *Dirty Sally's* **NORTHSIDE**



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NEWS BITS . . .

AIDS Law To Be Tested

Two misdemeanor complaints against a nail salon in West Hollywood, Calif., have been filed for alleged violations of a municipal ordinance passed a year ago to halt discrimination against AIDS patients in employment, housing and commercial services.

Jessica's Nail Clinic refused service to Paul Jaspersen after a manicurist there overheard a conversation in which Jaspersen told a friend he had AIDS.

The City Attorney's office did not file charges until they tried to work with the salon to correct the problem. They told the salon that if they would stop discriminating against AIDS patients, give service to Jaspersen and educate their employees about the disease, charges would not be filed. The salon refused.

This could be the first legal test of laws recently enacted around the country to protect the rights of PWAs. The two complaints could net the salon and Jessica Vartoughian, the owner, a maximum \$1,000 fine and six months imprisonment.

Houston AIDS Figures Given

The latest figures of confirmed cases of AIDS in Houston show 67 new cases, bringing the total for the metropolitan area to 935, with 608 fatalities, according to the Houston Department of Health and Human Services.

One of the latest cases is that of a heterosexual male who became infected through sexual contact with a female intravenous drug user.

Plan For Gay Mecca Falls Through

Thunder Mountain Gay and Lesbian Alliance failed to come up with the \$350,000 necessary for a down payment on Rhyolite, a ghost town in Nevada they planned to convert into a gay town.

Rhyolite is a ghost town 120 miles northwest of Las Vegas. Planners also cited scarcity of water as one of the reasons to drop plans for the town.

Foreign Students in China To Be Tested for AIDS

All students entering China will be tested for AIDS, and all foreign students now in that country and planning to be there for at least a year will also be tested.

China has five reported AIDS cases.

Child with AIDS to Attend Lubbock School

A unanimous vote by the Lubbock school board will allow a child with AIDS in that city to attend elementary school next month, despite the objections of approximately half of the 200 parents who attended the public hearing on the issue.

The child has been in a homebound educational program since he contracted the disease through a blood transfusion. He has been ordered to bring his own lunch and to use a separate restroom.

More Companies Test for Drugs Than for AIDS

According to the 41st annual Northwestern Endicott-Lindquist Report, industrial manufacturers and other companies in 30 states are testing more for drug usage than for AIDS exposure.

One-third of the companies have drug testing at the present time, and another 19% plan to begin testing for drug and alcohol abuse in the future. Only 2% test for AIDS, and 5% more plan to add the test in 1987.

Rapist Who Cried "AIDS" Given Life Term

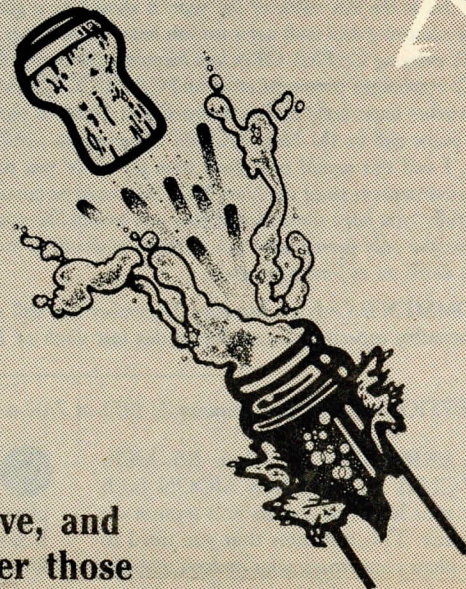
Calvin Newton Bolton, 21, of Houston, was sentenced to life in prison and fined \$10,000 for aggravated sexual assault in the kidnapping and brutal rape of a 49-year-old woman.

Bolton and Carl Lee Roberts, 18, are also charged in another rape that took place the same day as the rape for which Bolton has been convicted. Both men were arrested May 29 after a high-speed chase that ended in a foot race and scuffle in which officers were scratched by the suspects. The two told police they had AIDS, but were tested and found to be negative. They admitted they made the story up to frighten the police.

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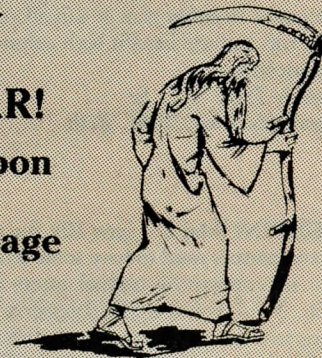
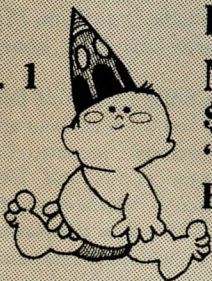


May 1987 Bring Us Peace,
Health, Jobs, and Happiness.
May we be appreciative of what we have, and
what we take for granted, and remember those
whom we've lost this year.

Holiday Schedule:

- Dec. 26-27** Brazos River Band
Hot Winter Drinks
- Dec. 28** Steak Nite 5:00PM Weather Permitting
Brazos River Band 8:00
- Dec. 31** Open 12:00 Noon
New Year's Eve Masquerade Ball
A Touch of Mardi Gras in Montrose
Masks and/or Costumes Encouraged
Brazos River Band
★ Free Light Buffet ★ Hats ★ Noise Makers ★
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WE GET LETTERS . . .

Dear Forum:

I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank the management and staff of Kroger at 3300 Montrose Boulevard for their generosity, compassion, and community spirit.

In late September, I happened to be in Walgreens' pharmacy on Montrose. I noticed several people waiting for prescriptions whom I recognized as clients of the AIDS Foundation Houston, Inc. It occurred to me that, given that a number of drug stores offer discounts to select groups—senior citizens, etc.—and given that a large percentage of the patrons of that Walgreens is gay,

and given the quantity of prescriptions and the staggering expense of many AIDS medications, Walgreens might consider offering a discount to persons with AIDS/ARC. I approached Walgreens with the idea and went through their chain of command. I was finally told that Walgreens was a conservative company and was not interested in my proposal.

I next went to Kroger and made the same proposal to Mr. Tom Schnoor, the pharmacy manager. Mr. Schnoor could not have been more helpful. First, he agreed to give all clients of AFH a ten percent (10%) discount over and above any discount coupons of-

fered by the pharmacy itself. In addition, he put me in touch with a generic drug company which is now donating vitamins and other generic drugs to the AFH Food Bank. Lastly, he introduced me to Mr. Marty Payne, the store manager, and this resulted in a sizable weekly donation to our Food Bank. In discussing this with our volunteer director, I was informed that another Kroger store (on Braeswood) furnishes food trays for our AFH training weekends.

I would like to commend the Kroger organization on behalf of the AIDS Foundation Houston and our clients. I would also urge the gay community to express its

gratitude both verbally and with its patronage.

Sincerely,
John Paul Varnich
Vice President for Social Services
AIDS Foundation Houston, Inc.

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H O R O S C O P E S

by Jack Marvin, AMAFA

Since this is the last week of the year, it should be a good omen that the two major events that will be occurring deal with ways we can improve ourselves. Fortunately, the first event will be MERCURY entering CAPRICORN late Monday afternoon. Why will this be so fortunate? Since MERCURY symbolizes communication and CAPRICORN symbolizes discipline, we will be able to look at ourselves impartially and make intelligent decisions that will benefit us in the long run. The second event will be the New MOON occurring in CAPRICORN early Tuesday morning. Last week, I said this would be a good time for all of you to think of ways to improve yourself and your environment since the New MOON would be coming around just in time for the New Year. Hopefully, you have some idea of how you would like your life to improve during the coming year. You are the only person who can improve yourself. If you see some cracks in your armour, then get to work on self-improvements.

COMMENT: Only on Monday, December 29, will there be any stress on us. This is due to the favorably aspected planets during this last week of 1986.

QUESTION: "I was born January 2, 1951 at 7:00 a.m. in Franklin City, Alabama and T.R.

was born July 8, 1954 at 2:15 a.m. in Dearborn, Michigan. T.R. and I have been lovers for five years. Are we compatible? What can you tell me about us?" S.C.

ANSWER: I find your question rather curious. Since you have been lovers for five years, you probably know whether or not you're compatible. However, be that as it may, this is a very powerful pair of attracting charts with a total communications index of 4086 indicating strong communication ability. T.R. makes an excellent partner or lover for S.C. with T.R.'s SUN in S.C.'s marriage house. S.C. makes an excellent sexual partner for T.R. There could be some emotional confrontations due to a difficult aspect between T.R.'s MOON and S.C.'s SUN which indicates that S.C. can be somewhat overbearing and cold (SUN in CAPRICORN) which is incompatible with the emotionally sensitive MOON of T.R. T.R. will seek security and will have to be constantly reassured while S.C. will tend to seek new and exciting ventures while always wanting to be "number 1"—ultimately becoming bored. There are many more observations I could make from this chart, but, obviously, time and space does not permit. One comment that I would like to make is that both of you would make far better business partners or friends than lovers because S.C. lacks the sensitivity and caring nature that T.R. needs. J.M., AMAFA

 **ARIES** (Mar. 21 - Apr. 20): MERCURY and the New MOON both enter your house of careers and reputation this week. This indicates that you need to make plans concerning your professional life. You need to take additional study courses to improve your career. This will lead to an advancement in your standing with your company. If there has been some problems with your credit ratings, you should have them cleared-up easier during this week. Prepare for some disillusionment after the first of the year.

* Favorable Days: 27th, 31st
* Unfavorable Days: 29th

 **TAURUS** (Apr. 21 - May 20): This will be a time for you to formulate long-range programs for the coming year. This would seem obvious, with all the talk about New Year's Resolutions, but in your particular case, MERCURY is also in a controlling position indicating that communications or transactions with people from a distance or a different culture will be not only favorable but also beneficial. This is a favorable time to either plan or actually take a distant trip. You will benefit both culturally and financially.

* Favorable Days: 31st, 1st
* Unfavorable Days: 26th, 27th

 **GEMINI** (May 21 - June 20): You and your partner need to have some serious discussions concerning mutual assets and finances. If you have combined assets or are planning to combine your money, discussions now will end favorably for both of you. This is also a time for sex. Plain, old-fashioned hot sex. Enjoy some non-stop action for this week, but you will have some difficulty due to drugs or alcohol during this weekend. That, of course, will pass. An inheritance is favorable.

* Favorable Days: 30th, 1st
* Unfavorable Days: 28th, 29th

 **CANCER** (June 21 - July 20): This final week of 1986 places a lot of emphasis on your love life, especially "marriage." If you do not have a lover, you will meet a future spouse this week. The ball will be in your court, however, so don't "blow it" (figuratively, I mean . . .). MERCURY will tend to make you somewhat distant and aloof when communicating. Don't. If you meet someone new, be open and outward and warm. Make Mr. or Ms. Wonderful feel comfortable, and, above all, act as if you like them for something other than what they have between their legs.

* Favorable Days: 26th, 27th, 28th
* Unfavorable Days: 30th, 31st

 **LEO** (July 21 - Aug. 21): Two areas will be highlighted this week. Work and health. You will be much more responsive towards doing your job efficiently and correctly. You will also be more attentive, responsive, and have a better attitude towards your fellow workers. In matters dealing with your health, you could experience some problems because of anxieties. These anxieties will not be based on a rational fear, however, and should be dismissed because you will put an unnecessary strain on your body. Work on a correct diet and start an exercise program.

* Favorable Days: 26th, 27th, 30th, 31st
* Unfavorable Days: none

 **VIRGO** (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21): This last week of 1986 will have you out and about searching for love in all the right places. You'll meet someone that will trick or fool you this weekend, but after Monday, everything will be on the positive side. You will be especially magnetic and gregarious leading up to the New Year and will be able to engage people in conversation that is meaningful for a change. You will be able to express yourself clearly on any subject that may happen to be on your mind. You can be very amusing during this period and you could play some mischievous pranks on friends.

* Favorable Days: 30th, 1st
* Unfavorable Days: none

 **LIBRA** (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22): This will be a time for you to evaluate your home life. Is it meeting your needs and expectations? Hopefully, your expectations aren't so high that they are, in fact, unobtainable. Look around you at your environment. Are changes needed? Have you wanted to move? Now any changes dealing with your home are favorable. You will find your thoughts drifting to events that occurred in the past searching for a link with the present. This is fine as long as you do not dwell in the past. Remember, all that happened prior to today is history and can never be changed or undone.

* Favorable Days: 26th, 27th, 30th, 31st
* Unfavorable Days: none

 **SCORPIO** (Oct. 23 - Nov. 22): This will begin a very busy month of communications and correspondence. This will be a very favorable time to take any form of test, especially a driving test. This is also a time when you may be faced with taking several short trips. Take care as too many projects will cause your energy to be scattered. You will have many group discussions and conversations with others—they will look to you for leadership. The tempo in your life will be speeded-up and you will have little time to relax unless you just take the time.

* Favorable Days: 26th, 27th, 30th, 31st, 1st
* Unfavorable Days: none

 **SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 - Dec. 20): You will focus your attention this week on personal income, belongings, gifts, bonuses, profits and losses through investments, purchases and financial dealings with banks, loan companies, or wealthy people. You will think and plan about things you value during this final week of 1986, and you will enter into negotiations with others concerning property or money. Or you may have to define your sense of values to others so that they knew where you stand on certain issues. You must guard your assets or possessions carefully this weekend.

* Favorable Days: 27th, 28th, 29th, 31st
* Unfavorable Days: 20th, none

 **CAPRICORN** (Dec. 21 - Jan. 19): Your popularity should be at its peak so take advantage of it during the coming month. People will listen to you. You should make changes in your personal appearance this month: go to a gym, buy some new clothes, get a tan, etc. Get involved in new projects. Make your New Year's Resolutions. With both the New MOON and MERCURY transiting your sign, anything you say or do during this period will turn out to be successful. Avoid alcohol or drugs during this weekend (Dec. 26-27) as you will have a tendency to "over-indulge"—leading to problems. . . .

* Favorable Days: 29th, 30th, 31st, 1st
* Unfavorable Days: none

 **AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18): This will be a time that you will emphasize confidential matters. You will be informed of matters that will require you to investigate them thoroughly. At this same time you will be able to get at hidden areas of your character that will prove quite useful. You will have a tendency towards silence because you may feel that whatever you say, people will hold this against you—only petty people with ego problems will do this. This may be true, but it is more likely that what you don't say will be held against you. So have no fear and say all that needs to be said.

* Favorable Days: 29th
* Unfavorable Days: none

 **PISCES** (Feb. 19 - Mar. 20): For the final week of 1986, the emphasis will be on social ties, group activities, and friendships. This week seems particularly favorable in the pursuit of friends and new acquaintances. If you are asked, join an organization. If you are not asked, inquire how you would join a group or organization that you feel you are interested in. Re-examine your goals and expectations. Make certain that you have not set your goals so high as to be unobtainable. Talk your problems over with a friend so you can reach an objective decision.

* Favorable Days: 26th, 27th, 30th
* Unfavorable Days: none

If you have any questions, address them to JACK MARVIN, AMAFA, c/o Houston FORUM, 1110 Bayland, Houston, Texas 77009. Please include your birth date, birth time, and birth place, if known. If you are asking a compatibility question, please include the above information for the other person, if known. Your questions will be answered as time and space permits. JM

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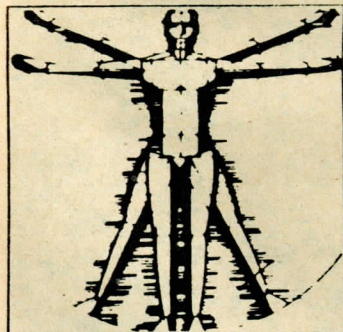
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