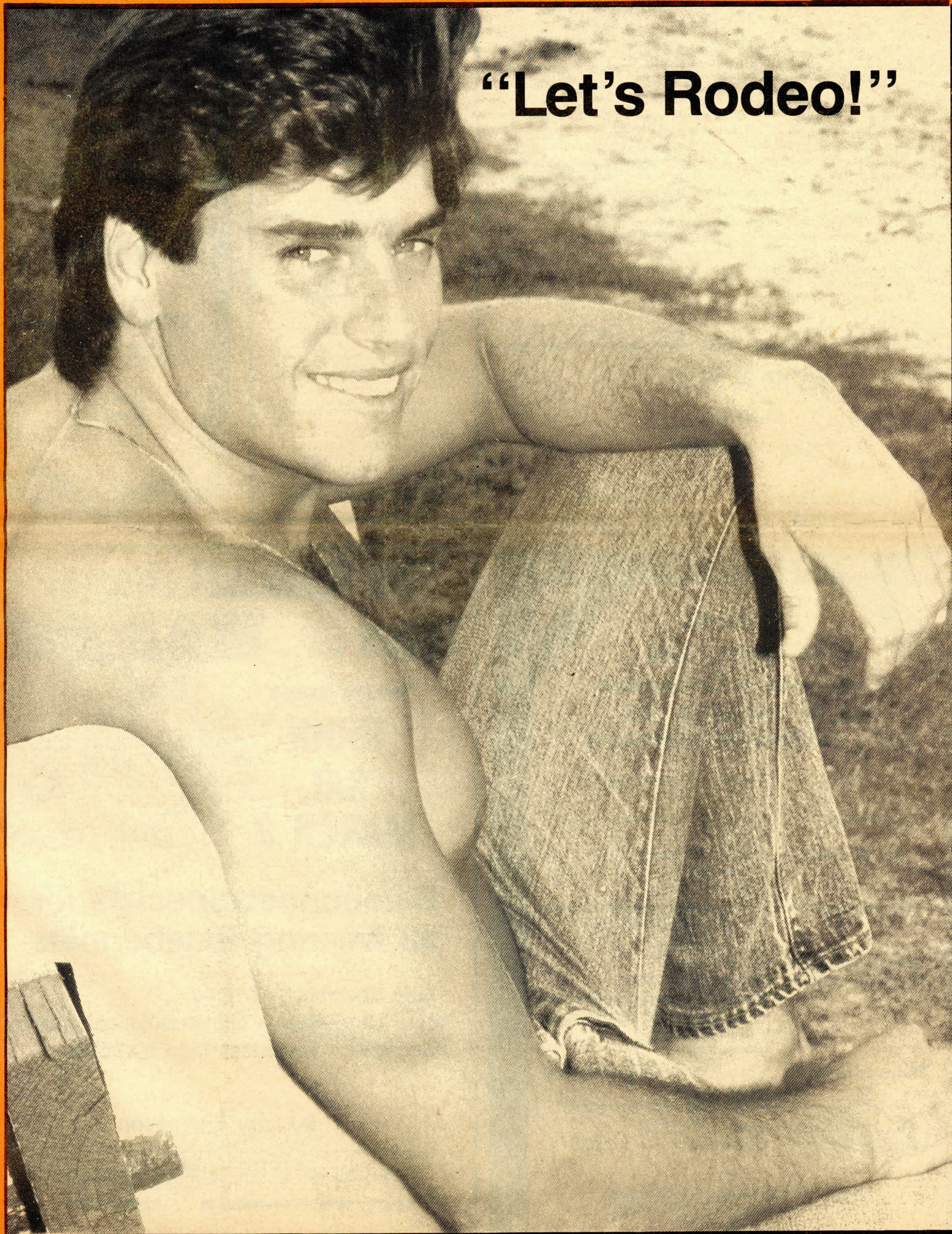


H O U S T O N **FORUM**

Volume 2, Number 9

February 28, 1986



"Let's Rodeo!"

Photo by Jeff Martin

"U.S. Choice Calendar"

From: TLC Annex, 1002 Missouri

Let's Get Real

HOWDY PARTNER!

With "Let Us Entertain You" Weekend behind us and now with the Rodeo soon to close, likely we all have seen or met many tourists (out-of-town visitors). Most of us like to be thought of us "out-of-town visitors" — NOT as tourists—but tourism ("the industry without smokestacks") is increasingly important to our city and to our own community.

Undoubtedly you can recall how wonderful it is to be a "new face" —when YOU are in a new city and you stroll into a new bar, with new lighting, in a new setting, with new faces, and completely surrounded by STRANGERS (how strange?!). "Lights, cameras, action!!!"—with emphasis on ACTION! All this instead of a silent chorus of "Oh her!" reactions so typical at home. Now you are getting the once-over; twice-over; and even thrice-over!! Pretty wonderful—huh?

Likely you have also been in "foreign territory" and got lost or just could not seem to find your kind of bar with your kind of people. Very frustrating—but equally typical. Texas is known (except for Dallas, of course) for its hospitality and the warmest of welcomes. We should all strive for this and make it a reality with each visitor we do en-

counter. Everyone coming to Houston should have a GREAT time. Houston used to be a MUST stop for every Western European and Australian visiting these United States (talk with Australians and you will be amazed at how much like Texas that vast country/continent is). Let's keep them coming and keep the entire world talking about Houston's warm hospitality and its incredible friendliness.

What goes around, DOES come around. You will be repaid one day in kind—many times over—NOT by those you have met and greeted warmly here—but later on in your own travels elsewhere (except Dallas!). And besides, some "bloke" from Down Under (Australia) — no matter what he looks like—will likely be infinitely more fascinating than a local "Adonis" who never strays beyond Loop 610.

And last but not least, tourism helps the city and our community during these rough times. The more "new faces" having a GREAT time at your favorite hang-out—the better they'll do financially — and the better time you and all the other bar patrons (many—your friends) will have too!

Next time you are asked directions, meet a stranger, or see some poor soul LOST — then "Do Unto Others, as" Remember—What Goes Around, Comes Around! Say, "Howdy, Partner!"

Stewart McCloud for the FORUM

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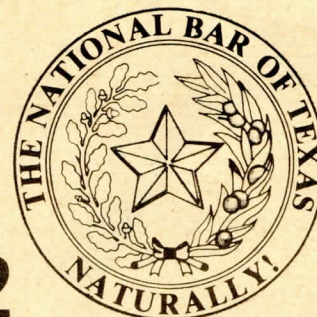
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9 — 1 AM
- Sat. March 1** — Country Express Band
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- Sun. March 2** — Annual Anniversary
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The Quest for Mr. Right

Well—it IS rodeo time in Houston and just as they are having their hoe-downs at the Astrodome—we took the Quest for Mr. Right to the Ranch—right near the Astrodome for a little country and western flavor. Mama Joe rolled out the red carpet and the specials for her MEN and it was a good time. Have you heard about her MADD special? Spend \$20-25 and you get a free ride home. That's some party! We will be having a country and western theme again after the rodeo closes at Bears on March 9th.

However, this next Sunday the Quest returns to the Venture-N where the Quest was first born last November. In the meanwhile the Venture-N itself has been re-born and is now featuring a "Leather and Long Necks" theme—and it might be interesting to stop by and see the changes if you haven't done so already! So this Sunday meet us and those on the Quest at the Venture-N—that's Sunday, March 2nd, at 2923 Main Street (near Elgin) from 5 to 9 p.m. Should be a festive return of the Quest to its birthplace and try to wear red, white, or blue if you are in the Questing mood.

As you know, the Quest is an event that you can just check in from time to time and a special feature is that it DOES move all over town—and outside the LOOP too! You can come once or come every week but it is the FORUM'S 1986 version of the old church social or college mixer. The idea is each week in a new location to bring everyone interested in meeting that special someone—people who would like a significant other in their lives—together. It IS a MEET RACK and it is always so very gratifying to see how well everyone mingles and really gets acquainted with all types of different folks.

With the Quest you can just stop by—for a few minutes or a few hours. The important thing is to be open and receptive to new people and new good coming your way. In gay life when looking for love, we have all too often looked for love in all the wrong places and all too often looked for love with incredibly high expectations. At Quest you should just relax and try to be non-judgmental about people when you first meet them. In gay life all too often we have

a "score sheet" that we run through our mind just the first three minutes of meeting new people. Often times you judge a book by its cover or on a fleeting first impression in a dark bar and don't really give it a chance. Here—everyone is trying to share a common goal—a common quest and just flow with it.

This Sunday will be a great opportunity to see the CH-CH-Changes at the new: Venture-N. After 9 years they have had a real rebirth and it should be quite interesting. The two previous Quests that have been held at the Venture-N in November and then December were real hits and this one should be too. Also they now have free lighted parking with a security guard at Main and Tuam and there is usually lots of close-by street parking too. That's Sunday, March 2nd, from 5 to 9 p.m. (or later) at the Venture-N at 2923 Main Street—and do call them at 522-0000 if you should need information or directions. A swell group of fun guys.

See you there—at the Quest for Mr. Right. Spring is in the air!!!

A FORUM PRESENTATION



A Forum Presentation

THE QUEST

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March 9th—Bears



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A FORUM PRESENTATION



Amanda

by Amanda B. Recondwith

Well, the weather has been so fine, Dear Fans, that Amanda simply *had* to take advantage of it this weekend and go for a nice long bicycle ride!

We got the old vehicle out of the closet and had Sebastian dust it off, while we rummaged around, looking for something appropriate to wear. Tulle is simply out of the question while riding bikes. Dear Fans. We did it once, and had a near reoccurrence of the dreaded Isadora Duncan Syndrome. Our pink tulle became one with the spokes, and Amanda tasted the gritty essence of dirt and grass.

Have you ever fallen from a bike. Dear Fans? If you haven't, you have missed one of life's greatest experiences. We would probably compare it to reaching the top of Mt. Everest, or even swimming the English Channel! It's really something to do. In fact, in some Asian countries, where break dancing is known, but dancing is forbidden, the real hip cats are doing something called "Bike Breaking," where they actually throw themselves off their bikes, twirl around under the metal, and then twist through the handle bars. Of course few of these people are able to do this rare feat more than once, but then, in China there are millions more where they came from! What was that P.T. Barnum said about a Sucker being born every minute? Well, our Dear Friend the Late Margaret Meade, said that in China there's a sucker, a candy bar, three ice cream cones, ten Oreo cookies, and five angels food cakes born every second! She would know!

Anyway, we finally got out our dear old orange nylon stretch biking pants, with matching French Peasant blouse, complete with fluorescent white sequin spangles and black wrap around goggles. Spike heels are

impossible to wear on a bike, Dear Fans, so we put on our trusty Adidas, although we're never caught in public without heels. We got around the difficulty by applying heels to the peddles of our 1958 High Rolling Death Speedster bicycle. It's a wonderful machine, complete with 38 gallon flower basket, plastic multi-colored tassels on each handlebar, pink cushy-goo handle covers, an authentic tuck and roll Poof Seat with hydraulic spring action, a nuclear night spot light, Back-Me-Up Death Fin Fenders, and Wide Track Pontiac rubber moon glow tires that were first tested around the waist of the fattest woman ever to go over Niagra Falls! She was never seen again, but the tires showed up in the Atlantic, after having wrapped around the propellers of a passing ocean liner and stopping it dead!

Off we went, Dear Fans. We biked around Montrose, taking in the fine clear air, the delicate balmy breezes, and the wonderful activities of the city. People were everywhere, walking their children, their dogs, their spouses, their accountants, their robot ducks, and anything else they could get a leash around. In fact, Cherryhurst Park looked like the inside of an old Ray-Vac computer with all those lines running across it!

Everything was just fine, until we realized that we were not using our bike to the best of its design. After all, we had bought this bike in South Dakota, where there were hills to climb. We had always prided ourself on having 32 gears, like a semi-truck, for every hill possible. But in Houston, there are no hills! In fact, we found ourself hardly winded, because all we had to do was peddle once and glide for two blocks, then peddle again and glide for another two blocks!

One word of warning, Dear Fans. Don't go down any of those brick streets, unless you have very soft seats! Those bricks may look quaint, but after going over them, you may need stitches! We've seen some quite heavy people actually *lose* a bicycle seat while

going over those nasty bricks!

But it wasn't a total loss, Dear Fans. While resting near a tree at Cherryhurst Park, a wonderful young man came up and asked if our tires needed air. We demurely said that they were already full, but he could always offer his services elsewhere. He laughed, saying that we misunderstood, and you know what? We *did* misunderstand!

We rode into the sunset together, talking of politics and Mexican food, until it grew quite dark. Then, he escorted us home, kissed our hand (after the Bigfoot leather gloves had been removed, of course), left his name and number and rode away.

You see, Dear Fans, on a healthy bike ride, chivalry isn't dead!



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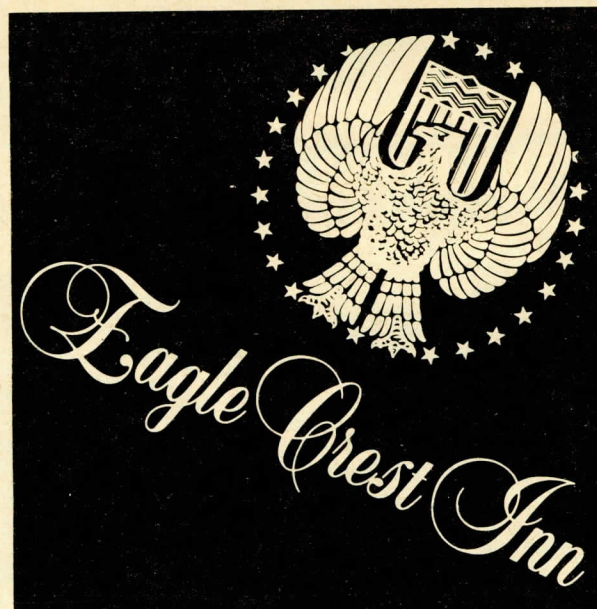
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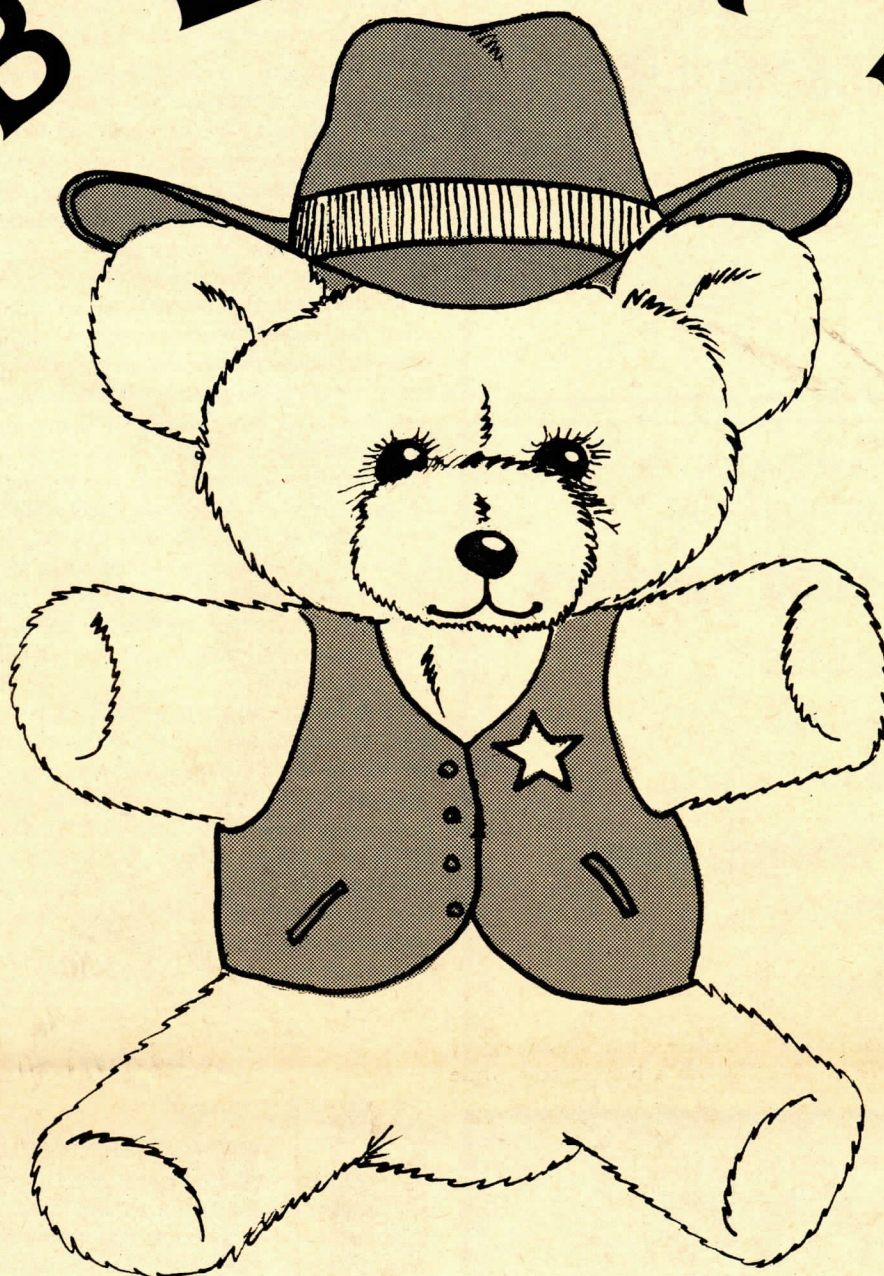
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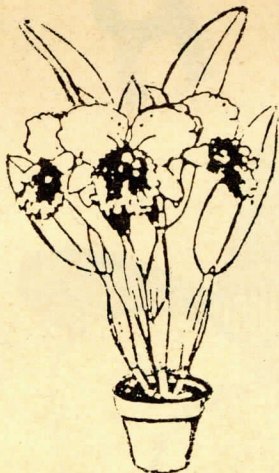
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A Flash in the Pan

by Juliene Frache

Well, I do NOT want to advise you of the unspeakable horrors these animals, these brutes at the FORUM have subjected me to in recent months! I know you loyal, dear, dear, dear fans were and are still out there—

So I am back and I am SO glad that you like me, you really like me! So back by popular demand—I have some hints on "How to make an omelet." As you know, half the world thinks they know how, but don't—and omelets are so handy for breakfast in bed! Hmmm! Here we go!

How to make an omelet:

While it's true that the simplest dishes are often the most difficult to make, we think there is an unnecessary amount of fuss made concerning omelet-making. At the bottom line, an omelet is nothing more than eggs, butter and body English. Fillings, toppings and garnishes can enhance the finished product, but won't disguise and overbeaten, overcooked or poorly formed disaster. In other word, it all begins with the egg and ends with technique. Once you have managed to turn out a perfectly cooked, golden-brown oval of an omelet, the rest will take care of itself.

There are as many omelet techniques as there are cooks; after a failure or two, you will arrive at your own. Our advice is to make an omelet a day for a week; like getting to Carnegie Hall, omelet-making requires practice. Sooner or later the particular combination of timing, wrist action and intuition that works for you will produce a perfect omelet. Here, as a guideline, is our no-nonsense approach to omelet making.

THE PAN

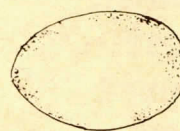


A lot of mystique is attached to the omelet pan. Many cooks require a certain kind or weight of pan, some swearing that it must be steel, of cast iron, or aluminum, or coated with a nonstick surface. And more than one professional we know insists that the pan used for omelets must never be washed.

In our experience, however, the size of the pan is the only critical factor. For a 2-or 3-egg omelet, sufficient for 1 portion, we recommend a 5- to 6-inch skillet. Small pans give a thick and often undercooked omelet, while too large pan gives a thin omelet that is easily overcooked.

As far as the actual construction of the pan is concerned, some of the best omelets were ever made were cooked in a heavy, black, straight-sided cast-iron skillet over an open fire. Other favorites include a #24 iron French chef's crepe pan and an inexpensive nonstick department-store skillet. We wash them when they need it, we try not to scratch their cooking surfaces, and we oil the chef's pan occasionally to keep it from rusting. The rest is hoopla.

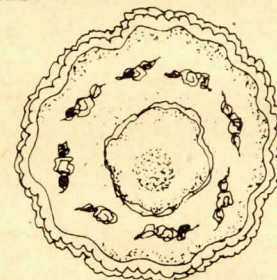
THE EGGS



Use the freshest eggs possible. If you have access to new-laid eggs, by all means use them. City dwellers, however, will usually have to rely on the nearest high-volume super-market, where a steady turnover of dated eggs is some assurance of freshness. Crack the eggs into a small bowl. Cold eggs are harder to overcook; room-temperature eggs make a slightly fluffier omelet—take your choice. Sprinkle in a pinch of salt and beat the eggs briefly with a fork. do not over-

beat: your goal here is to mingle the whites and yolks so lightly that the finished omelet will have striations of both. Homogenizing the texture of the eggs produces a tougher omelet. Grind in a little black pepper and set the eggs aside.

THE OMELET TECHNIQUE



1. Set the pan on the burner. Have at hand a tablespoon of softened butter, a fork, the prepared eggs, and the plate you plan to serve the omelet on.

2. Turn the heat under the skillet to medium-high and drop in the butter. As the butter begins to melt, it's worth noting that from here on out it will probably take you longer to read the rest of this recipe than to make the omelet. The butter will melt, begin to foam, and then the foam will subside. The pan is ready for the eggs.

3. Pour the eggs in all at once, take the skillet handle with one hand and the fork with the other, and begin gently stirring the eggs with the flat of the fork as if you were scrambling them. Raise and lower the skillet from the burner to control the heat.

4. As the bottom of the omelet begins to set, lift it with the fork to allow the uncooked egg to run underneath. When the eggs are almost done to your liking, return the skillet to the burner, shut off the heat and arrange any filling you like across the center of the omelet at a right angle to the handle of the pan.

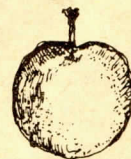
5. Now grip the skillet handle with your palm upward, raise the handle and bring the far edge of the skillet over the edge of the serving plate. With the fork, start the upper edge of the omelet rolling at the same time you bring the handle of the skillet further over the plate. You have just tipped and rolled the omelet out of the pan at the same time.

Wet omelet fillings and sauces are better added after the omelet has been rolled. Cut a short, deep slit in the top of the omelet, spread it open slightly, and spoon in the filling or sauce; pour a share over the top of the omelet.

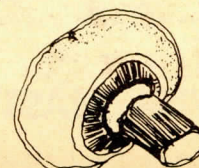
6. Don't worry if the omelet is untidy—it will still taste good and you'll gain control as you practice. One professional chef's trick we like is to place a paper towel over the rolled omelet and use the palms of both hands gently to shape the omelet into the classic oval. This also blots up excess butter. Garnish the omelet and serve immediately.

FILLING THE PERFECT OMELET

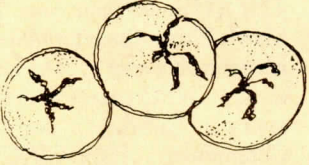
The possibilities are endless, and improvisation is the name of the game. An omelet should be generously filled but not grossly overstuffed; about 1/4 to 1/3 cup of filling is ample for each 3-egg omelet. Here are some of our favorites to get you started.



■ **Apple & Cheddar Omelet:** Dice unpeeled tart apples, sauté in butter until golden, fold into omelet together with diced Vermont or other sharp Cheddar cheese.



- **Creamed Mushroom Omelet:** Prepare and roll omelet; cut a short deep slit in the top and spoon in hot Creamed Mushrooms.
- **Ratatouille Omelet:** Roll hot Ratatouille into the omelet.
- **Omelet Grandmère:** Fill omelet with crisp-cooked bacon, sautéed diced potatoes and sweet onion. Lavish with chopped parsley.



- **Ricotta-Tomato Omelet:** Flavor fresh ricotta cheese to taste with basil, minced garlic and grated Parmesan; fold into omelet and top with hot Tomato Coulis.
- **Sausage Tagout Omelet:** For a hearty supertime omelet, fold hot Sausage Ragout into omelet. Sprinkle with grated Parmesan cheese before serving.
- **Omelet Normandy:** Fold hot Sautéed Apples with Calvados into omelet; top with a dollop of Crème Fraîche.



- **Watercress Omelet:** Wilt fresh watercress briefly in hot butter. Lift with a slotted spoon and roll into omelet.



- **SoHo Omelet:** Combine crisp-cooked bacon, grated sharp Cheddar cheese and tender leaves of raw spinach and roll into omelet. The heat of the eggs will gently cook the spinach while leaving its fresh taste intact.



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GOOD NEWS

CYB: This is the last day of February? Where did it go? Where is Winter. We all have another chance to get invitations to that big blow out **Todd Summers**, **Al Nelson**, **William Artega** and **Ed Munse** are hosting at DRISCOLL STREET CAFE. This benee for 21.06 has moved back to April. Oooops new invites to be mailed soon. . . **Tom Gray** of Tom Gray Nissan, Houston was named TIME MAGAZINE QUALITY DEALER AWARD for 1986. This adds to the many awards the dealership at 10405 Katy Freeway has won. . . Friends of **Mike Meech** are holding a yard sale Saturday at WILDE & STEIN BOOKS, 1103 California, 10 to 6. Mike is still in the Jeff Davis ICU and needs help with his bills. Donations, items, anything helps. Seems no matter how you try to cut back, those utilities march on. To help call 529-7014. Mike has given tons of his energy to every organization that wanted on his KPFT Radio Show. Here's a chance to say: Thanks, we love you Mike. . .

SABA: UNSPOILED QUEEN

Still belonging to the Netherlands, Saba is one of those Caribbean mysteries. A

volcanic made isle with no beaches—layers of rock ringed by clear blue waters. **Dave Hammer** and **Gary Hopson** recently vaulted from Arlington to the West Indies. They rejoiced when recalling their adventures on Saba. Seems all native life gets interesting when the last plane leaves for St. Martin and you are left behind. Over-nighters, YEA!!!—goes the jungle drums. Dinner, drinks, everything is run on a tab cause they know they have YOU. **Glenn**, the Minister of Tourism (everybody on first name basis) showed our boys everything. Both fooled that everything grows on the isle. . . Mrs. Williams sold them her famous place mats with matching napkins. The population, in the 100's, is very friendly and aims to please all visitors. Dave bragged on banking. It takes a check about 45 to 60 days to clear a US Bank. Gary mused that everyone drinks Heinekens and works for the government. It's out of the way, but both Texans stredded, don't miss SABA, the Unspoiled Queen of the Caribbean.

OFFICERS & GENTLEMEN?

The KREWE OF HYDRA announced its officers for 1986 as: **Chris Broadhurst**, President; **Tom Tester**, Secretary; **Mike Holloway**, Treasurer; **David Parrish**, 1st V.P.; **Will Underwood**, 2nd V.P.; **Gary Batchiller**, Ball Captain; **Jim Wrich**, 1st Lt.; **Richard Moreno**, 2nd Lt., and keeper of the Crest; **David Peck**, Congratulations!!!

NAMES IN THE NEWS

We were unable to confirm that **Naomi Sims** was the Fashion Travel Consultant to

Mrs. Marco's recent flight. . . Earlier we reported on the meeting between HERITAGE SOUND STUDIO's **Randy Horan** and **Mike McRight**. CONFIRMED: They are new partners along with **Austin Baker** who is recupping from prostrate surgery. . . **Big max** is on Holy Pilgrimage to Austin. . . AID FOR AIDS' **Joe Poro**, **Tim Pahl** and **Oscar Hernandez** spied at dinner metting at NIPPONS on Montrose Blvd. . . BRIARPATCH's **Darlene** tending bar Friday quipped: Who'd you expect, **Divine**? **Mike Cooley's** brother (spittin image of Mike 20 years younger) in town to party, had such a good time, he missed 3 flights. . . Health person **Rob Falletti** winged to adjoin travel tycoons **Bob Crowley** to divide some Black Forest Secret Recepies found in Germany. . . **Mike Stomer's** FLOOR COVERING donated labor to lay carpeting for **Rev. Gracie Lee's** A PLACE IN THE SUN. . . BUTLER GALLERY features photographer/artist **Joel-Peter Wilkin's** photos all March for PHOTO FEST - some 64 shows in Houston alone for March is Photography Month. . . Spied **Bob Finegold** doing those MONTROSE COUNTRY CLOGGER fund raiser about town, Sunday at KINNDRED SPIRITS, Later It's Draging for Dollars. . . Sat. **Jack Jakakson's** friends host a 60 mostly glorious plus Birthday Party Benne for 21.06. . . **Lew Hondros** reports cold M.G. in N.O., but men were young and hot. he met **Miss Vicki**, one of 4 women in the Zulu Parade. . . **Debbie Seagraves**, appearing as **Mr. D.**, with **Buddy "Magnolia Spirits"** wowed the BRB crowds for entry into MISS INTERNATIONAL GAY RODEO. . . and

over at THE GALLEON steak night—by flaming paper plates—spied **WILD & STEIN's Charles**; **PALMA's Alton Marshall**; **KREWE OF HYDRA's Tony P.**; **MARAT/SADE's Mike Kelly**—FYI This is M/S's last weekend at MAIN STREET THEATRE—Where was **Brack?** Circle March 10th as finals for Male Strippers, hear it's been an eyeful. . . Maybe **Jay Allen** will enter. . . NRG (that's ENERGY) is hosting every Sunday for the Gay Community. . . FREE CINCERT tonight by Trio Lyrique at River Oaks Park Concert, 622-599. . .

AROUND THE LOOP

BEARS, is till packing them in out Hillcroft way. It's fun to meet someone new and spot one of those Bear Lapel pens around town. But the place is hot. You go in and darn, if the Bear doesn't introduce you around. All you wanted was a quiet place for a beer. Soon your dance card is filled. Everyone is trying to get you to Sunday brunch. Tickets to the theatre are thrust into your hands. Someone wants to take you to dinner. Here you sit, the belle of the ball, all that attention and so embarrassed to tell them all your clothes are in the dryer. . . Word reached me from Dallas—see how rumors fly in Big D—that a Royal Wedding was held at THE CHAFING DISH. A string orchestra, floral arrangements, lavender gown for mother of the bride, wedding cake—the whole smear—for WHO? I heard the rice thrown was not minute rice. . . Sad word reached ne that **BACCHUS** burned down. Such a pretty place. . . Those girls need a new place to play. **Mama Joe** was a hoot and all her bartenders dressed up as **MADD**

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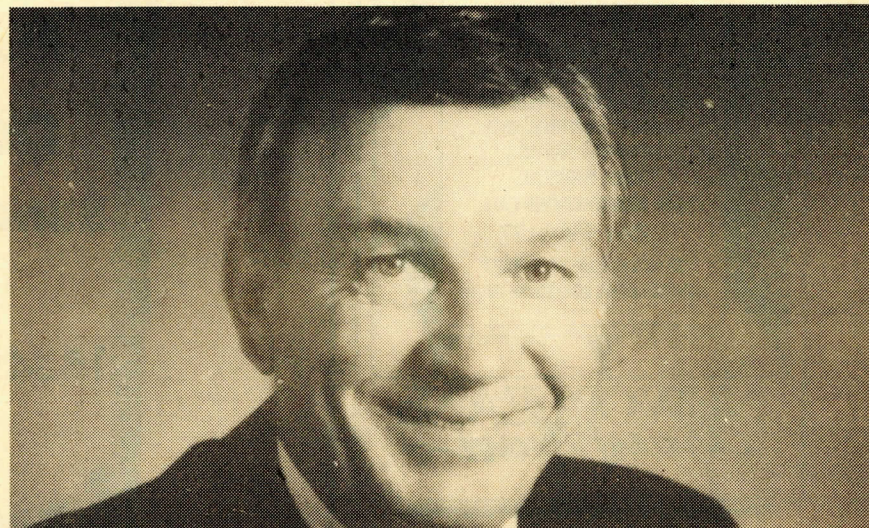
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In Arlington with Dave, Pat and Gary.



Time Magazine award to Tom Gray.

MOTHERS—tacky. The place was jumping. It was THE RANCH Sunday during the Quest for Mr. Right. it was very nice to see all the astrodome cowboys fill the place, they must have announced it on the big score board. Some one told that Justin Albit was very friendly. . . This Sunday the Quest moves to VENTURE-N giving everyone a chance to see the new changes and meet someone in time to rush off to HUNDRED SPIRIT'S 7:30 show to help the MONTROSE COUNTRY CLOGGERS get to California Rodeo. All these subtle hints coming from the crew at the JPCORD. They ain't that nice and that quiet for nuttin'. That allegator smile on Prince's face means something is up. . . Different organizations are pulling together to give a boost to THE WESTHEIMER COLONY ART FEST. Entertainment is being signed up. Negotiations with the City may bring two Showmobiles to the 300 and 500 block of Westheimer, but space is needed to park those monsters. Give Bob Bagot, THE TIRE PLACE 529-1414 a ring if you want to HELP. . . April 19 & 20. . . Our CONNOISSEUR RESTAURANT for soft shell crab on the plate next to stuffed shrimp. Saturday it was the aged black angus beef. . . Until Next Friday, CAN WE TALK?

Question of the week: Who won tickets to see Barbara Mandrell for UT Medical Center's Go Texan BEST DRESSED COWBOY?

Answer for last week: Mays' Naturally!

TOM'S PRETTY FISH

Black mollies are the most popular seller at TOM'S PRETTY FISH, 224 Westheimer. Why not? They are easy to care for, no trouble and multiply like rabbits. Brawny Ken Edwards showed me around while attorney/owner, Tom Graham, was out. Tom has fed a childhood interest in fish into a business. Fish are not as expensive as they look. Ken showed me Bettas with a bowl come to \$7.00. These are the famous Siamese Fighting Fish with spectacular colors: blue/black; rose/purple; magenta/iridescent. Muscular Ken also showed me a special introductory offer of a 10 gallon tank, heater, gravel, filter, pump, tubing, hood, lights, dual valve, aquarium guide and thermometer, all for \$44.95. All you add is plants, fish and love as the sign says. Tom also stocks birds and supplies and guinea pigs. Fish tanks have long been used as therapy for stress. Relaxation. Mesmarization. Or a hypnotic state from loosing yourself into the fantasy world of an aquarium can develop. 520-6443 . . .

by Elroy Forbes

Houston Foto Fest hosts North America's first international Month of Photography—March 1-31, 1986—sixty-four exhibits in museums, galleries and public spaces. From March 1-15, a hundred distinguished photographers, curators, critics, and editors will share their experience in seminars, workshops and portfolio reviews. Plan on attending
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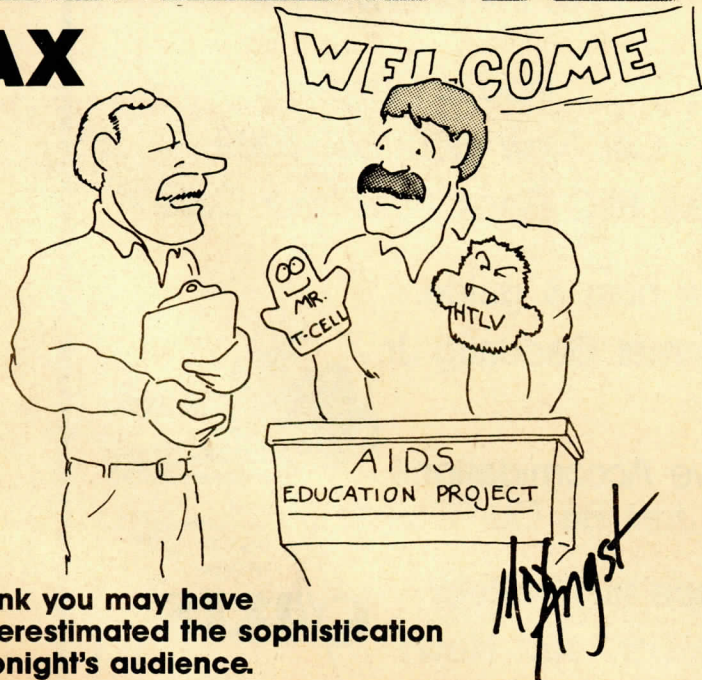
Bob Novotney, proprietor of Texas Junk Company, leaves no stone unturned in his search for great junk.

Texas Junk Company

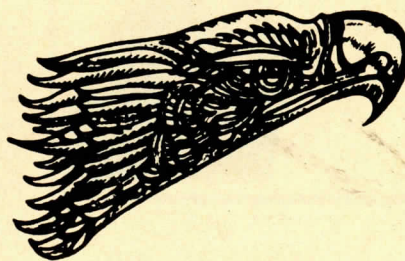
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HOROSCOPES

by Karen Brown

(Sister Inez is on vacation this week)

Friday Feb. 28 —Thursday March 6, 1986

ARIES: Face the music this week. Avoiding issues will only cause trouble later on. Life is too short to waste in shallow pursuits at this time, and it's time for you to stand up and be counted.

TAURUS: Your bullish behaviour will get the best of you this week, if you don't start curbing your appetite for power. You must take time to search your heart for truer goals.

GEMINI: Your real instincts are getting you in an adventurous mood this week. The call of the outdoors will lure you into the woods or away to the mountains. If at all possible, follow this instinct and you will derive great pleasure from it.

CANCER: You are listening to advice from the wrong people. Beware of those who offer their advice too readily. They may be luring you into a trap for some reason that will become known only after it's too late.

LEO: Career is a big issue with you this week. Jupiter harrasses you again, and your sleep is affected. Worrying doesn't help the job any, so search deep inside for an answer to your problems. Listen to your inner voice.

VIRGO: Your negative side is coming out this week. People are noticing that you aren't your usual happy self. Try not to be quite so finicky. Don't make an issue out of imperfections of others.

LIBRA: Your indecision about someone's intentions will lead to heartbreak if you insist on dwelling too much upon it. Your natural tendency is to manipulate, but try to fight it and let things take care of themselves.

SCORPIO: Your ability to see into other people's psyches will enable you to make good decisions about career opportunities this week. You are in a very clear frame of mind and must take advantage of it.

SAGITTARIUS: Don't get so upset over trivial matters. You can't see through the haze caused by Mars in your third house of reason this month. Try and reduce stress. Take warm baths by candle light. Get a nice back rub from someone you love.

CAPRICORN: Sex is the issue this week. You are overwhelmed with urges that cannot be controlled. Because Venus is battling with Mars over your psyche, you will find your urge to love in conflict with basic animal needs. Any encounter you have this week will prove exceptionally provocative.

AQUARIUS: Your inability to show emotion has lost you a friend or potential lover in the past, and now it threatens your relationships again. You must begin to express affection to those you love, otherwise you will find yourself alone.

PISCES: Money matters are growing very important these days. You are having cash flow problems, and may find yourself canceling an important trip or needed extravagance. Have more patience and save so that you can really afford it in the future.

QUESTIONS? If you have any questions concerning yourself or a lover, please address them to **SISTER INEZ**, c/o Houston Forum. Please include your birth date, place, and time (if known). I will answer as time and space permits. Inez.

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MONA

Dear Mona:

My lover and I have been together for three and one-half years. Just recently we realized that our sex life isn't what it used to be. We are still very much in love and depend on each other a great deal, but our mutual sex appeal has dwindled to almost nothing. We have agreed to not "trick out" or have three-ways because of the risk involved. Can you offer any suggestions? We don't want to break up, we just want to improve our sex life. Unfortunately, neither of us is very creative when it comes to sex.

Thank You

Sex is slow in the suburbs

Dear S.I.S.I.S:

I feel like Dr. Ruth Westheimer. Your priority to devotion and safety is most admirable and wise. Your situation is more common than you realize, and the options are almost endless. I only wished I had more details so I could offer a more specialized solution. "Three-ways" are not totally out of the question, they can be safe. However, you should start expanding on your own sex life as a couple before luring a third party. Fantasy is the answer. Start doing it in new places or dress up in sexually exciting costumes, etc. I am a firm believer in surprise stimulation. In other words, think of a "hot" situation that you know appeals to your other half. Set the stage and be ready for him/her when they come home from work. Throw those inhibitions in the garbage can. If you have been together for 3 plus years, there should be no problem in trying new things. Additionally, when couples have been together awhile, it is very easy to fall into ruts. You may just be out of habit. Keep trying. It is such a shame "Mona" is anonymous. How you would truly enjoy a little "one on two" physical therapy.

Mona

ADVICE



Dear Mona:

Every week I see the princess caricature above your column. What do you really look like? Are you a man of a woman? And, what is your age? I love your answers and look forward to your column every week. I have always been curious about your appearance. Don't you think your readers should know? Also, do you ever make up letters from your readers?

Wondering about Mona

Dear W.A.M:

I am whatever my readers want and perceive. In my own valued opinion, "vivacious" would be a most accurate description. Furthermore, I would give away my Mother's wedding band before I would give away my age. And, no I never make up letters (I lie from time to time), but I never make up letters. Thank you for your flattering interest, but please save the personal questions for Ms. Landers or Ms. Bombeck. They handle them so much better than I do.

MONA the Magnaminous

Write Ms. Mona B. Right, C/O The Houston Forum, 1110 Bayland, Houston, Texas 77009

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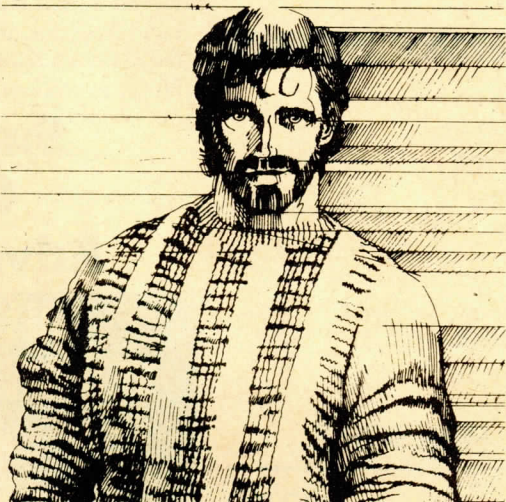


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NETWORK

By Jeff Bray

Getting ready for another trip to California is always something that takes a great amount of energy for me. No one can go to California and expect to really relax like he thinks he will. I made the mistake long ago, going to California to visit friends I hadn't seen in years, thinking that I would spend all my time on the beach, watching the ocean lap up against the sand. I was rudely surprised.

My first impression was seeing Los Angeles from the air. As the jet came over the mountains to the southwest of the city, I looked out the window and thought, "My God! Someone has dropped an H-bomb on that city over there!"

Well, it didn't take long to realize that I was looking at the air over Los Angeles—a deep yellow-brown haze that hovered over the entire area like some smokey glass dome.

And underneath, the city went on and on. We flew for fifteen minutes over dense open urban development. Now although Houston is vast, we at least have heavily forested land that hides most of the sprawl under a cool, dark canopy of dense greenery. L.A. has no such camouflage. Its subdivisions sprawl into the horizon, blatantly open to view, shocking the senses with the vastness of it all.

My friend, R (as I will call him), met me at the airport, looking exactly the same as he had in high school. R. had been preppy before the word had even been invented, and he had worn that prep proudly throughout the six years since we had last seen each other. He greeted me warmly, then led me outside to his BMW, which had been a birthday present from B, his lover.

It's always a bad sign, you know, when you are immediately told that a beautiful automobile was given as a birthday present. It shows more pride in the giver than in the person who received it. But then, I had been in many BMW's in my life, and getting into another was no big deal.

Immediately, we sped off into the dense Los Angeles traffic which reminded me of Houston traffic in every way, except that the people were not as friendly. There are no "Drive Friendly" signs on L.A. freeways.

Their house was in Hancock Park, one of inner L.A.'s more fashionable and exclu-

sive older subdivisions. The homes stood in stately rows, with Mediterranean, Moorish and English Half Timber facades under shady trees. There were very few Colonial or Greek Revival pillars, reminiscent of River Oaks, but it was a very nice neighborhood. R's house was a wonderful Mediterranean pile, completely remodelled to look neo-Moorish in a nice California stucco way.

I remember dealing with jet lag, and the almost overwhelming material wealth of my friends there, but what was most difficult to deal with was the complete boredom that enveloped their lives. They didn't do anything in their spare time, except maybe some gardening or some shopping. You always hear of that California Lifestyle, but it's not as laid back as it may seem! In fact, B works very hard, having invented Gravity Boots. His sports equipment business keeps him extremely busy, traveling around the country and running a factory and marketing office.

They drove me all over L.A., and I was deeply impressed by the beauty of the geography, and by the raw power of nature all around. It's rather disquieting to be sitting at a traffic light and see boiling tar pits to the left, and a large K-Mart shopping complex to your right.

Everywhere we went, B would point something out, and he would say, "Wouldn't that type of bush look great in our yard?" and R would shrug his shoulders and grimace replying, "Do you really think it's US?"

In fact, throughout the entire trip, I kept hearing the same thing over and over — "Do you think that's US?" That's not Us. Now that would be Us.

We went to the ocean without B, because he felt that the sand reflected harmful ultra violet radiation that would ruin his skin. Besides, the beach was not Us! I walked into the ocean, and was immediately sucked under, rolled around, scraped over the bottom, jerked back up, thrown back down, and literally beaten to a pulp by the violent waters! This was not the gentle Gulf! It was refreshing, kind of like a sudden electrocution can be refreshing... R then told me that he and B were going to pay a woman from a "reputable agency" to have a baby for them. They said it's really a popular thing to do these days, and besides, he had always wanted a baby, and B really wanted a child to carry on the family name. I was ready to leave by then.

The weirdest thing about L.A. was that I kept feeling like I was tilting. There were mountains on one side, and ocean on the other, and I always felt like if I fell down, I'd simply start rolling, and wouldn't stop until I hit the water.

As we were driving back to the airport, I finally asked R what it would take for something to be us. I'm positive that he really didn't think about his reply. He just said it naturally. He said, "Well, it would have to be BEAUTIFUL!"

Yes, the beautiful people, surrounded by beautiful things. They say that everyone is moving to California. Maybe someday I'll even live there. But for now, it's a nice place to visit. It's weird, and it's beautiful and ugly at the same time, and the people are into their own world, almost removed from the rest of the country. But then, living in Texas is like living in another country, also, and I'm not so sure that either lifestyle could be considered as being Us.

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LEASE OR OWN

Yes, that is the question. Jim Merring told me that his leased Dodge Van is \$150 per month cheaper than owning it! Debbie Gregory at San Jacinto Leasing, 974 CARS gave me some good pointers. It is cheaper to lease than to own. What can you get for your old heap anyway? Have you heard what people are getting as trade-in allowances? There is less up front money, especially with no deposit of 20% down of total purchase. Usually you pay the first month lease plus fees as opposed to a purchase. The lease does not tie up your line of credit. What a relief to those who live by plastic! If the lease is for business, there is a definite tax advantage. Debbie pointed out a rule of thumb for leasing: Each deal is an individual arrangement. Usually the savings on a mid priced car is anywhere from \$50 to \$150 per month; on a luxury model, the savings can easily be \$200 to \$350 per month.

San Jacinto Leasing started business in 1926. Over the years they have established very large fleet accounts with many different dealers. This enables them to give you not only a car of your choice but a nice break in the interest rates due to their large volume. San Jacinto Leasing is one of the top leasing companies in Houston. They are also creative. They use eight to ten different funding sources in order to arrange the car you want within your budget.

In leasing the big convenience is lack of trade in and loss of value. When you are ready, you turn one car in and check out another one. This frees your borrowing strength, especially when you plan to purchase a home. You really do not have to deal with money down on a car and the terrible cost of depreciation of your automobile. The idea of leasing is terrific for people who want a new car every 2 to 3 years. It is one of those arrangements where you can get the most with least money tied up. You have to cover your own insurance and maintenance. So if you have a bad driving record, this will not hide your responsibility. Leasing is a new alternative way to financing your goals. It enables you to step up to a more luxurious car at a time in your financial history, when you might be turned down for a purchase. Most people agree, if you qualify to lease, it will be the best financial decision you will ever make. Terms are usually 2 to 5 years.

Explore the lease idea. Call Debbie or Robbie at San Jacinto Leasing, 974-CARS and talk it out. If you qualify and sign up, they offer a \$300 referral system for you... How can you lose?

by Elroy Forbes

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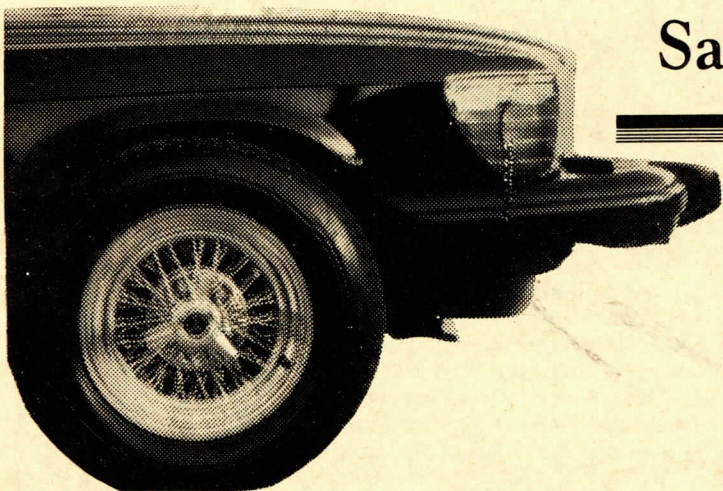
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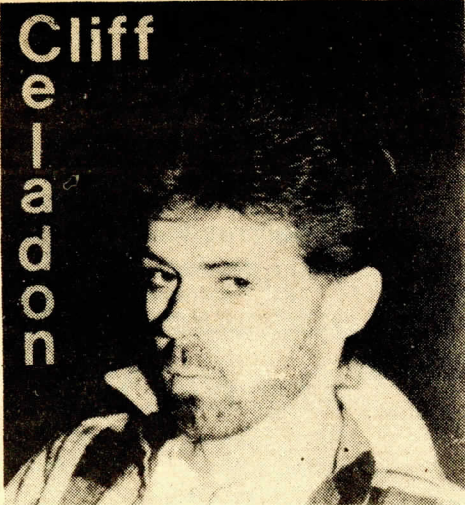
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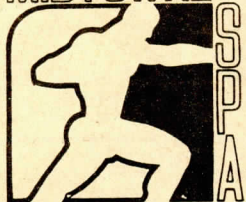
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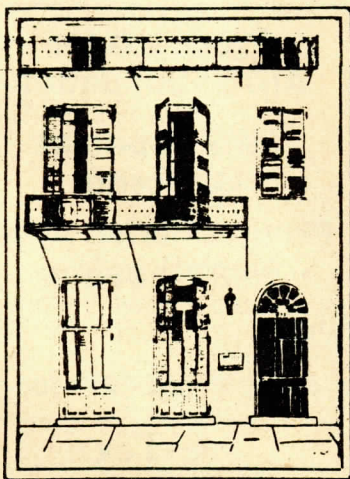
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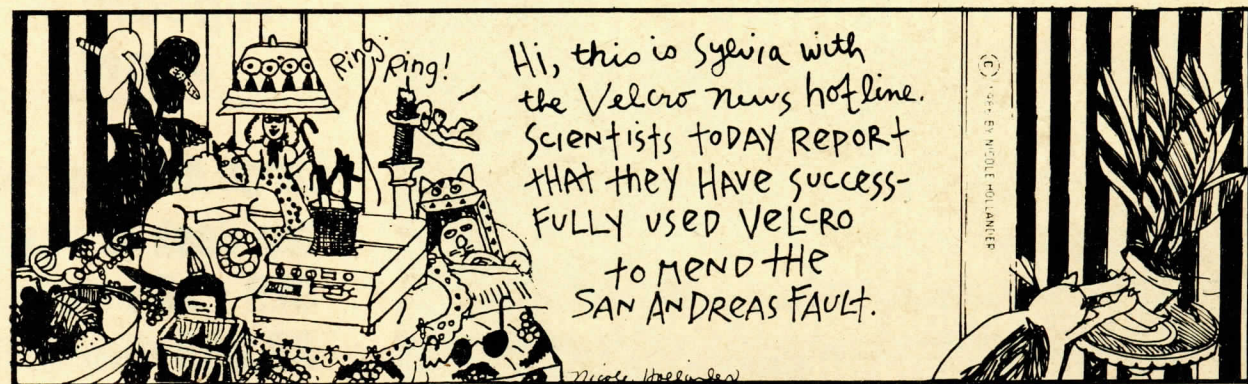
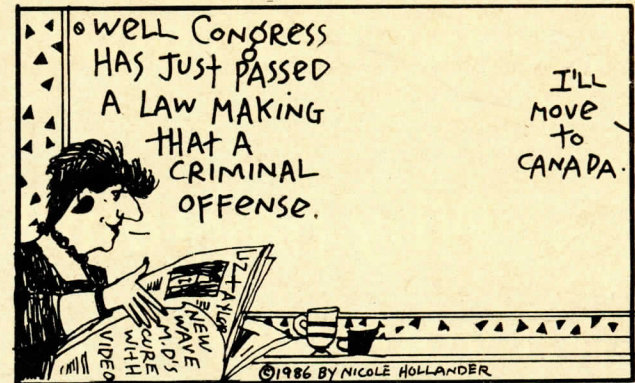
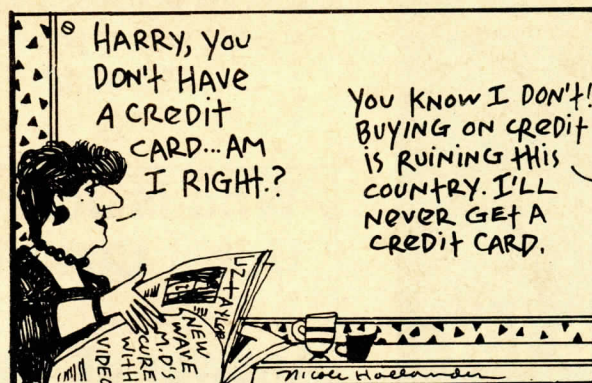
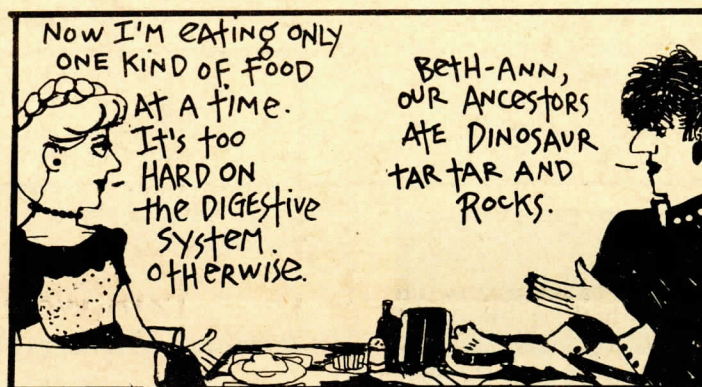
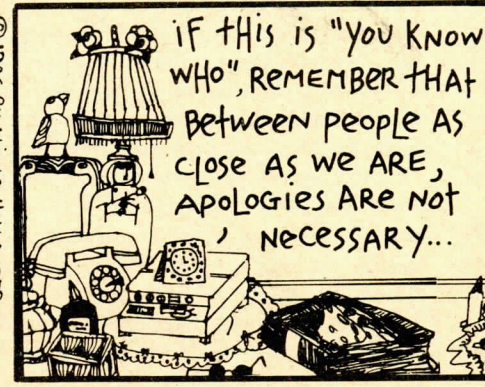
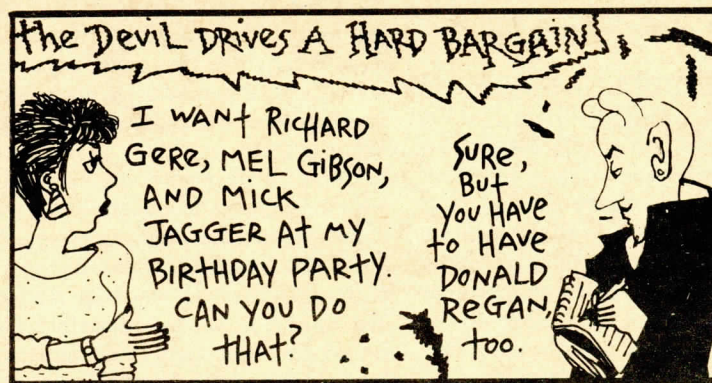
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THE FORUM'S EXCLUSIVE SOAP OPERA

THIS WEEK — 77006

CLIFF: At long last done with his bitter taste of our judicial system—Judge X and F. Lee Bile sadistic sexual delights—and all at his expense—both sexually and financially—CLIFF is free at last, free at last. Now he is finally happily ensconced in Sally Big Bucks' Montrose Mansion and can really enjoy the inheritance she's left him. Strange to think that old brod - mainlining and freebasing crystal and cocaine would finally leave it all to HIM—when she overdosed! Life can be and sure is strange.

Now FREE, it is high time to just get out of Dodge—slap a few brazziers in a suit case—and waltz across Texas for starters! How about a new corvette. With cash Cliff gets a hefty discount and bright whore red one is sitting there on the lot ready to go. Let's just follow the sun West and just while away the time tripping our tits off speeding along where the Tumble Weeds Roll.

Well, only in Texas could you pass through a burg named "Armadillo Crossing" -not spot a single soul and have it all flash before you in less than a 10 second radio spot. Whirr—Whirr—Whirr!! Lord, the highway patrol on my trail! Judy Justice again!! or it could be Lily Law!!! Whisked and frisked rather intimately off to a loonely highway patrol station just outside Armadillo Crossing—with four lonely, desperate troopers! What is poor Cliff to do? If lucky—one phone call! To whom?? Our "good" friend Judge X or F. Lee Bile —"No convic-

tions quaranteed!" What happens at this god-forsaken spot when the sun goes down? But then two of them aren't half bad! Hmmm.

FORMICA DINETTE: Her best girlfriend is getting quite worried. Trixie huddles ALONE in Maries Unnaturally day after day without Formica trying to figure out where in the world she has disappeared to. She's read about FOUL PLAY in all the local fag rags-and even one prominent local publisher got done in! God knows that Formica can be one playful Drag Queen and God knows she is always looking for Mr. Goodbar, too! Trixie just can't understand why Formica is SO unhapy with Hung-N-How and his lusty attentions. What's a few carpet burns—knees, back, and chest! A nice thick shag—good pile - with padding (God knows Formica knows about padding) would have been the answer. All the B.S. about secretarial school and a new life as a downtown steno! Please!!

Finally, a week passes and Trixie ambles down after 12 Long Island Iced Teas to the Yoko Ono Modeling Studios and gets the courage to ring the bell. Nope—no one claims to know a thing about poor Formica—but Trixie's "wo(man)'s intuition" (her very feminine side) telling her there is something amiss and she "senses" Formica's presence, her vibes, her very being thereabouts. She waits til after closing and enlists the aid of a street hustler (a darling young thing—Lance) and he boosts her up on his massive shoulders and there in the office—she gets a glimpse—poor FORMICA !! Dog collar and leash—the whole nine yards!!

Incredible-and gagged with one of her own black fish net stockings!!! Hand-cuffed to the legs of Hung-N-How's massive office desk! What to do?? Even the "nice" officers at the local substation would not believe this very perplexed and frightened drag-queen!! What to do???

LANCE: Well, after doing his good deed with some crazed drag-queen-Trixie was her name—his luck has finally improved!! Good ole Chuck is back from the hill country and is drinking heavily, smoking madly, and driving a fabulous new convertible. Time to hit pay dirt or get out of Dodge and find that John for the winter—even though spring is about to spring.

Chuck is thrilled to see Lance too—and the good times roll. Mellow and relaxed—just what it should be like. Not all those kinks, kooks, whackos, and wierdos!! Chuck even announces that his two older brothers have demanded he bring a "bride" a new boyfriend home to the ranch. How about home on the range—with good ole Chuck?? It would be great to get out of the sleaze of Lower Westheimer—if only for a short while—til boredom with ranch life and Chuck and his brothers set in!

Well, it's off to the Hill Country—Lance finally-a bride—a bride at last-somewhat of the mail-order type — but hell that's good enough for now! It won't be that bad stabled and bred out on their family ranch—or will it???

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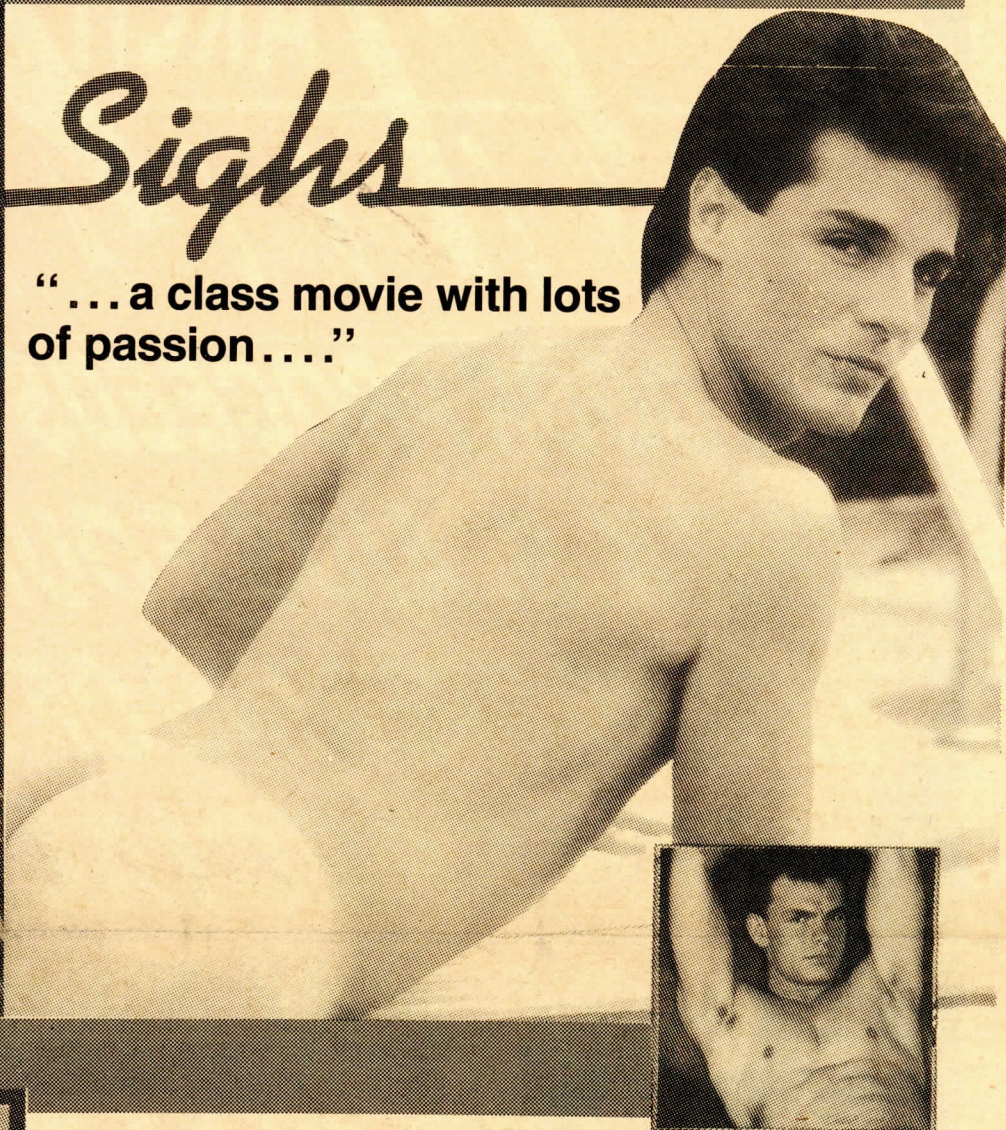
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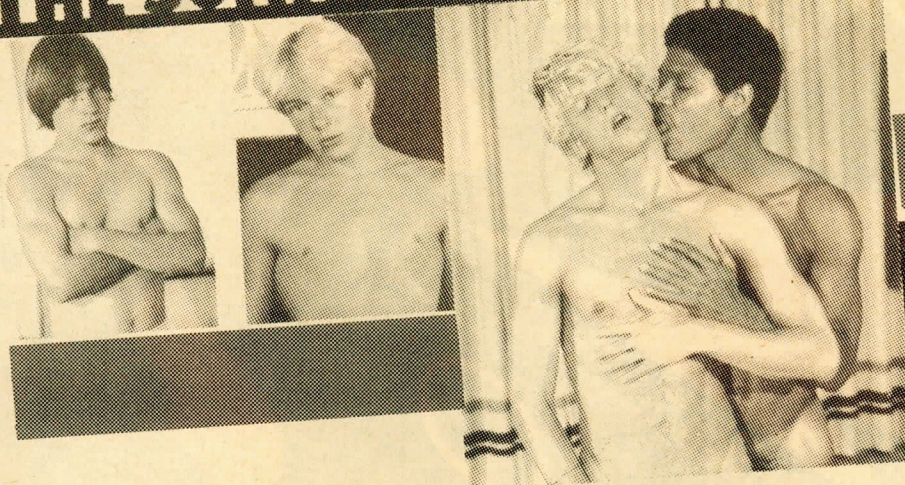


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