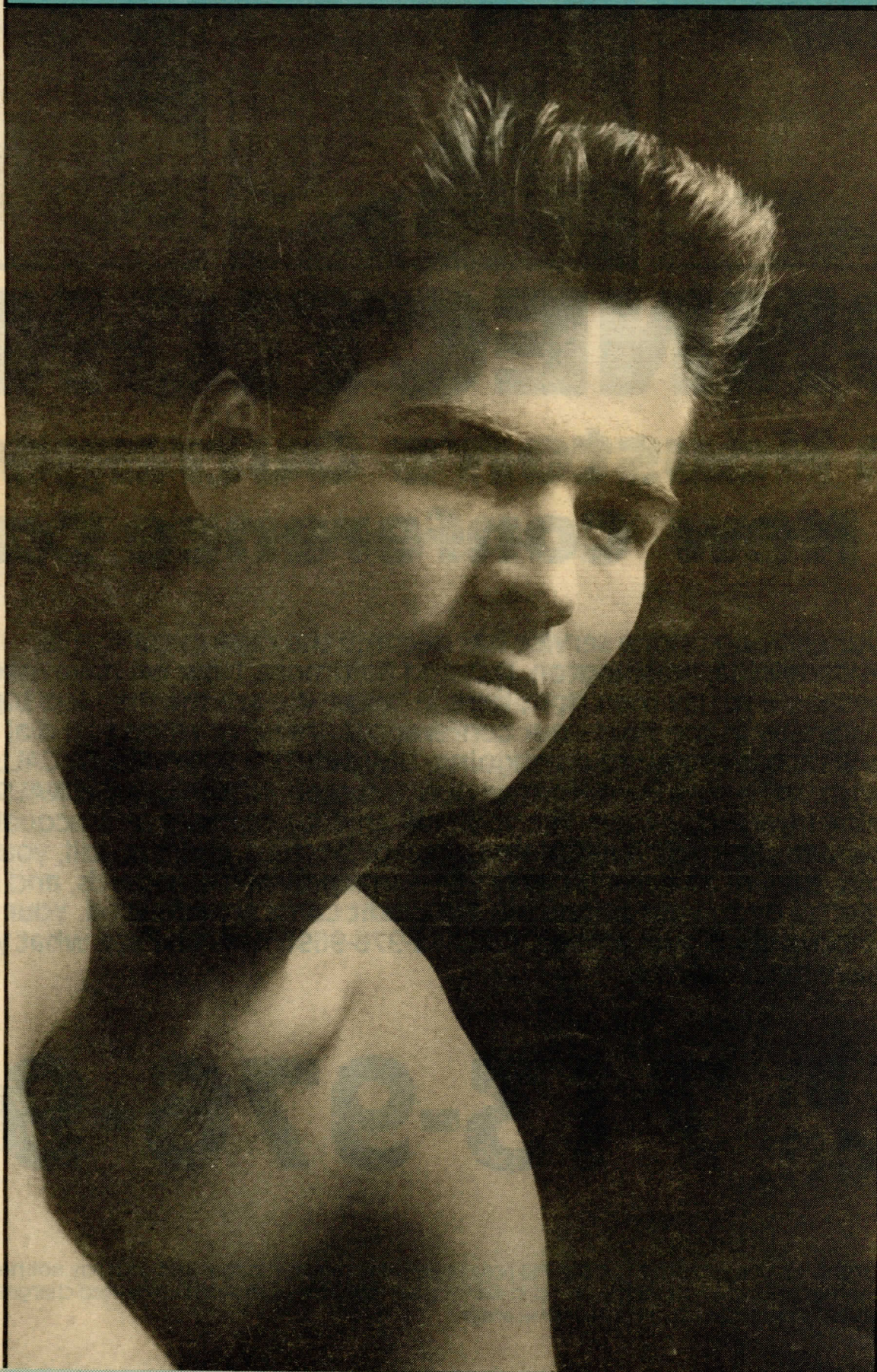


Volume 3, Number 18

T E X A S FORUM

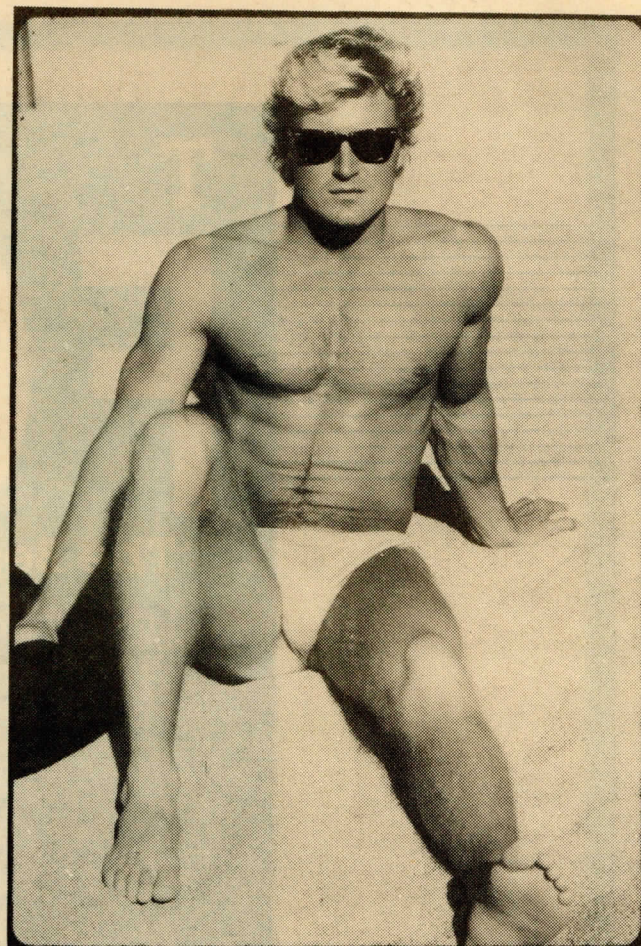
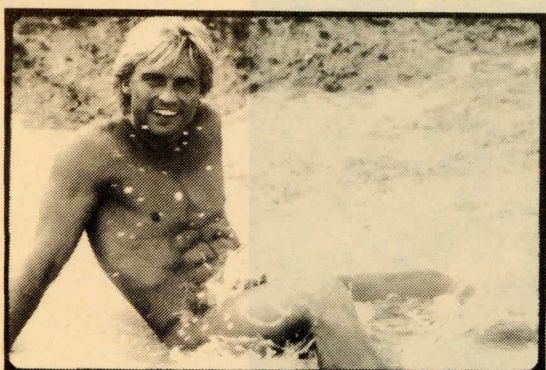
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TEXAS FORUM

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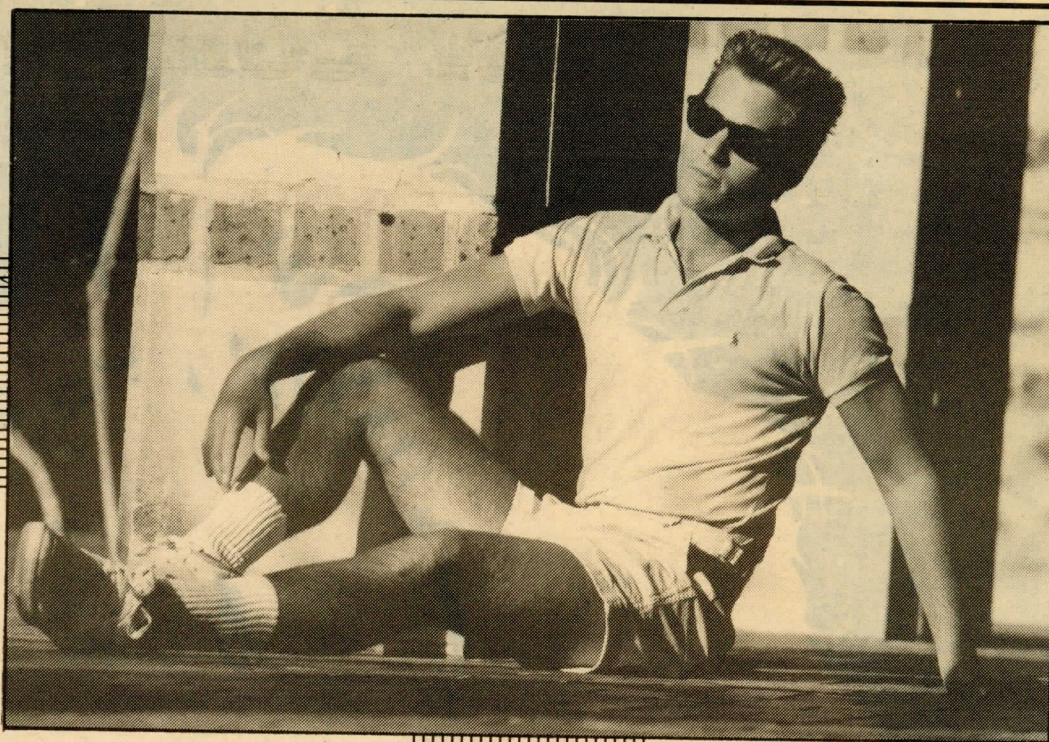
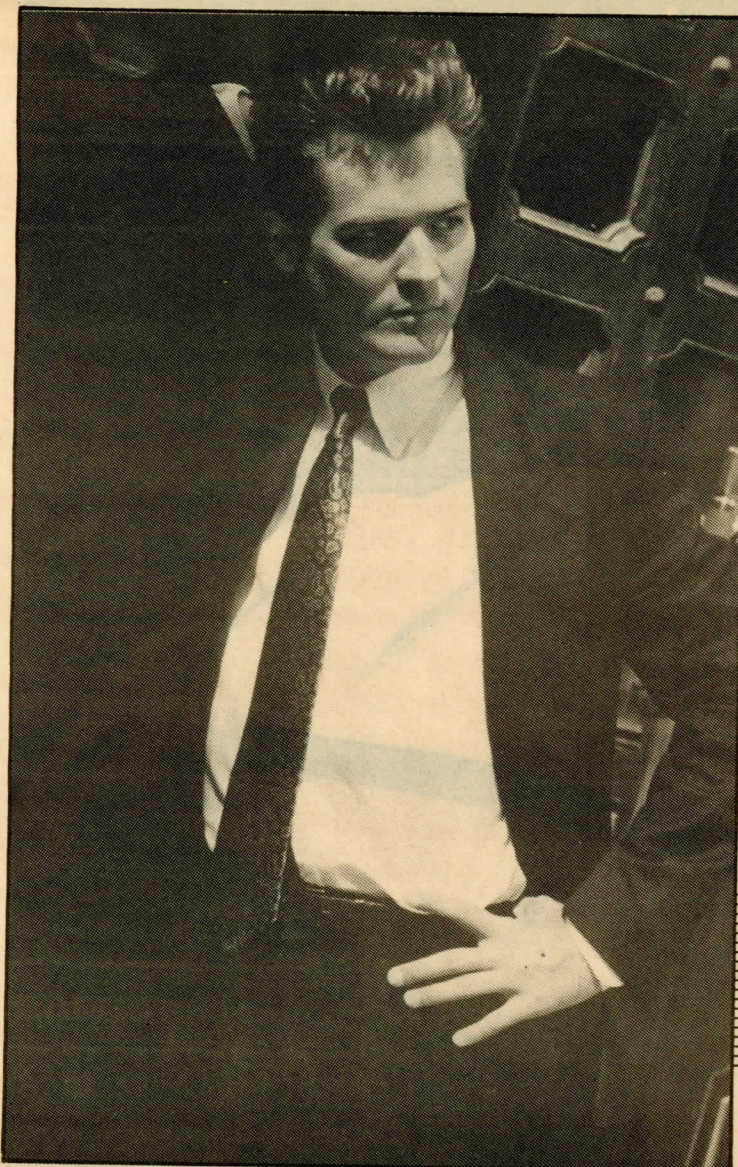
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BEHIND THE FRONT COVER

CARL



Carl is originally from Big "D". . . . Quite a looker, huh? He now lives in Houston and works as a bartender at the ever-so-popular Galleon. Drop by sometime and say hello!

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LET'S GET REAL

"If All Else Fails, Punt"

By Randy Brown

Why must there always be an editorial? Sure, the world knows that I'm one of the most opinionated people around, and that this column has been filled with my views on everything from religion to shopping to the death penalty, but is there really a good reason why this space must be filled each and every week with some important subject, or at least a subject of some kind?

It's not that I don't have a bunch of subjects to cover. For one thing, I'm in the midst of some very major changes in the paper itself, and I had intended to write about those changes, explaining, enumerating, illuminating, etc. But, I am so busy trying to get all those changes together that I really don't have time to sit down and write a cohesive, intelligent and comprehensive report on all that's going on.

For any new readers of this paper (and I am going to have to assume that there will be *thousands* more readers this week), I need to explain something about what this rag is all about. It's not just a newspaper. It's not just a bar guide. It's not just the regular, run-of-the-mill periodical. It's a paper of opinion. When you read most of what is in these pages, you will find the writers looking at what is going on in our world and commenting on it. Sometimes, we are very funny, and sometimes we are very, very serious. But, we are always analyzing what is going on around us.

Since I became the editor of the paper, I have written on subjects that affect us as a community (AIDS, organizational politics, gay rip-offs) as well as those things that affect us as Texans (South Texas Nuclear Project, prison problems, state elections) and as people in the world at large. We looked at the absurdities of religions long before the Jim and Tammy thing blew

across the headlines. We have promoted various plays that deal with subjects that are of particular concern to us. We always try to give our best shot about promoting events and organizations that benefit the community.

But we don't just do this to see our opinions in print. We do it to inspire opinions in our readers as well. We like to hear from the community. We love to get feedback.

It's not just a newspaper. It's not just a bar guide. It's not just the regular, run-of-the-mill periodical. It's a paper of opinion.

We want to know what you think. We don't care if you agree with us or not. That is why this paper is called the **FORUM**. Sure, we have a million opinions within the staff itself, but we always can make room for your opinion. On any subject. Now, we can't publish slanderous attacks on other people or extremely long, rambling dissertations, but I know you wouldn't send anything like that in anyway.

Who knows, you might write in something that would give me a new idea for an editorial. Something that would give me a chance to ask my illustrator to do some great little cartoon. Something that would inspire other people to write in also.

After all, the world is changed by what people think. If you think that one person's opinion can't change the world, you haven't been paying attention to history. Certainly, knowledge is more important than opinion, philosophically, but opinion

based on knowledge is the wheel that turns the historical world of man.

And when I say "man," I mean all people regardless of gender. I have a rogue feminist friend who once told me, "Isn't it interesting that women share in being men, but men don't share in being women?" After that, I never had a problem with including women in the terms "man" or "mankind," but I really think that we men should have our own separate word for ourselves, also. You know, that might be a good subject for an editorial.

All right, I confess. I had *nothing* really to write about this week. I am worked to death, and I am writing this whole thing off the top of my head. I am trying to get something down that is interesting enough not to be scoffed at without committing myself to any research or heavy thought.

Reading over this, I can see that I have succeeded in writing something that shows no heavy thought whatsoever.

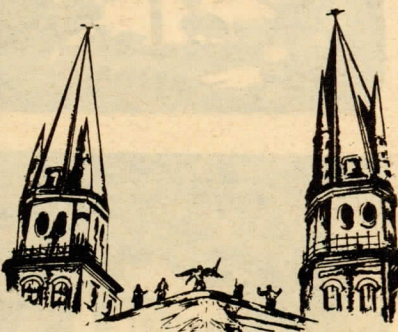
But back to the original question: Why must there always be an editorial?

Well, the answer is that the top half of this page would look very stupid if it were blank.

And talking about blank, my mind has just gone that way. I wonder if someone in the production department has some kind of little graphic that we can stick at the end of this column to fill up the rest of the space. . . .

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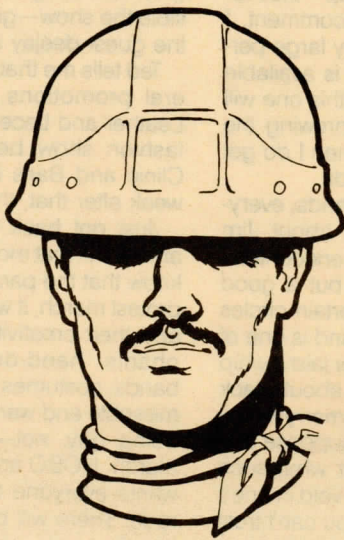
FRIDAY & SATURDAY
11PM

Fabulous Drag Show!
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SUNDAY
Splash Day Party!
In Galveston
Chartered Bus Leaves
Between 9 & 10AM

TUESDAY
Men's Night Out
75¢ Well • 50¢ Draft
8-10PM

Closed Mondays

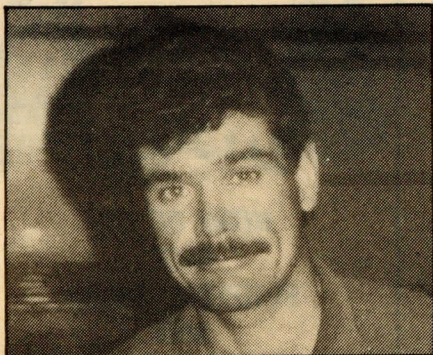


Coming Sunday, May 10th
C & W DANCE BAND
"MESSENGERS"
9PM

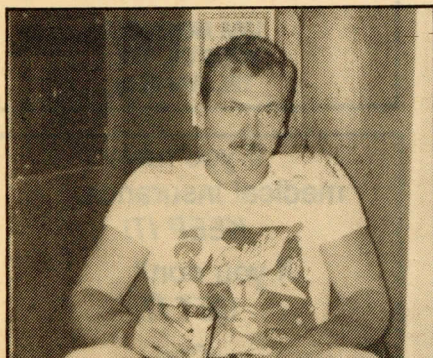
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HOUSTON . . . by Bar Wilson

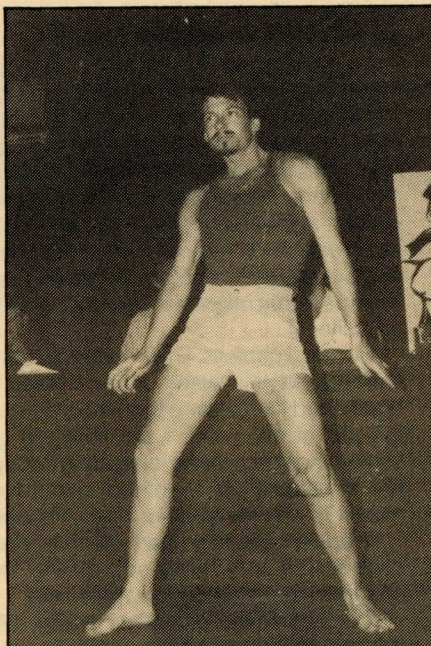
Well kiddies, it's that time of year again. Yes, that's right . . . it's time for the last (and biggest) albino black woman (moi) to turn the corner on another year. For those of you who don't speak English, it's time for Bar Wilson's birthday party. This year I have decided to hold my party at Chutes on May 10, starting at 6 p.m. It will feature a multi-talented benefit show for Omega House. Some wonderful drag acts along with some singers, dancers, stand-up comics, and heaven knows what else, followed by a buffet and outdoor movies. I haven't decided if we are going to have a watermelon eating contest yet or not. However, I do think it will be a lot of fun and I do sincerely hope that you will take this as your invitation to come out and make my birthday a day to remember.

If you aren't there I can promise that my sister Chola will put the juju on you and I will speak badly of you in this column. Promise!

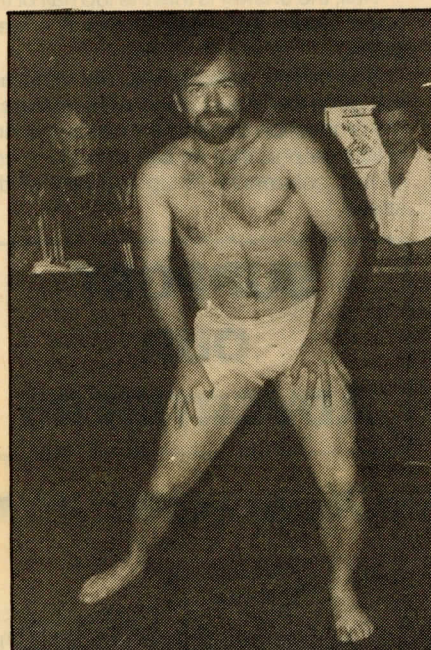
Speaking of birthdays, Crossover Katy and I have the same birthdate, May 5, however, since that falls during the middle of the week and because Ms. Katy had already planned her party for that time, I decided that the weekend would work for my party and that way I also get to be a special guest at her blowout while she has promised to do something outrageous for mine.

Wasn't Art Festival weekend something? I was a little bit disappointed in the turnout this year in comparison to last. But everyone seemed to have a real good time.

I was upset with one particular piece of bull that was and is going on. This idiot handed me a flyer from a group that calls themselves CLEAN. The basic premise of this group is that they get tested for AIDS. Then they are issued this Clean card and can live happily ever after. The Clean group does the testing. No mention is made of any counseling or anything else if you turn up positive. They also have social functions you can attend if a member, etc. What really appalled me was the wonderful language that was used in the flyer like, "sentenced to condom condemnation,"



Butch, Chutes.



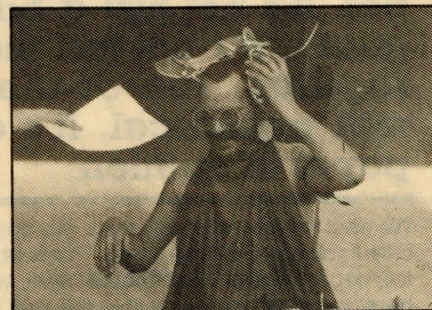
Jonathon, Chutes.

etc. In short, the entire idea of the group is to make money off the AIDS scare. Mind you, I don't object if people make a living off of something—but to earn money off people's fears and to also fan the fires of AIDS hysteria is down right dispicable. And that is what I told them at the festival and have tried to get an appointment to interview the founder of this group—thus far he hasn't been available for comment. I am taking applications for very large persons to go with me when he is available 'cause I have the feeling that this one will need to be restrained from throwing the twirp through a wall or two when I do get the chance to lay on the hands.

Speaking of laying on the hands, everyone now has been hearing about Jim Bakker's alleged homosexual encounters. I personally never had him, but a good friend of mine says that in certain circles Jimmy was very well known and is one of the kinkiest little devils that ever laid a whip across her back. Something about black fishnet stockings, a scarlet merrywidow and spiked heels. Oh well, I suppose that we shouldn't be surprised at what such people do but it sure leaves a void in one's beliefs when you know that you can't trust the government 'cause they admit to lying to the people, can't believe in motherhood because of surrogates, and now can't even believe in great religious institutions, because you never know when some transvestite is the minister. Well that is a thought—maybe we can start a new church. I can see it now—stained glass everywhere, and there on stage is Vanna White and the Whore House Girls lube wrestling with Brucella Duval and Patsy Cline. We can call the services, "As the



Sam and Ted, Eagle Leather.



Maria, naturally.



Bette Davis eyes.



Patsy Cline.

Mascara Runs." Or then again, maybe I'm getting just a little twisted.

Did you make it over to Allan Webster's birthday party? It was too wonderful. \$400 plus dollars were raised for Omega House. The haunted house was a bit twisted, but I think that everyone had a real good time. I know that Jim Madrid did when she sang "God Bless America." (You stole the show—girlene!) Ram Rocha was the guest deejay and the music was hot.

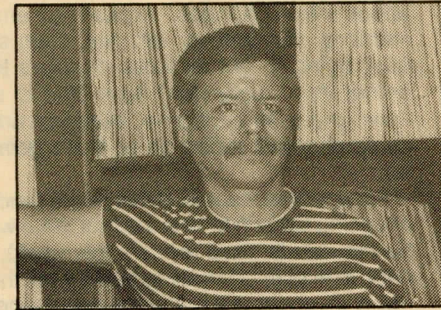
Ted tells me that Chutes is planning several promotions. This weekend is the Leather and Lace Party. Next week is the fashion show benefiting the Montrose Clinic and Bar's birthday party, and the week after that, the strip finals. Whew!

Just got back from a HOB0 meeting and I think that most of you will be happy to know that the parade is on! It will not be a protest march, it will be a parade of people and their creativity. Horses, camels, elephants, hand-drawn floats, marching bands, costumes, twirlers, etc. are all permissible and wanted! It is a celebration of being gay, not—repeat, not—a protest march. HOB0 and the parade committee wants everyone to participate in the parade. There will be no professional floats, but then any respectable queen I know can take 10 feet of fabric and two boards and make something wonderful out of it. I remember last year's parade. When the switchboard entry came by with the dancing telephones—it was a hoot! Wonderfully creative and a great addition to the parade. The route is definitely going to go down Westheimer from about Chutes (Parade Central) to the Gay Fest 87 site on Montrose.

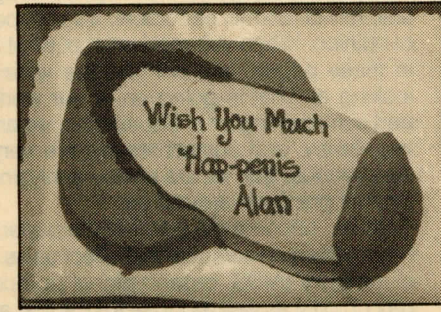
The parade will be in the late afternoon



Jim Madrid.



Ram Rocha.



Just a simple cake.

so the heat will not be too much and you are expected to join in! That's right, after the parade has passed your location, join in the fun and parade down Westheimer. It's going to be a lot of fun and you should be prepared to walk the full 17 blocks without too much trouble, especially since the parade empties right into the Gay Fest. That's where you will be able to listen to music, dance, drink, get information on the organizations, or just party with your brothers and sisters. I am personally involved with the planning of Gay Fest 87 and I am awed by all the experience and energy that has already gone into the planning. It will be the party of the year. Something not to miss.

If you are a member of an organization, be sure to get your organization's booth plans in before the June 1 deadline. If you are planning on being in the parade as a walking entry, don't worry about the cost—as of now there will not be an entry fee and the planners are hoping that as soon as the parade passes where you are you will fall in behind and be proud.

Splash Day is upon us and I want to give you a few tips that may save you a bit of grief. (1) If you don't already have a tan, don't try to get one in one day. The only thing you will accomplish is to burn your fool self. (2) There are at least 12 trains that bring in beer to Texas, and several breweris—you can't possibly drink all the beer, so don't try. (3) Be sure that you have an extra driver who doesn't drink. God alone knows what they do to faggots in Galveston County Jail. (4) Be sure to take an extra set of clothing. It is very refreshing to be in the water, but it is real nice to get out of the mess of wet clothes, too. (5) I don't care how hot the number is you pick up, on-the-beach public sex is not the tea. Yes, mother does remember the fourth level out in the water where the last sandbar is and that good times were had out there. I ask you to remember safe sex and that there are sharks out there and trust me you can't take on a whole shark. (6) Be sure to take along sunscreen and sunglasses—ones that acutally block some of the sun, not that just look wonderful. (7) Be sure that everyone that goes down with you also comes back with you.

CAN WE TALK?

There isn't much that is more hopeless than being abandoned. (8) Be sure to take along extra cash. Credit cards are nice, but cash speaks louder. (9) HAVE FUN!

Finally, I really must tell you about Randy Smith's new escapades. I saw her the other evening with the trick of her choice—David. Of course what David #1 didn't know was that she also had two other victims with her at the same time. I must admit that being introduced to three hot numbers in the same evening is a bit of a chore, but it is extremely frustrating that all three of the men were Randy's date of the evening. I can't ever get the straight story from her about just what she does with all of them, but it must be good 'cause they just keep on coming back. (The only thing that I can figure out is it must be her personality or else they must all be charity.)

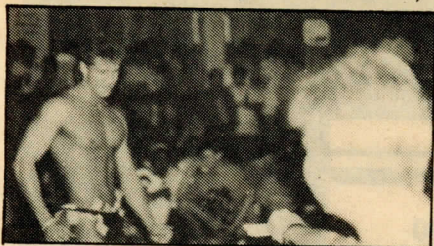
DALLAS . . . by Russ

Hello Dallas!

It was once again a bright and festive weekend. For those of you who helped me celebrate my birthday, let me thank you and say, "I had an unforgettable time—at least what I can remember." One of the birthday cards I received reminded me that I'm not getting younger, as I quote from the card, "You ain't no spring chicken, but your still-finger lickin' good." Thanks Dan.

Speaking of celebrating, High Country had their eighth anniversary, a three-day ordeal that was a party not to be forgotten. The celebration ended on Sunday with free food and drinks. I'll be looking forward to their ninth anniversary party.

The Village Station began last weekend's festivities with those gorgeous male dancers. I happened to catch Reed of the Headliners in action giving the crowd what they wanted. (Wouldn't that be a nice birthday present with a large bow attached.)



Village Station.

Also caught in action was Michael Brown, who has just recently started back working at the Village Station. Stop by and wish him a happy return. (Glad to see you back and looking good.)

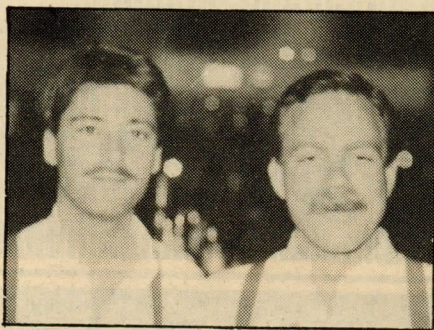


Michael Brown.

Looking good also is Dallas' newest cabaret, Ovations, where appearing on stage last Thursday through Sunday was the fabulous Ricky Graham. Stay tuned for Central Expressway, a forties big band, playing jazz and swing, Thursday through Sunday. Don't miss it—I hear the costumes are fantastic. Mark (r) and Kirk (l) will be there to keep your spirits high with fabulous cocktails.



Ricky Graham.



Mark and Kirk.

Also the Cactus Lounge located on 4605 Maple Ave., has recently opened. Stop by and check it out, but be sure to B.Y.O.B.

Coming soon! Zippers, which will be opening some time around May 5. To be there to greet you will be Roger (Natalie) and Sy (Helen) from the No Name Bar. The bar will be located on 3333 N. Fitzhugh at Travis.

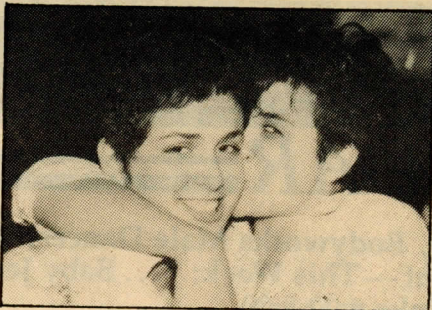
In addition, the Circuit will be coming to Dallas on 4020 Maple Avenue. Get ready for an electrical experience.

Making our way over to Juggs, we found assistant manager, Candi, cranking out tunes from the deejay booth for a crowd that was definitely enjoying themselves.



Juggs.

Needless to say, Julie Ann and Resa were having a great time!



Julie Ann and Reece.

Monday's from 6-8 p.m., Juggs has their Steak Out. B.Y.O.Meal and come join the fun.

For those of you who love to drink and drown, don't forget TRII's legendary free drink nights (Wed., Fri., Sat., from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. and Sun., from 5 p.m. to 2 a.m.). At TRII's Wednesday and Thursday, was the Ms. Dallas County. Congratulations to all for a job well done.

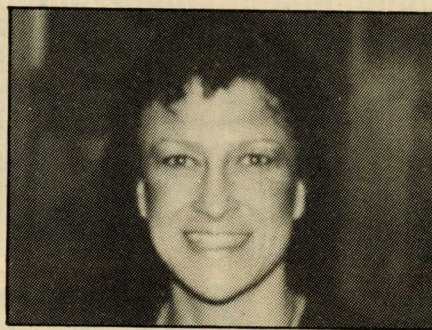
Over at Rumors, Misty and Rachel are ready to make you happy with their super cocktails.



Rumors—Rachel and Misty.

Other news about town included "Sunday in the Park" at John L's, which was a benefit for Design and Interior Furnishing's Foundation for AIDS.

This week in Fort Worth on May 1 at Partners is "Blind Date," an all girls band. Barbara (the manager) will be there to greet you. Hope to see you.



Partners—Barbara.

A special congratulations to La Tonia Regal for winning Miss Heart of Texas America '87.

Your good deed is due, and you'll have a fantastic time doing it. The musical comedy of *The Magic of Peter Pan* is being presented May 17 at 3 p.m. at the Arcadia Theatre, 2005 Greenville. Benefits will go to AIDS Program-OLCC, and the play is said to be quite an extraordinary version of Peter Pan. Also register for a free trip to Las Vegas. If there are any questions or for ticket information, contact (214)357-9911.



Until next week—keep hanging in and sticking to those things in life that make you happy (whatever they may be)!

P.S. This is it boys and girls—Splash Day is this weekend on May 3. Let's see Dallas represented in Austin, and have a happy and safe trip there and back again.

AUSTIN . . . by Philip

Hello Austin!

Has it been a little warm or what? I've been trying to take advantage of the sunshine and have a nice tan before Splash Day, this coming Sunday, May 3, so I won't burn my skin to death! I spent most of Monday at the pool, and my tan is looking pretty good. I'm glad. Now all I need is a new swimsuit.

Frank Serrano of the Private Cellar filled me in on the shuttle information to Hippy Hollow for Splash Day.

If you park at the Texas Tumbleweed on

Highway 2222 or at the County Parking Lot at Mansfield Dam, a shuttle will come by every 30 to 45 minutes to take people to and from Hippy Hollow.

The shuttles will have a police escort to make sure they make it through the traffic, and each person will be charged \$1 to ride the shuttle and be admitted to the park.

It's really a very good idea to ride the shuttle and especially to carpool to cut down on heavy traffic this Sunday.

It's also a good idea to ride instead of drive if you plan on doing any heavy-duty drinking. You know what I mean?

A special thanks to the host bars, The Boathouse, Crossing, Private Cellar, 505, Hall's, Nexus/Petticoat Junction, Sally's Apartment, Snuffy's/Badlands and Uncle Charlie's for keep an Austin tradition alive and well.

This is my last column for the *Austin Mirror*. If you haven't figured it out yet, there is no more *Austin* or *Texas Mirror*. The *Mirrors* have merged with the **TEXAS FORUM**, which is owned and run out of Houston by Randy Brown. The **FORUM** has been in publication for three years.

Randy now has a new partner, Nick Loutchaniiff, of the *Mirror*, who will be the co-publisher of the newly formed **TEXAS FORUM**. Best wishes to Randy, Nick and the **TEXAS FORUM**.

Shannon McCullough, co-editor and publisher of the *Mirrors*, has sold all of his interest in the Austin and Texas *Mirrors* to the **FORUM**. He will contribute a column called **Showbits** to the **FORUM** which I'm positive will be a hit! I know Shannon has all sorts of other projects in the works as it is hard for that boy to sit still for too long at a time. Best wishes to you, Shannon!

Marcy, Shannon and Jim Smith will be celebrity guest bartenders at the 505, East Third Street, Wednesday night. What a riot that should be! Marcy has promised to bring one of the Headliners as her bar-back. In a G-string, maybe?

Well, tomorrow night I'm going to the bowling alley with my roommate to watch the gay bowling teams in action. I've never been because I'm usually at home typing a column on Wednesday night. And don't think I'll actually bowl—forget it! The remainder of the week I'm going to rest up so I'll look fresh and glamorous for Splash Day.

I'm looking forward to meeting Randy and his Houston staff to see what's going on with the new **TEXAS FORUM**. Look for it in the Austin bars.

Meanwhile, I love you Austin. Here's wishing you success, prosperity, peace, and always do safe sex.

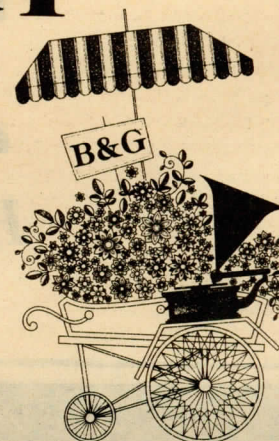
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Thurs. May 7-10

—NO COVER—

CALENDAR

- MONDAYS — "Designing Women" 8:30, Bodyworks Male Dancers 10:30
- TUESDAYS — Camp Classic Movie Night — This Week: "... Baby Jane." 8:00
- WEDNESDAYS — Dynasty/75¢ Well Drinks 8:00-9:00
- THURSDAYS — Live Entertainment
- FRIDAYS — Live Entertainment
- SATURDAYS — Golden Girls 8:00, Live Entertainment
- SUNDAYS — Frozen Margarita \$1/drink, all you can drink \$4 4:00-Closing

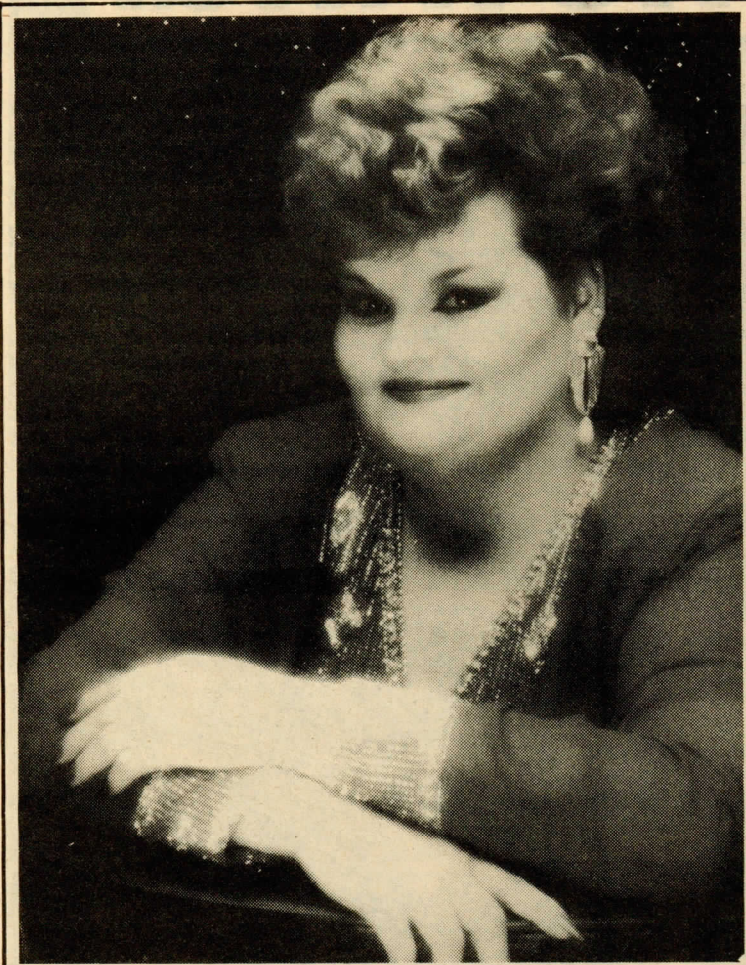
HAPPY HOUR SPECIAL

25¢ WELL DRINKS

4:00-6:00 PM DAILY

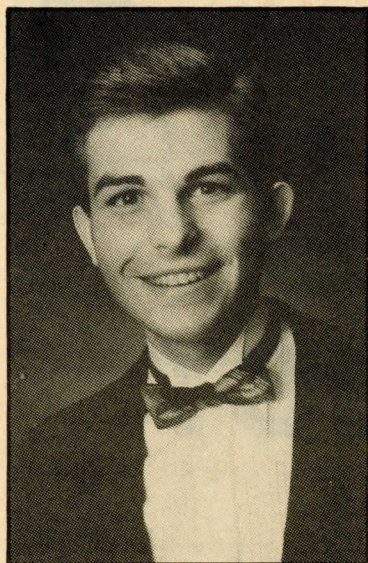
Happier Hour \$1.25 Well Drinks, 6:00-9:00

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Perry Wood

Belts the tunes!

Johnny Lemmon tells me at **John L's** there is never a cover, casual attire, with happy hour prices 4-9 p.m. seven days a week. The talented **Perry Wood** opened this Wednesday. Stop by and catch his act this weekend. Shows start at 9 p.m., with four shows nightly. **David Darnell** accompanies Perry on the keyboard. Don't forget that **John L's** offers piano entertainment daily. 2525 Wycliff (214)520-2525.

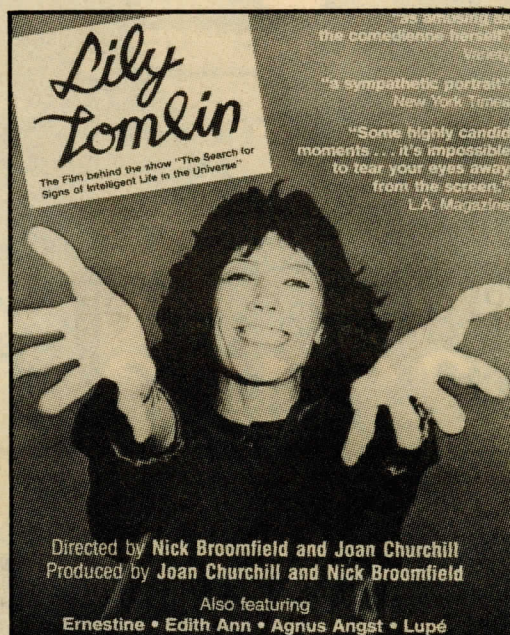
Oventions, Dallas' newest cabaret, is playing to expected packed houses. With show-stopper bookings like **Celeste** and **Ricky Graham**, the excitement is sure to continue. **Central Expressway**, Dallas' own forties jazz group, opened yesterday and will perform nightly through May 3. **Gretta**, Central Expressway's manager and a former member of the group, told me that she could be convinced, with a little coaxing, to join in for a few numbers. Their sound is special forties tunes, big band sound, with a few Broadway hits. I have no doubts that Central Expressway will be playing to standing **Oventions**. 2629 Oak Lawn Avenue (214)522-5481.



Central Expressway
40's Vocal Jazz Group



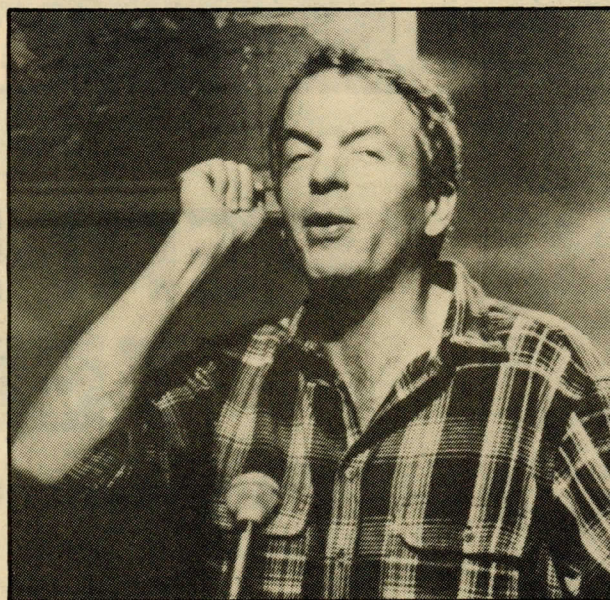
Preview to benefit G.P.C. & Montrose Counseling Center Women's Network.



Tickets are still available for the Thursday, May 7 benefit showing of **Lily Tomlin**, the film about the making of Tomlin's hit one-woman Broadway show. The special preview screening is a benefit for the **Gay Political Caucus** and **Montrose Counseling Center Women's Network**. The film, directed by Joan Churchill and Nicholas Broomfield, shows how Tomlin created the characters that starred in her Tony award-winning Broadway show *Looking For Intelligent Life in the Universe*.

The film will be shown at 7:30 p.m. at the **River Oaks Theatre**. All 550 seats of the main theatre have been set aside for this Texas premiere. Advance tickets are \$6.50 for single; \$12 for each pair; and \$7.50 at the door. Tickets may be purchased at **Lucia's Garden**, 2213 Portsmouth; **Wit & Wisdom Bookstore**, 1103 California; **Manhattan Gifts, Cards and Haircuts**, 1412 Westheimer; at the Wednesday GPC meeting; or at the GPC office from 4-6 p.m., 900 Lovett #101, (713)521-1000. Seating is open, not reserved.

Alley Theatre
presents storyteller/monologist
Spalding Gray.



Storyteller **Spalding Gray** will weave his magic on the **Alley Theatre's** Arena stage May 12-17. He will perform his hilarious monologues *Sex and Death to the Age of 14*, and *The Terrors of Pleasure*. This is a **FORUM** recommended event. Mr. Gray is a very talented monologist. **The Alley Theatre Box Office** is located at 615 Texas Avenue, (713)228-8421. *Sex and Death* showtimes are: 8 p.m. Wed., May 13, 8 p.m. Fri., May 15, and 2:30 p.m. Sun., May 17. *Terrors of Pleasure* shows are at 8 p.m. Tues., May 12, 8 p.m. Thurs., May 14, and 9 p.m. Sat., May 16.

Celebrity Quote of the Week

"Ya know, I wanted to leave you with a memory of the good beneath the gaudy, the saint beneath the paint, the pure little soul that lurks beneath this lurid exterior . . .
But then again I figured . . .

Fuck 'em if they can't take a joke."

—Bette Midler

BEST BET!



**Naomi Sims with Christopher Starr
and Barry Banks. Mr. Gay Texas**

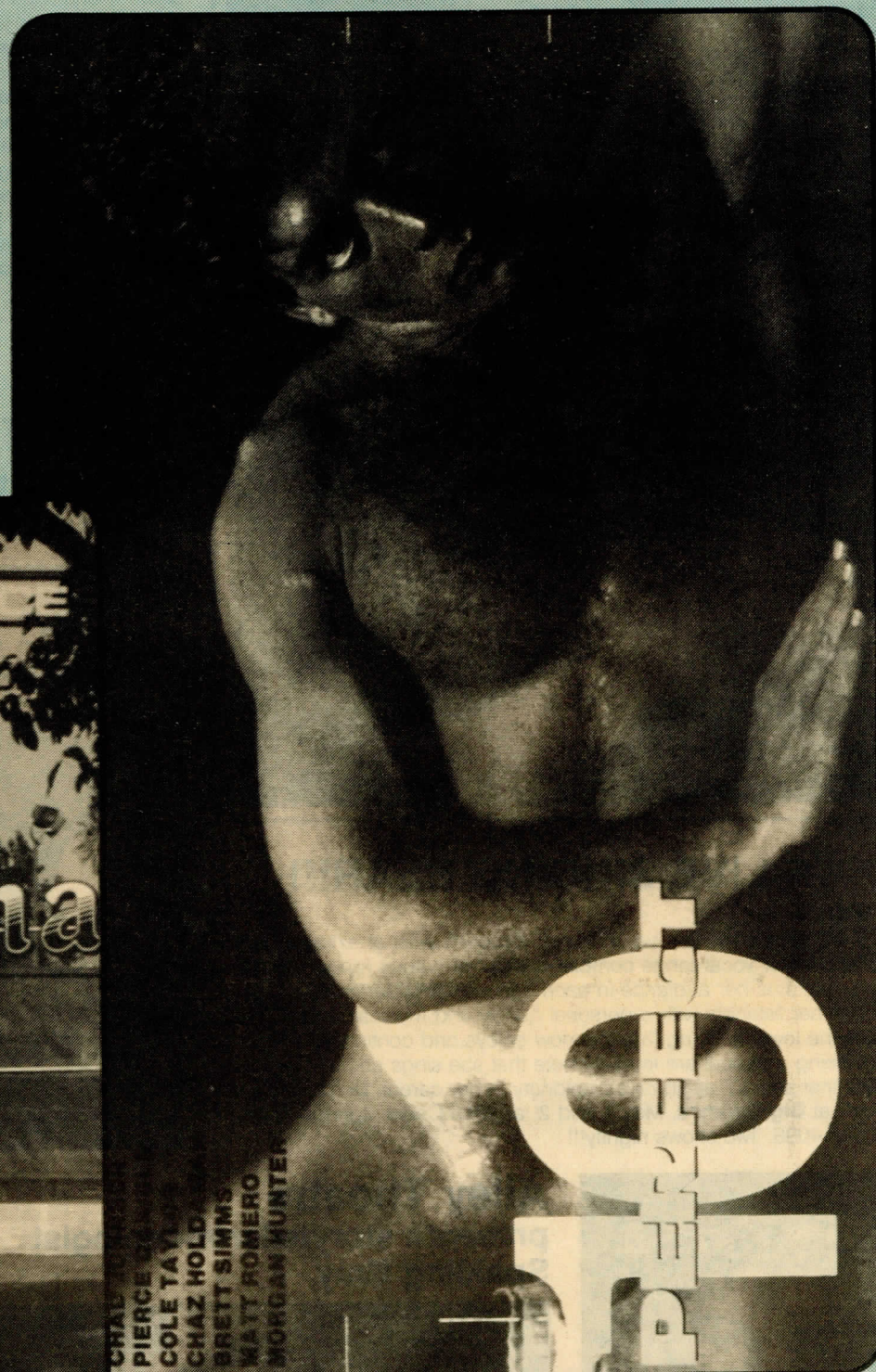
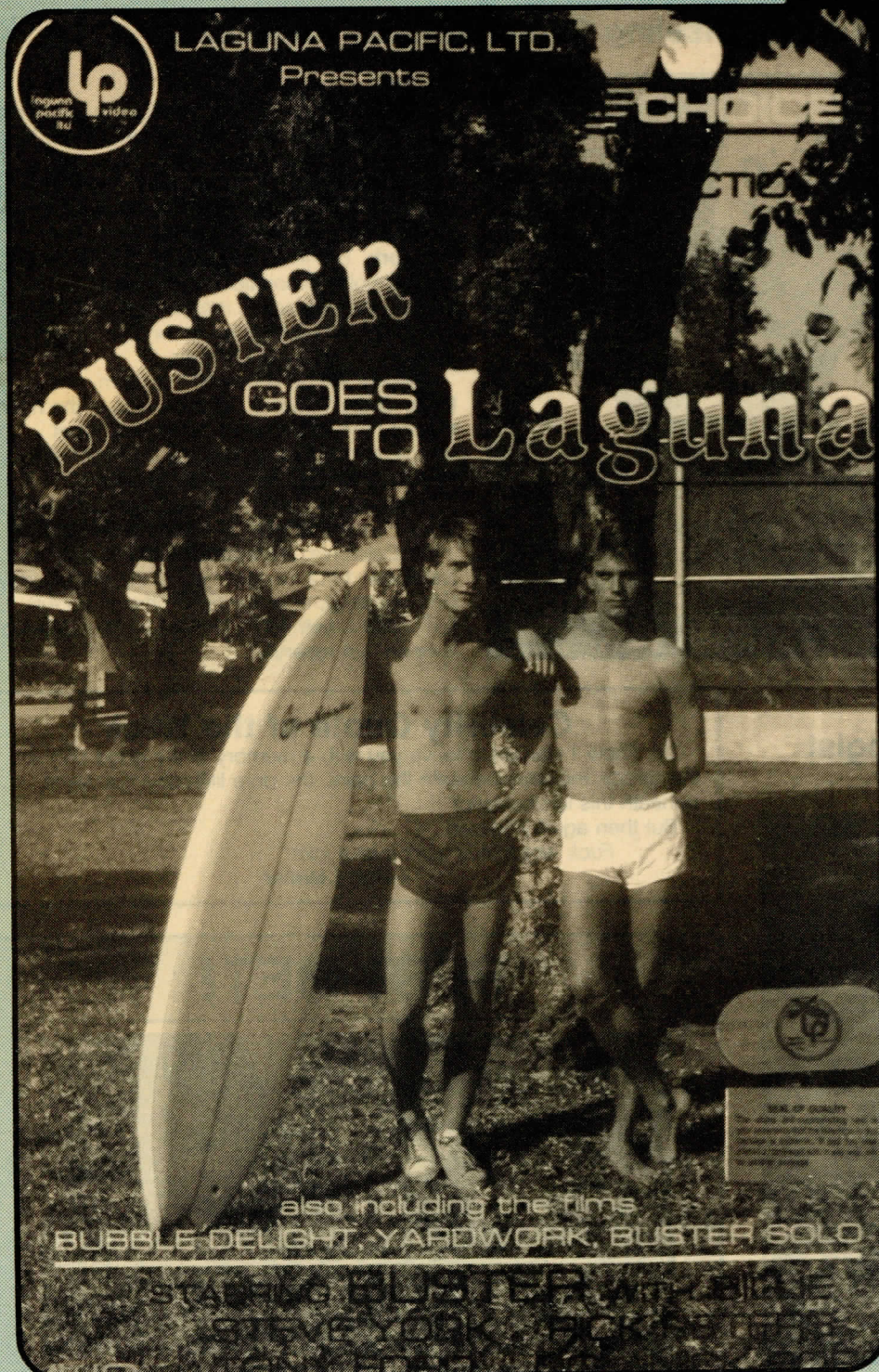
The flawless **Naomi Simms** is, as usual, packing them in at **The Boathouse** on Wednesday nights. The show, appropriately titled "**Naomi's Men**", is fast-paced and well choreographed with some of Texas' hottest male strippers. With a cover of only \$2.25 and free well drinks until 1 a.m., it's certainly **FORUM's** best bet! The doors open at 9 p.m. and the show starts at 11 p.m.
Boathouse, 407 Colorado St., Austin (512)474-9667. Wednesdays!

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FAST COPY: SOME OF THE NEWS THAT MIGHT BE FIT TO PRINT

Lone Ranger, Superman and Mr. Green Jeans

How tacky can one defense lawyer get? Well, in Houston, the defense for Edward Louis Young III, who was accused of stealing the silver guns of Lone Ranger Clayton Moore, got ticked when District Judge Ted Poe allowed Moore to take the stand with his white hat on. I guess a guy who spends most of his life trying to get people who have committed crimes out of jail, doesn't really want to have to be faced with the symbol of justice, law and order. And what do you think of any turkey who would steal the Lone Ranger's guns? Pretty low to the ground, if you ask me. Let's hear it for that white hat!

And, while we're at it, let's hear it for Superman. All right, I'm not really talking

about the alter ego of the wimpy Clark Kent, but of a real hero, Greg Robertson, who turned himself into a speeding bullet to save the life of Debbie Williams in Arizona. It seems he was overseeing a sky dive, when Debbie collided with another diver and bounced across the sky unconscious. Robertson streamlined his body and shot down to her at somewhere close to 200 m.p.h., pulled her chute and managed to land safely himself. What a guy. Someone should name a drink after him.

Once again breaking my long tradition of taking a basically jaundiced view of this ridiculous world of ours, I would like to say my own goodbyes to Mr. Green Jeans, Hugh Brannum, who died Sunday of cancer at age 77. I remember sitting in front of the TV when I was just a tyke and being fascinated by the animals that Mr. Green Jeans brought on. Hey, folks, this is one

time when there's no punch line. I really loved the guy, and I'm sad that he's gone, okay?

Bakker, LaRouche and Lingerie

Well, finally, we hear something good about Jim Bakker; it seems he may have been engaging in homosexual activities over the years. And just when you thought that the guy was a total jerk! My mama always told me that if you couldn't say anything nice, don't say anything at all, and now I have something nice to say about that slimey, bigoted, two-faced, rip-off artist. Good going there, Jimbo, nice to know that we have something in common besides the desire to be rich without working for it.

By "Perfectly" Frank Carello

Lyndon LaRouche's anti-gay campaign in the northeast has been kicked in the butt by federal agents in Leesburg, Va., who seized the headquarters of the zany guy's companies in order to satisfy a debt of more than \$21 million in contempt-of-court fines levied against the group by a judge in Boston. Now what I'm waiting for is to find out that Lyndon was one of Jim's boyfriends. But, no, Jim probably wouldn't have sex with anyone besides his wife unless he was paying for it. As for me, you could pay me, but I couldn't have sex with Tammy Fay. It's not my idea of getting rich without having to work for it.

But on a really nice note, over the objections of the religious right. TV will now show real women in lingerie ads, including ladies parading around on a train platform in their bras. This I can enjoy. What I really want to see, however, are ads for black lace garter belts with fishnet stockings. Who knows, some day I just might be in the market for some of those myself, and I'll want to know how it will look before I buy. Then, I can have my picture taken, send it to Jim and maybe get some real money.

A Smattering of News

Hey, what I want to know is how this Nazi Waldheim got to be such an international political hotshot without *someone* somewhere knowing about his past "indiscretions" before now. Come on, don't tell me that he just fudged his resume. When you get to be up on the ladder as high as he got, people had to know what was going on. Now, the U.S. has barred him from entering the U.S. Right. This is the same country that has been harboring Nazis since the very end of WWII, and now the government is shocked. You can put sure money on the fact that our government knew about Waldheim's past before it became headline news, and now they are just covering up, as usual.

In Galveston, a kid who had a bite wound about 5 inches in diameter has been assured that it wasn't a shark. Big assurance. You mean we have other big nasty fish out there that are eyeing us as dinner?

In London, a woman gave birth to her second test-tube baby, but both girls had been frozen as embryos at the same time. However, she kept one in the freezer for 18 months before going ahead with the pregnancy. How about that? Fraternal twins a year and a half apart! No, just how do you determine the age of that second baby?

A beserk gunman laid waste to a shopping center in Florida, killing a bunch of people on a rampage. I've been in that same kind of mood, but it's generally during the Christmas rush.

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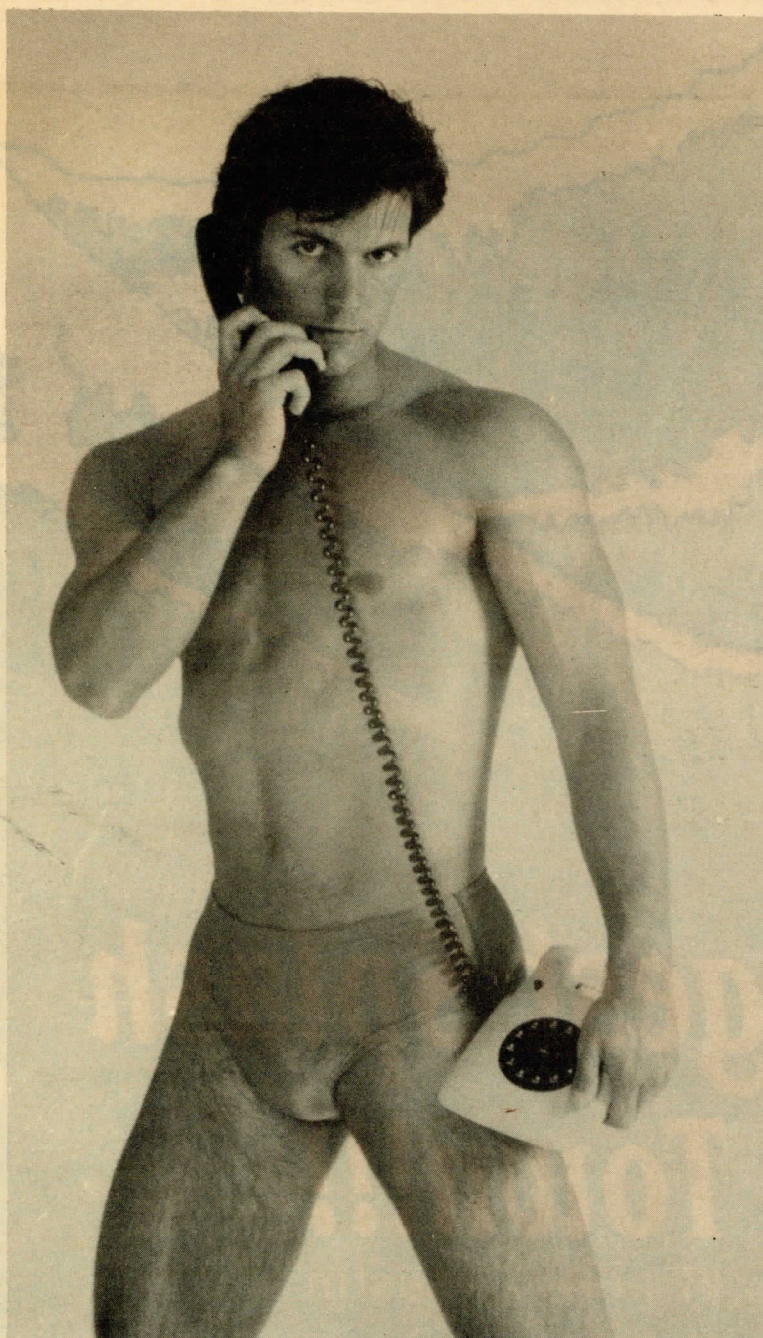
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**FORUM
RECOMMENDED**

By Amanda B. Recondwith

Sometimes, Dear Fans, Amanda feels like Sister Sistene, our Holy Confesette of the Chapel of Lost Tales and Tails. We constantly find ourself put into social situations where people come up to us and tell us the most intimate things, just because of—well, just because we are Amanda!

Of course, we realized when we first set out on our literary career that there would be certain celebrity drawbacks, but because of the unique character of our fame, we find ourself as rather a cross between Joan of Arc and Edward the Confessor. In other words, we fear that many of our readers have perhaps lost touch with the REAL Amanda. Just who are we? How did we come about?

Well, we are going to tell you a little about ourself, Dear Fans. We don't do this very often, but when you begin to suffer from non-human celebrity status at parties and large political gatherings, it is perhaps time to just set the public straight (more or less).

Amanda never speaks in first person. Perhaps it is because we have always had a rather strange attraction to Victorian cliché. As you know, the old queen never spoke in first person. It was always we this and we that. Well, as a child, Amanda developed this mode of talk. We held a very potent *salon* in the city of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, you know. As a young, bright girl, we attracted the great minds of the day to our Historic District home, which was, of course, of Queen Anne style with Victorian trim. Back then, while we weren't published quite as widely as we are now, we adopted the third person frame of reference. It seemed at the time to be most expedient. It let people know what we were saying, without them ever really knowing where it came from. And



... we are going to tell you a little about ourself, Dear Fans. We don't do this very often, but ... it is perhaps time to set the public straight.

so, from those cold SD days, we have retained this mode of speech and brought it down to the rest of the country, where it continues to confuse millions of less itinerate minds.

Amanda has always been a denizen of fashion, without becoming a victim. We wear the most outrageous clothing, simply

because, when we were a child in the wild (SD again!), we had to wear as much clothing as possible to ward off frost bite. They had to be terribly colorful, so that if our car became stalled out in the barren wastelands, people would be able to see our orange nylon crinolines with purple and green peasant scarf waving over the white

snow banks. See how practical it all is.

Many of you are also aware of Amanda's rather liberal political orientation. Well, that also comes from a rather turgid background, where we delved into every sort of strange fad and trend, both intellectual and material. If it was new, it was cool—to a certain extent. We were the first girl to wear a maxi skirt in junior high, but we refused to wear Nehru jackets. They were simply too droll for words—and any peace symbol that was not made of genuine Campbell's soup metal simply didn't appeal to us. Those radical, yet tasteful years formed our attitudes and made us receptive to all types of free thinking.

Our Dear Fans also have come to appreciate Amanda's rather stabilizing view of sexual preference. Well, our Scandinavian-settled part of the country (the same as Betty White's) was always very liberal about such things. After all, when one cannot go to town for weeks because of the blizzards, one must make do with a farm hand or the butler or the chauffeur or the milk man or whatever. Besides, Amanda is aware of the reality of LOVE, and love is the only important thing. It's something our parents believe in, and it's what we believe in to this day.

So, Dear Fans, now you know a little more about Amanda. We aren't always the most agreeable person, but you have to realize that to be any sort of public figure, without becoming a *pubic* figure, one must have convictions, whether they are popular or not. And above all those convictions, Amanda serves to promote the cause of love and freedom for anyone in most any form (beastiality is still rather a stickler, we're afraid). Now you know a little more about us, and next week, we'll get away from ourself and dwell on YOU!



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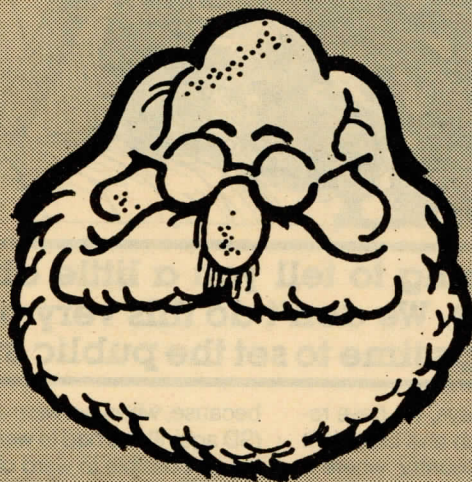
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NETWORK

Where is the intellect? Where is the well known gathering place for the minds of the times? Where do all the geniuses and hangers-on go to meet, argue and debate their theories and talk about politics and sex? In fact, do these places even exist anymore?

There have always been places where people gathered to form and develop the new thoughts of the age, and those places seem to have passed on, leaving nothing in their wake. Where are people gathering now for this stimulation?

At the turn of the century, in a small burrough of London, near the British Museum, a group of friends met regularly and talked about everything from sex to politics. They swapped tales of adventure and wove new legends about themselves, and turned their little burrough into the now famous Bloomsbury, renowned for intellectual and metaphysical research. A little earlier, there were areas of Paris that experienced the same unconventional phenomenon. Monte Marte was dingy and bleak architecturally, but the writers and philosophers met there to hash out the questions of the age—war or peace? Love or sex? Reality or fantasy. From Paris and London, we still reel from the impact of these places. Writers and poets, artists and philosophers came streaming to them in profusion, seeking other like-minded thinkers for solace, debate and direction.

Times changed. Wars came and went. Berlin, once the intellectual capitol of Central Europe, disappeared into the abyss of the Soviet Bloc. London grew shabby and bombed out. Paris collapsed inward in a fit of Francophilia, brought on by DeGaulle. Outside influence failed to attract, and Nationalism prevailed.

Across the ocean, however, a new cul-

ture had been brewing in the dingy areas of New York. Greenwich Village became the haven for the Beats, who experimented with drugs and talk. They writhed on tables in poetic torture. They had sex with each other as human beings,

But now we're in the latter part of the 1980's . . . I can't think of anyplace that would fit the mold of Bloomsbury, Monte Marte, or even Greenwich Village. . . .

ignoring the socially dictated standards of boy-girl relationships. They produced strange new art and bizarre poetry that came from a gut level never before reached. The Village became the Mecca of the continent for those who wanted to hear the latest, see the newest, experience the brashest. Literature poured forth from McCuen and Wolfe and a host of others, vying with the likes of Pound, Strachy, Joyce and Proust.

All these places had produced generation upon generation of new and increasingly brazen fashion and literature. Society, while outwardly oringing from it, eventually adopted the wave upon wave of influence, until such places became centers of whole industries, based on the outrageous. Film, music, fashion, literature—they all thrived in these Bohemian neighborhoods, where men and women threw away convention and dared to be different.

"The Creative Void"

By Jeff Bray

But now we're in the latter part of the 1980's, and I swear, I can't think of anyplace that would fit the mold of Bloomsbury, Monte Marte, or even Greenwich Village of the early and middle 20th century. Something has happened to those centers of creativity and conflict, where society's forces seemed to meet and converge in a turbulent bubbling mass of creativity. Those places were like the ocean trenches, where the great land masses meet and grind, releasing new red-hot magma onto the surface, to spread, new and revitalizing over the old crust. Where are they now?

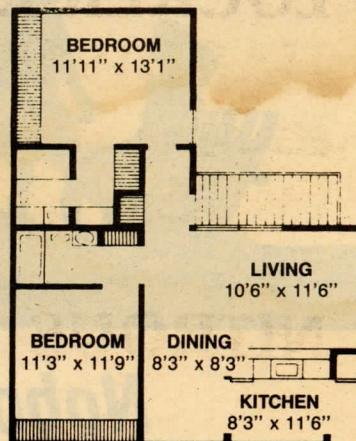
Bloomsbury is a nice little neighborhood now, occupied by upper middle class families and scholars. Monte Marte is now highly fashionable and expensive. Greenwich Village is fast becoming the haunt of the chic and the Yuppy. And where has all that creativity and influence gone?

I fear it has gone into the air waves, where people can't see it until it is released through a television screen or a stereo speaker. Unfortunately, by that time, the creativity has been processed through innumerable steps by market-minded technicians and executives. It comes out as a rather stunted, maybe completely sterile, creativity. Continuously unchanging in its appeal, and rather loudly proclaiming its acceptability to an increasingly sophisticated and jaded market. Where is the next Bloomsbury to be for the next century?



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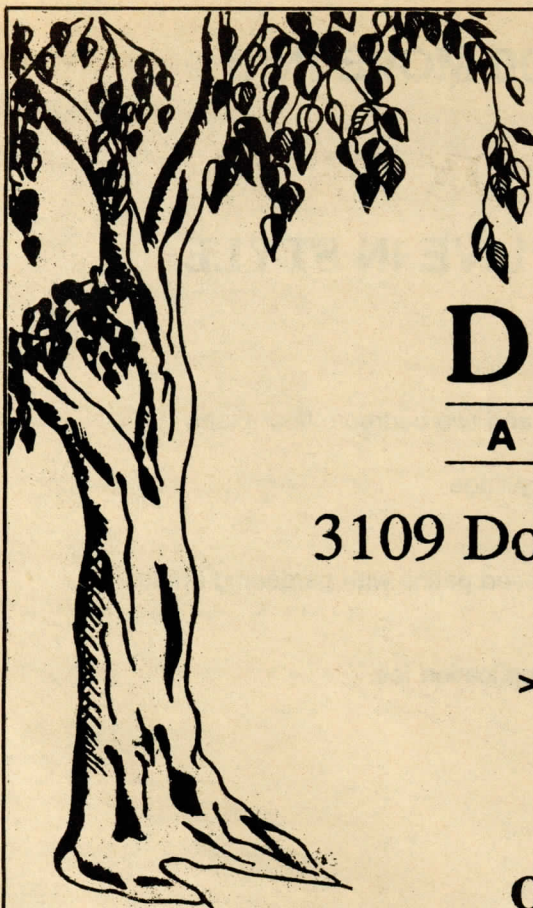


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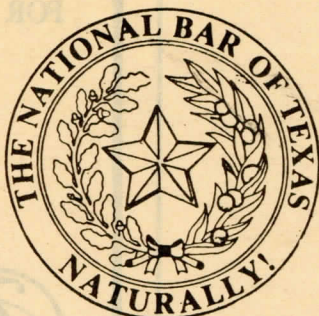
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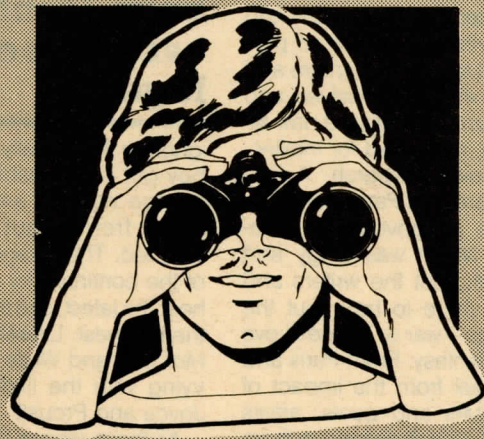
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NEWS BITS

Houston Reports 57 New AIDS Cases

Although Houston's rate of increase in the number of new AIDS cases has not risen as drastically as it has in other cities, 57 new cases were reported this past month, bringing the total number of cases reported to 1,135.

These figures do not reflect unreported cases or cases that have been either accidentally or purposely misdiagnosed. They also do not reflect the number of cases of people who have left Houston upon becoming ill in order to be with family in other cities.

Leland and Waxman Hear about AIDS in Houston

In an effort to determine how Houston might be affected by federal efforts to fight AIDS, Congressman Mickey Leland and

Henry Waxman listened to local experts on Monday.

Two polar viewpoints were presented by Houston health director Dr. James Haughton and by Dr. Peter Mansell. Haughton pointed to figures that showed that Houston's rate of increase of cases of AIDS had slowed, while Mansell stated that cases were still increasing, whether the rate was as high as it had been or not.

Also testifying were members of Houston's gay community. Dr. Robert Awe of the Harris County Hospital District and representatives of the AIDS Foundation of Houston.

AIDS Testing Nixed by INS

For the time being, the Immigration and Naturalization Service has dropped plans to test nearly four million aliens for the AIDS virus as part of the amnesty program that will start on May 5.

Entering aliens are now tested for other sexually transmitted diseases, as well as other potentially dangerous infections such as TB.

Spousal Rape Bill Tagged with AIDS Clause

Rep. Jim McWilliams, D-Hallsville, tacked on an amendment to a spousal rape bill that would make it a felony for Texas AIDS carriers to have sex with their spouses without informing them of the infection.

The original bill by Rep. Debra Danburg, D-Houston, would make sexual assault by a spouse a felony. Danburg called McWilliams' amendment "unenforceable" and said that it would almost certainly be dropped in the Senate. McWilliams later attacked Danburg's comments by talking about her ties to Houston's gay community, rather than defend his amendment on legal grounds.

Herpes Virus Linked to AIDS

A new herpes virus has been isolated in South Africa that could be a factor in AIDS deaths.

Prof. Walter Becker of Stellenbosch University indicated that the virus could be lethal on its own and could be transmitted in the same ways that the AIDS virus is.

Dead-In Draws Attention to AIDS Problems

Over 150 people protested the sluggish response of the city of Houston to the AIDS crisis by lying down for one minute on the steps of City Hall on Monday night in a "dead-in."

Organizers say they plan to stage other attention-getting events to dramatize the plight of the victims of the disease as well as to prompt the city to action.

H O R O S C O P E S

by Jack Marvin, AMAFA

All of the outer planets are retrograde as we continue in the New MOON period. Along with the waxing MOON, how the backward motion of SATURN affects you will be discussed in this week's column. With SATURN retrograde you will take on more of the characteristics of JUPITER since SATURN going backwards acts similarly to JUPITER going direct. In other words you will have a double dose of good luck and a flair for extravagance in the area noted by SATURN. However, during this period it would not be wise to change careers or enter into a new business. Do not try to appeal to public sympathy during this SATURN retrograde period. Certainly you've noticed how the

ARIES (March 21-April 20): Watch your finances during the remainder of this New MOON period. This is not a good time for you to impulse buy. You will have a tendency to go overboard on purchases for a new romantic encounter or for recreational purposes. You should spend your time deciding on a specialized field of education, otherwise you will continue to frustrate yourself, and never really achieve success. Do not loan money to anyone during this period. "The best way to make an enemy is to loan a friend some money."

* Favorable Days: 6th
* Unfavorable Days: 5th

TAURUS (April 21-May 20): There could be some stressful conditions surrounding your home or home environment. Check your home or apartment for potential hazards (stereo wires across the floor, frayed wires, gas leaks, etc.). Some troubling conditions could have an upsetting effect on your job or career. If you are having difficulties with a mate or loved one, please try to communicate and work your problems out. If you take your problems to work with you, this could ultimately damage your career.

* Favorable Days: 4th, 5th
* Unfavorable Days: 3rd

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Because of some confidential problems, you may have to resort to private investigations of your own and do not rely on what anyone else tells you. You could have some difficulties with a neighbor that could lead to an argument (especially on Tuesday). If words become cross, simply walk away and do not continue the conversation. You could have a secret enemy that is spreading untrue gossip about you (this happens to all of us at one time or another), simply consider the source and ignore it. Your friends will.

* Favorable Days: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 7th
* Unfavorable Days: 5th

QUESTION: "I was born November 27, 1952, and would like to meet someone that would be interesting and... What is a good way for me to meet the man of my dreams?" B.C.

ANSWER: SAGITTARIANS are naturally outgoing and find it easy to meet others. However, you should get involved with any activity dealing with the outdoors, such as hiking, scuba diving, or even bird-watching. Have you considered joining H.O.G. (Houston

If you have any questions, address them to JACK MARVIN, AMAFA, 1238 West Bell, Houston, TX 77019. Phone number: (713)520-5206. 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

CANCER (June 21-July 20): Have you heard about the Airplane scheme? You could be approached by people with get-rich-quick schemes. Avoid all of these and anything that has the appearance of a pyramid effect. Try to keep your temper during this period because you may be asked to give more money than you feel you can afford. You will have a tendency to lose your temper, so you are now forewarned. Problems with money may cause you to also have arguments with your friends. Hopefully, you have not loaned any acquaintance money.

* Favorable Days: 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th
* Unfavorable Days: 1st

LEO (July 21-August 21): This SATURN retrograde will cause you to be denied love and then you will experience an overabundance of it. So be on guard while you are out and about. Have you paid your parking tickets? Problems with city officials are just around the corner. You could also have some difficulty with someone in authority (a parent, boss, etc.) who will interfere with your personal plans. You could experience friction with bosses or anyone in positions of authority. Hold your tongue.

* Favorable Days: 5th, 6th, 7th
* Unfavorable Days: none

VIRGO (August 22-September 21): You will have a tendency to overmagnify problems that you have until they are out of proportion. Everyone has problems and they all have had problems similar to yours. Avoid boring your friends and acquaintances with problems that they really don't want to hear. Make no friction between you and influential people and stay away from anyone who has a history of illegal ties (selling drugs, etc.). You should avoid mixing business and pleasure. Get plenty of sleep and rest.

* Favorable Days: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 7th
* Unfavorable Days: 5th

public has turned thumbs down to Jim and Tammy. You could have a tendency to be more carefree and neglect your health during this period.

Notes: CAPRICORN and AQUARIUS will have some emotional stress today (Friday), and SCORPIO will have communication problems on Sunday. SAGITTARIUS will find romance on Monday while ARIES and CAPRICORN will be argumentative on Tuesday. LEO will be full of conversation on Thursday.

LIBRA (September 22-October 22): You could have a very difficult time for the next several months saving money. In fact, it will be practically impossible to accumulate funds because of spending on things you "just have to have." Attend group meetings, but you will attend some meetings where you will feel completely out of place because those in attendance will have conventional patterns different than your own. Don't try to influence others to your way of thinking during this period.

* Favorable Days: 4th, 5th
* Unfavorable Days: 3rd

SCORPIO (October 23-November 22): You will have a tendency to overspend during this period due to the backward motion of SATURN. But, take care. Saturn will go direct in August—then you can begin saving money once again. Handle all your credit matters with discretion and avoid reckless decisions. Don't let idle chatter and gossip from others upset you. Make sure you keep all negotiations with business partners on the up and up. Your partner could have a tendency to be jealous and this could lead to a misunderstanding.

* Favorable Days: 2nd, 7th
* Unfavorable Days: 3rd, 5th

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 20): You could experience some separation or disagreements with your father during this SATURN retrograde period. Remember the age differences between both of you. Your father is from another generation. By all means, avoid confrontations. Pay close attention to details and think before you act at your job, otherwise you could be the cause of trouble and production losses. Avoid disclosing any of your plans prematurely. Others will take advantage of you, and use your plans against you.

* Favorable Days: 4th, 5th
* Unfavorable Days: 1st, 2nd, 3rd

Outdoor Gays)? You may even meet someone at a health spa or a sporting event (I hear that the Astros are really packing 'em in!). Obviously, be discreet when you are out in an area where they may not understand... It is very important that you establish a friendship first and don't attempt anything else until you are both comfortable with each other as SAGITTARIANS want a friend first, a lover second. J.M., AMAFA

CAPRICORN (December 21-January 17): For the next several weeks, you may artificially confine yourself socially due to the deceptive remarks of someone else. Be very careful during this period to avoid arousing jealousy or resentment. Also avoid being too possessive or secretive. Remember, in order to keep anything, we must give it away. Keep yourself under control. With your ruler, SATURN, going backwards you can have a tendency to go out-of-control especially where sex is concerned. Don't step on other's toes.

* Favorable Days: 6th
* Unfavorable Days: 1st, 3rd, 4th, 5th

AQUARIUS (January 20-February 18): You will remain in contact with friends that have moved to a distant location. You will also join organizations, but participate only slightly. Incidentally, you may feel as if you want to be punished by a romantic encounter—this could be subconscious, but it will be real. You could feel some emotional depression because you may feel that your competitors are doing better or achieving greater success than you. Who cares? Enjoy yourself and watch out for yourself only.

* Favorable Days: none
* Unfavorable Days: 1st, 5th, 6th

PISCES (February 19-March 20): You could experience several changes in jobs because of one reason or another. One reason is that you may feel that you know the business better than your employer (which may well be the case). Because of the conflicting Zodiac, you will not receive your just compensation and honors. Thereby, you will leave. You could also have too many irons in the fire. This scattering of your forces can wear down your resistance and also cause a temporary health upset.

* Favorable Days: 3rd
* Unfavorable Days: 2nd, 7th

MONA: Advice & Beads Read

Dear Mona:

Believe it or not, I am new to Houston. Everyone who meets me expresses the most amazing surprise that someone is actually moving here, but I have. I even have a job here with a big firm downtown, and I really like my career. That is not the problem. The problem is the attitude of the people here. I want to know if I'm just meeting the wrong men or what. I'm from Minneapolis, and up there, we know all about AIDS and everything, but it doesn't seem to hinder anybody. We practice safe sex there just like anywhere else. But down here, it's so hard to meet people. They just fend me off. They're friendly enough, but they're just not very committal, if you know what I mean. The worst thing is that everyone I talk to talks about moving away. I feel like I've settled in an impending ghost

town! It's very depressing. In fact, it's so discouraging, I'm thinking of moving somewhere else. Is it just me, or do you think it's a general problem?

Signed: New and Confused

Dear New:

Alas, it's probably true, my dear. Houstonians have suffered a double blow. First AIDS—then the collapse of the oil economy. Neither event could be controlled, so many people here feel that their destiny is totally out of their hands. Such thinking leads to depression, frustration and a generally negative attitude. I would say that you need to involve yourself in some good positive groups, such as the Near-town Association, the Executive and Professional Association of Houston, the Diana's, the Montrose Clinic or Counseling Center, or perhaps some good gay

sports association. Pick up any gay publication in Montrose, and you'll find names and numbers of all sorts of positive groups where you can meet others who have a much more encouraging outlook. Good luck, and I hope you decide to stay. Houstonians are a very proud, friendly people, but they have suffered a lot in recent years. It makes them perhaps a little more wary, but certainly more sensitive and giving once the friendship is made. Give it a good try before you give up.

Dear Mona:

I've been dating this guy for awhile now and when we finally got around to having sex, he was freaked out when I put a rubber on him. I was so annoyed. I consider it irresponsible to have sex without a condom. To make matters worse, I was really in the mood. I was so annoyed I got dressed and left. What should I do if this happens again?

Signed: Safe

Dear Safe:

Remember the immortal words of Bruno: Respect yourself. Don't get sexually involved with someone who doesn't respect your health. However, consider the chance that he was freaked out over something else. You said it was the first time.

Dear Mona:

I have become very depressed. My life doesn't seem to be very exciting anymore, and I just can't think of what to do in my spare time. I hate my job, and I don't have any real close friends I can go out with. I don't like to read, and I hate TV. I didn't used to be this way, but when my lover left me last year, I just got over it, and now I think it's making me really sad. I don't like to think about it. I don't like to talk about it either. But I'm afraid I just don't feel like do-

ing anything since our breakup. It scares me to think of where I'm going to be this time next year if things don't get better. Do you have any advice for someone like me?

Signed: Depressed as Hell in Dallas

Dear Depressed:

I suggest that you contact a counseling center and see a therapist. From what I gather, your breakup with your lover seems to have set you off on a bout of depression. Many times, when people split up, they refuse to realize the grief, and it crops up much later to haunt them. You may be suffering from this type of delayed reaction. Take heart, my dear. Depression can be very frightening, but when it finally goes away (and it always does, if given time), things look all the brighter.

Dear Mona:

My lover dated someone for a long time. Now, we are happily involved. Should he tell me about this old relationship?

Signed: Wanting To Know

Dear Wanting:

What happened between them wasn't your business then and it's not your business now.

Dear Mona:

A friend and I have been watching this guy cheat on his lover. He has strange cars in his driveway and people visiting that we don't know. We feel that it is our responsibility to tell his lover what we know. Do you agree?

Signed: The Boys

Dear Boys:

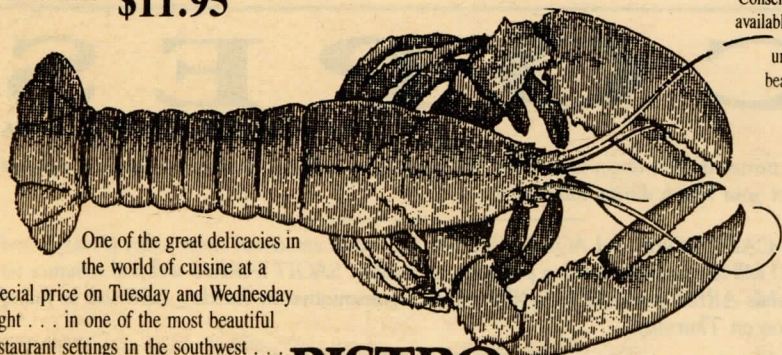
You both need something to do with your spare time. The AIDS Foundation needs volunteers.

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

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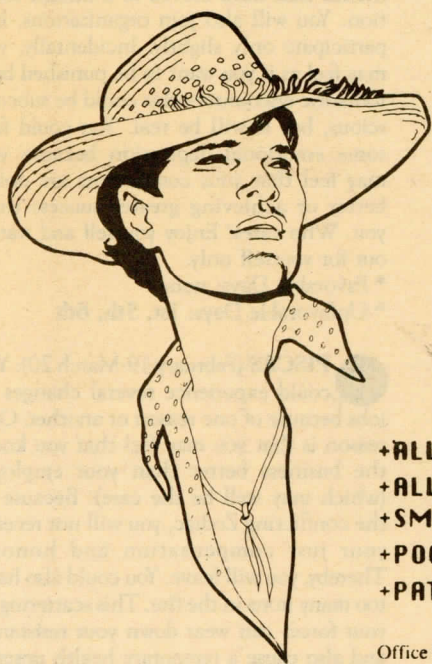
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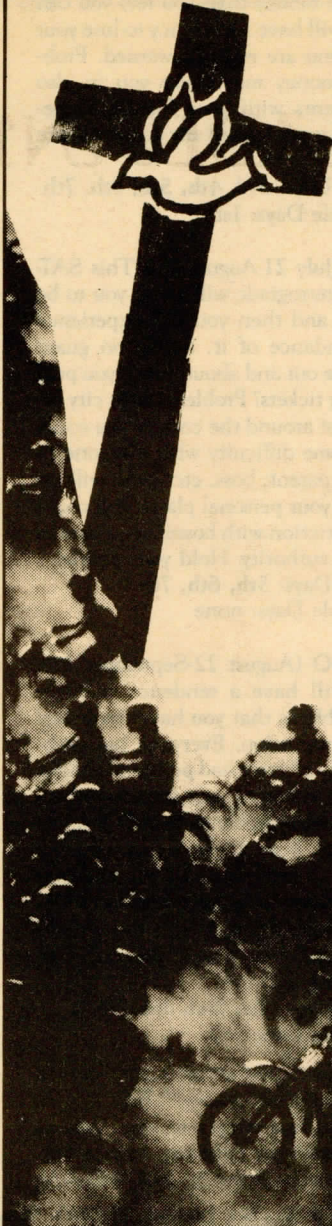
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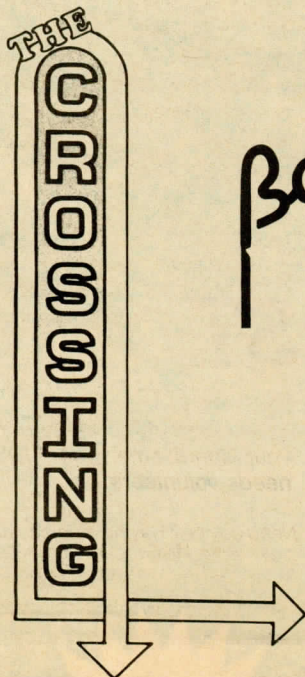
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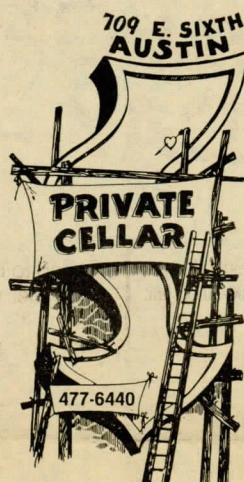
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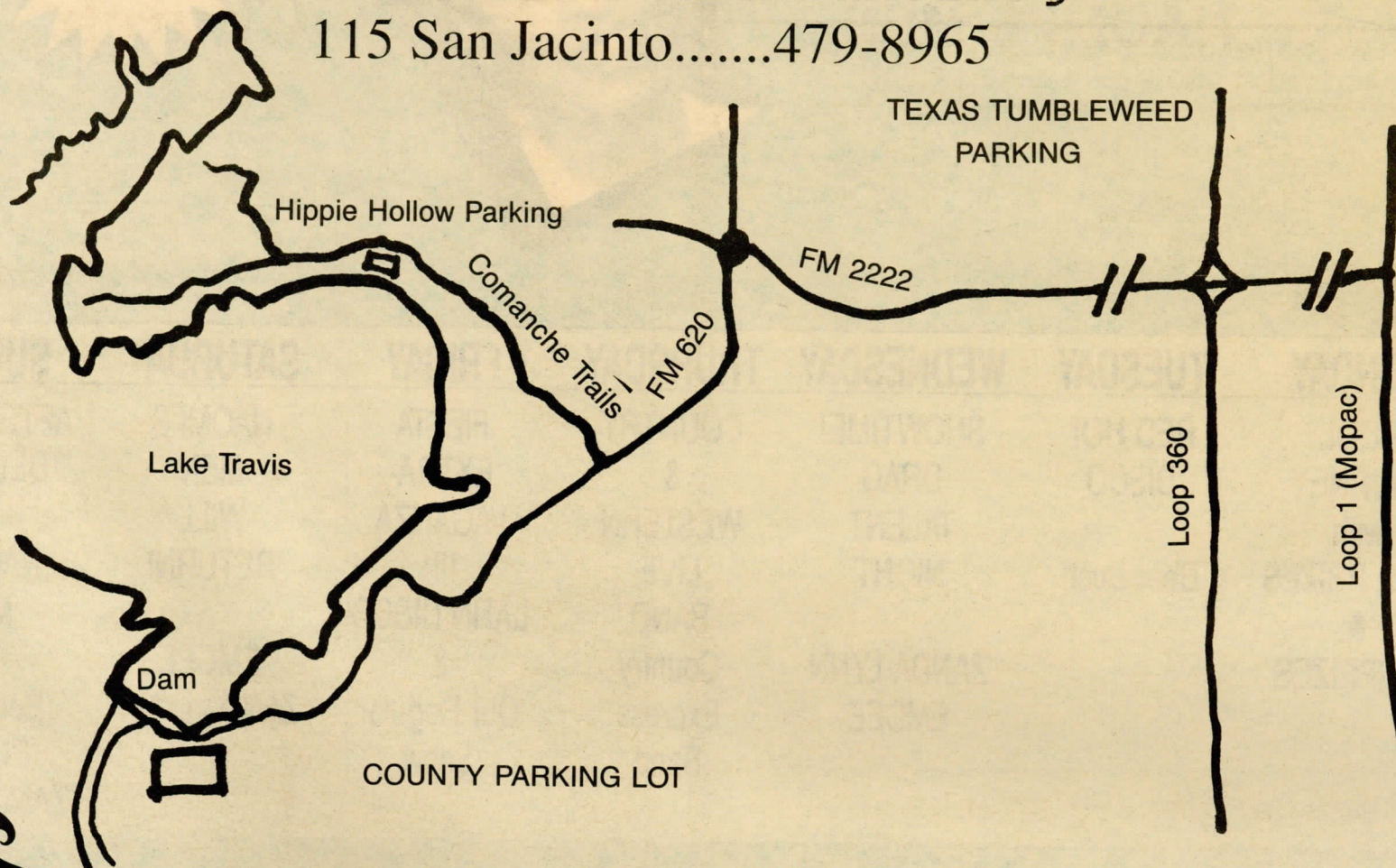


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