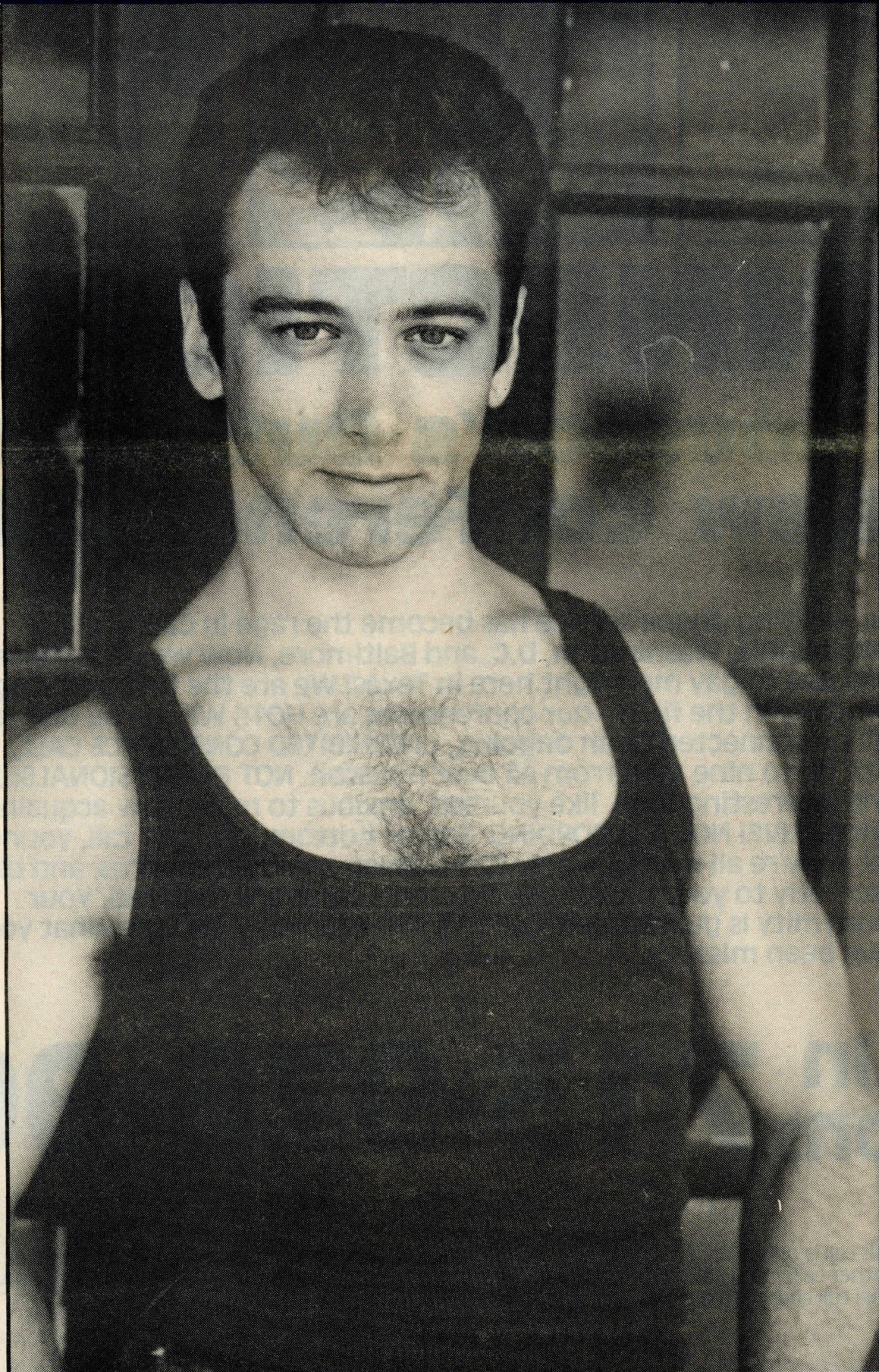


Volume 3, Number 19

T E X A S FORUM

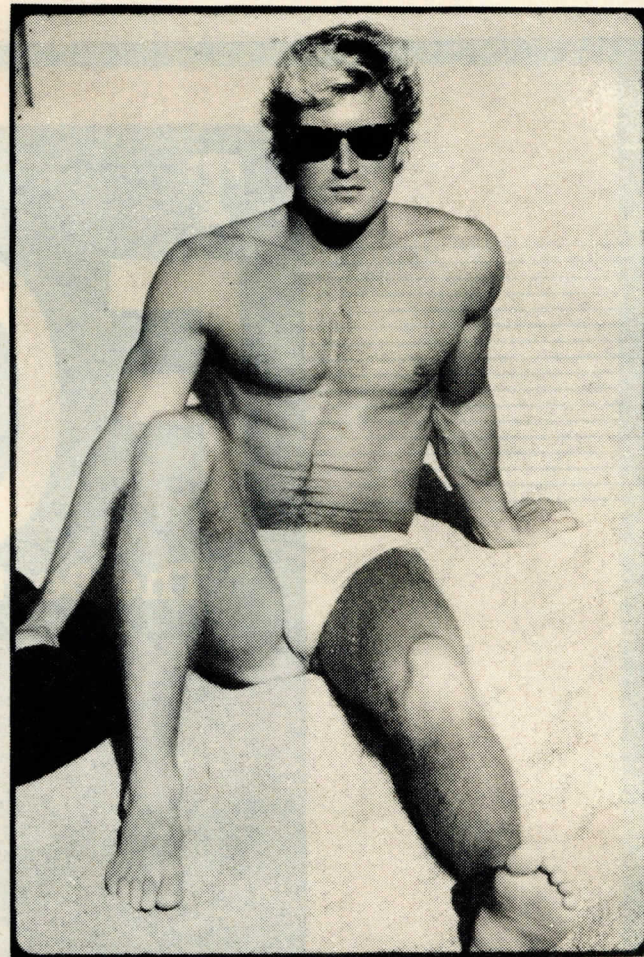
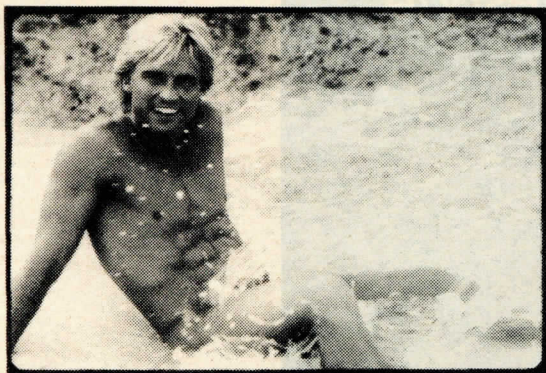
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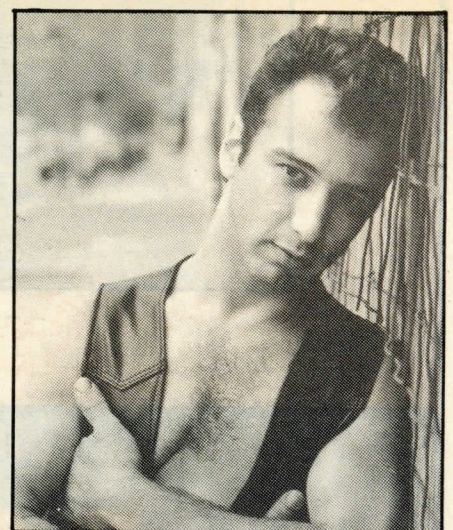
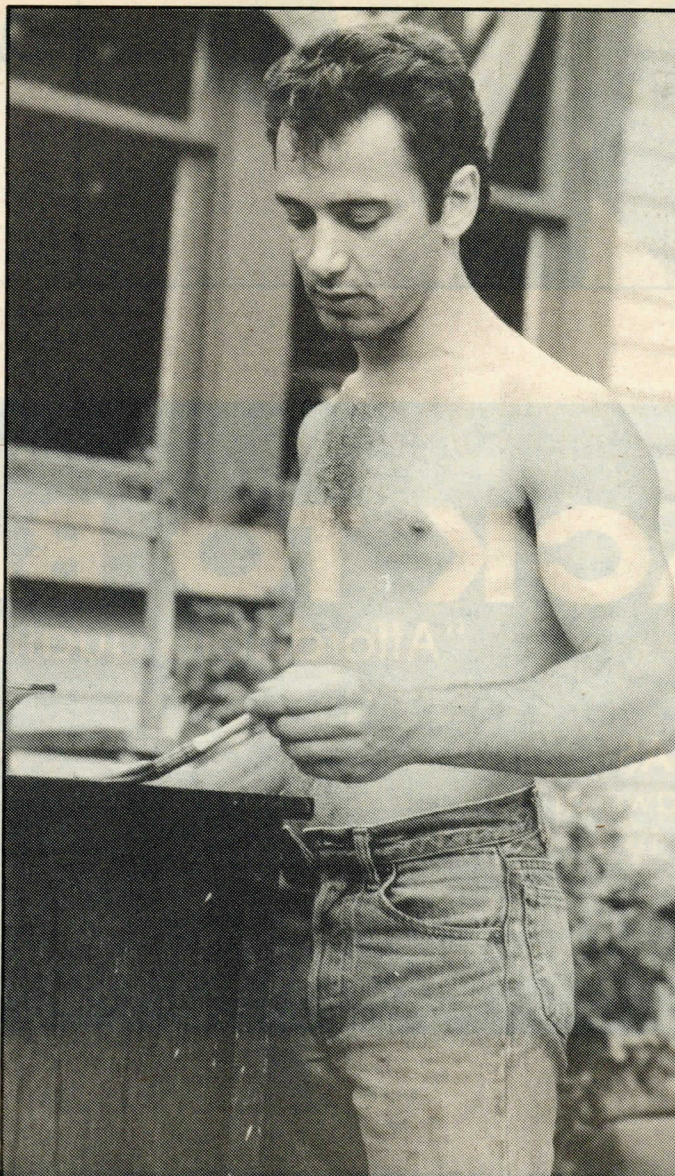
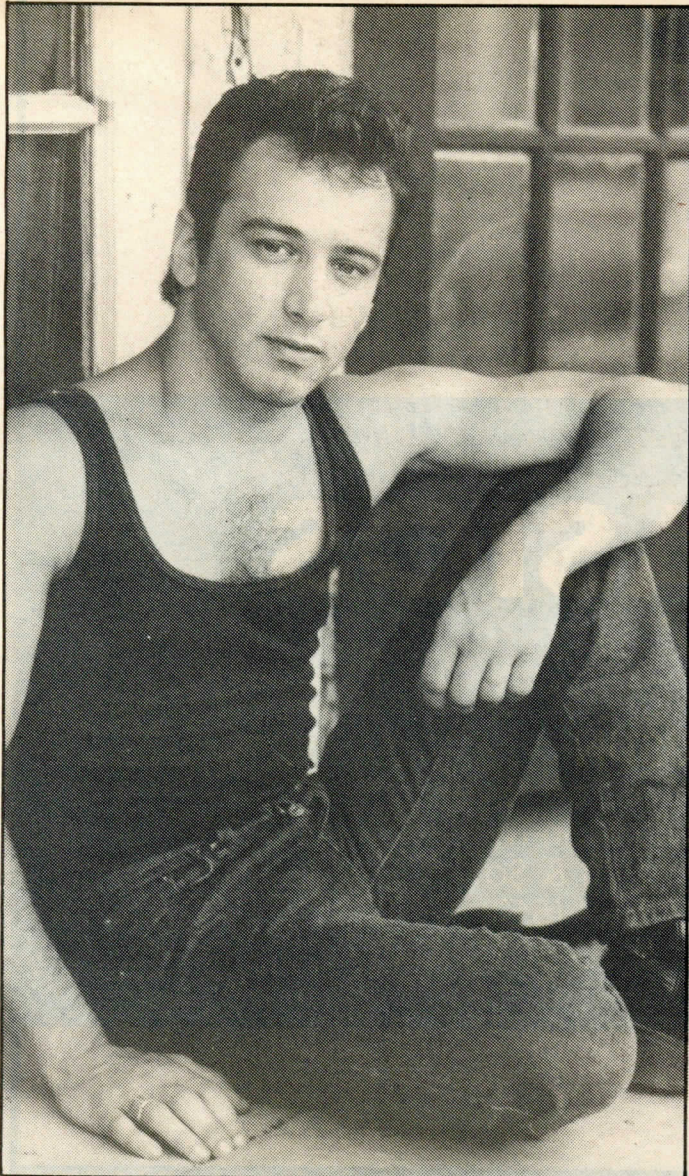
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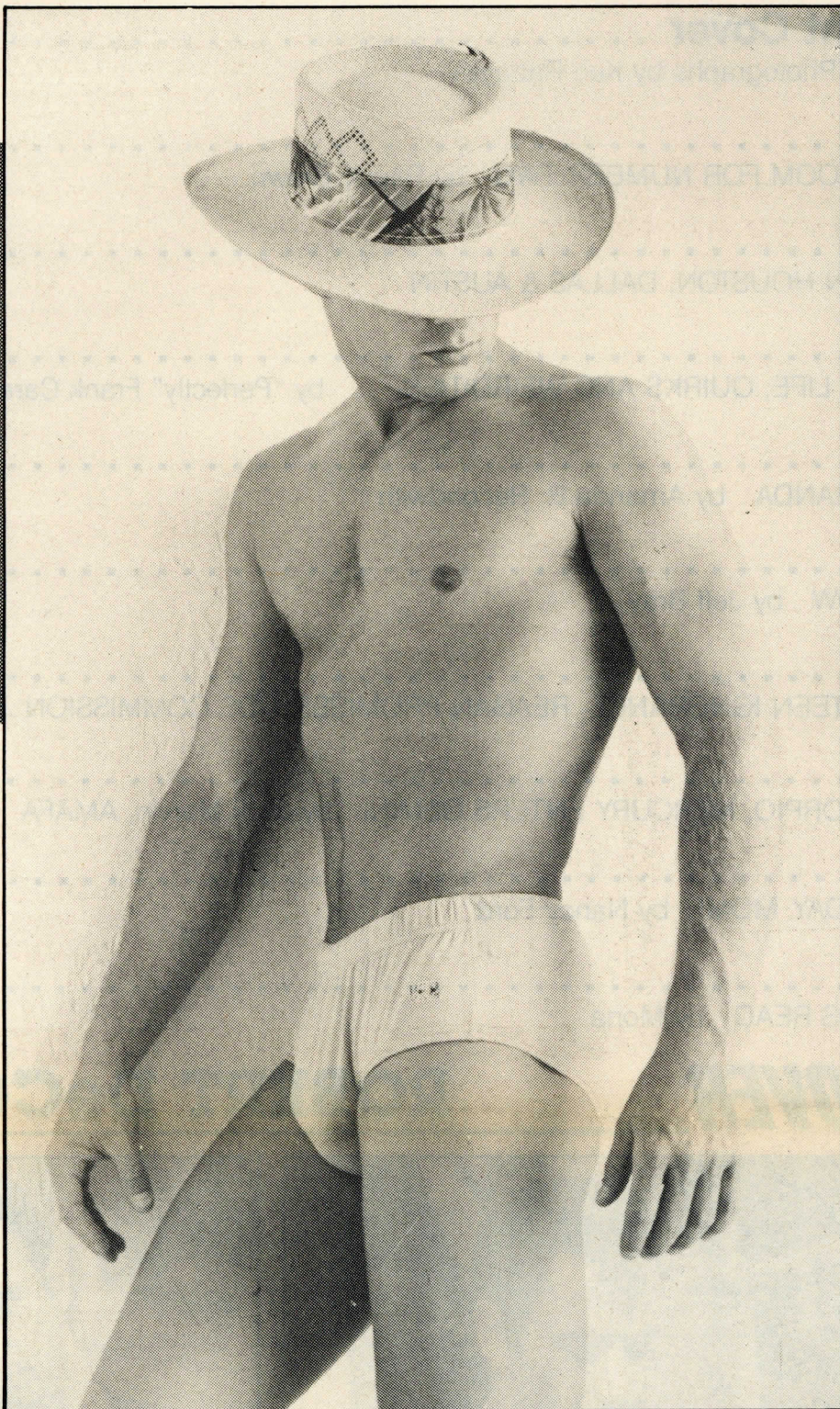
BEHIND THE FRONT COVER

ROBERT DeCOLA



Born: 4/8/54 in Rochester, New York.
Sun Sign: Aries.
Hair Color: Brown.
Eye Color: Hazel.
Weight: 135 pounds.
Height: 5'5".
Occupation: Owner, Yesterday's World
Antiques.
Favorite kind of man: Someone inter-
ested in sharing mutual things.
Favorite color: Red.
Home city: Houston; been here for two
years.
Favorite thing about Houston: The life-
style, it's so different from anywhere else.
Current projects: Registration on his car.
Future projects: Making his shop larger;
working on his business.
Message to TEXAS FORUM readers: Try
to find some peace and happiness within
yourself and continue to grow.





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By Randy Brown

Hello, Texas!

As most of you know, The **HOUSTON FORUM** became the **TEXAS FORUM** last week, and we are in the process of really making this new entity into everything we want it to be.

First of all, I want to make it clear that the **FORUM** has been around for over three years and has established a firm business footing, so this is not some fly-by-night operation manned by a bunch of inexperienced amateurs trying to go up against the established statewide publications.

In fact, let's go ahead and name names. We may be going into statewide competition with *This Week in Texas* (TWT), but we are not trying to take them out. Hey, I've been reading and enjoying TWT for years now, and I doubt that will stop. I have several friends at TWT, including Chuck Patrick, the editor, who has always been very open and honest with me, and Billie Duncan, the Texas Entertainment Editor, who has been one of my best friends for many years. Billie and I used to work together on the *Montrose Voice*.

Now, that brings me to an interesting point: in my years in gay publications, I have seen many of them come and go, and I know the pitfalls are out there. I also think I know how to avoid them.

One thing is that we are not going to try to be all things to all people, but are going to expand our contents now that we are statewide to offer more to the most people. We are going to keep our basis profile of being a paper of opinion (and we welcome your opinions on any subject), but we are going to add book reviews, movie reviews, more complete entertainment coverage, resource listings for all the cities, a total bar guide, and an active letters section.

We are going to keep our outrageous

and unique columns, written by some of the best Texas writers for some of the best Texas minds. We are going to keep jabbing at the pompous chests of the self-righteous and the bigoted. We are going to

We may be going into statewide competition with . . . TWT, but we are not trying to take them out.

keep presenting new of interest to the community in as clear and concise a way as possible. And we are going to keep our indomitable sense of humor, as well as our highly developed sense of outrage.

In other words, even though we are adding sections that have become standard thanks to the groundbreaking efforts of other publications, we are not going to try to be a clone of TWT or the *Montrose Voice* or the *Dallas Voice* or any other publication. We don't have to. We already have our own identity. And we thank those who have gone before for giving us a standard to live up to.

Now, we intend to raise the standard.

Another point I would like to clear up is the fact that the **FORUM** is a tabloid. Unfortunately, when some people say that word, they say it with a sneer as if it's some sort of a dirty word. "Tabloid" simply refers to the size of the page of a paper; it does not have anything to do with the content of the paper. I know that tabloids have gotten a bad name because of the *National Enquirer* and the *Midnight Sun* and all those other shoddy publications of that genre, and that's too bad. I think the artistic value of the tabloid has not been fully explored, and I think you will find that we are in the process of doing that right now.

But the main thing I want to say is that I

don't mind being Avis to anybody's Hertz. Being number two in a state as big and exciting as Texas doesn't bother me in the least. I may be a bit of a Pollyanna, but I also think that we've seen the worst of the

economic downturn, and that the AIDS crisis is turning a corner of sorts as far as the rate of increase of cases. Before anyone jumps on that last comment, I know that we have a long way to go, and the **FORUM** intends to do everything in its power to continue to educate the public and to raise

issues associated with the epidemic.

But I still think this is a good time for another quality statewide publication, and I feel very happy to have been joined by some of the bright minds from the *Texas Mirror* who have the talent, energy and drive to really help make this paper go to town.

Bright minds and energy have always been the strength of the **FORUM**, and this new arrangement seems to be working out very nicely right off the bat.

The last point I wish to make is that I refuse to become successful by trying to put down another publication. We are all in the business. Most of us know each other, and I look forward to knowing more people in the business around the state.

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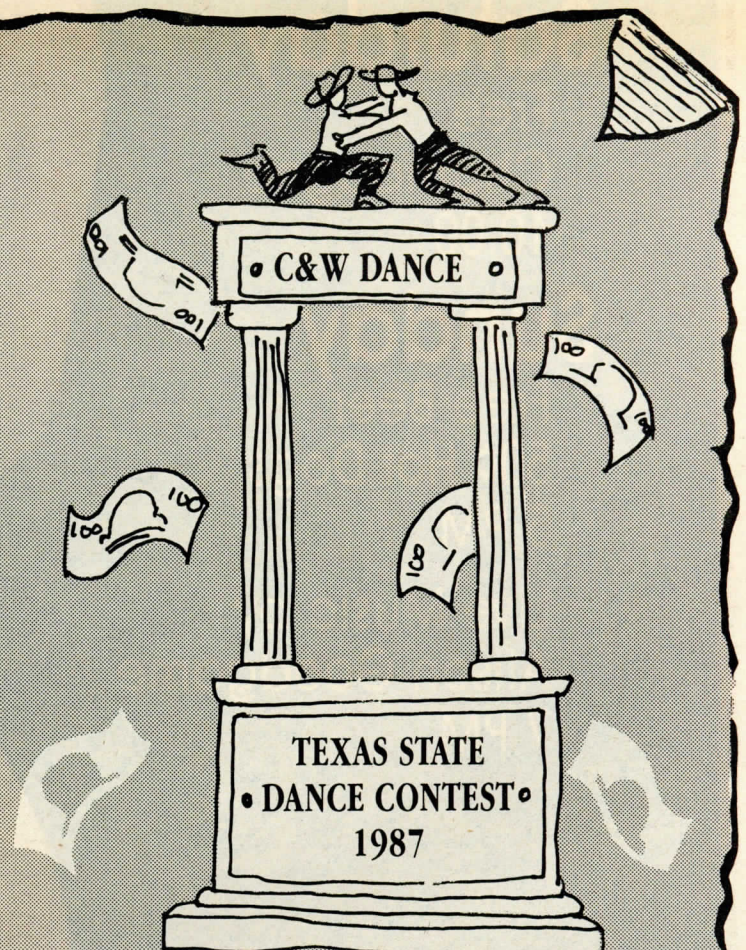
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HOUSTON . . . by Bar Wilson

Hi Kiddies!

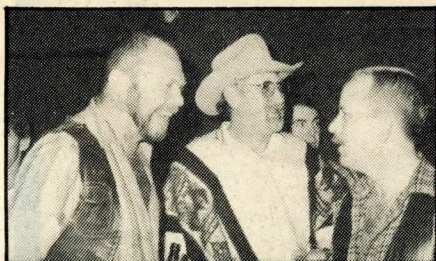
For those of you who don't know, this Sunday is my birthday party and you are all invited. There will be a benefit show including some of the finest acts our community can offer including: Lee Aldridge (half of the Atwood & Aldridge team), Nancy Ford, Vanna White, Randy Jobe, Miss Brucella Duval, The Whorehouse Girls, Jessica Renee, Rainbo, Patsy Cline, Babs Monroe, TJ Faye, Miss Vacant Lot, Dayna, Maria, Pickles, Cross-Over Katy, Amazing Grace, Crystal Storm, Oppie, Robin, Windy, The Black Widow (Jim Madrid), Shaboom, the Montrose Country Cloggers, Ted and his snake-charming act, Mrs. Wonnacott, Mr. Roger Dee (out of retirement), Ron Sioux, Becky and many, many more. (Since I am actually writing this on my birthday and I'm just a touch crossed over, I may have left out a few people and acts—sorry.)

If you want to be in the show, please call me at (713)523-2213. You're welcome!

After the show, there is a buffet and then a film festival till closing.

Please come by and have a good time—the show starts at 6 p.m. on Sunday, May 10 and will be held at Chutes.

Just a warning to those of you who don't make it to the show and party: It will be easier on you to come to my party than to have moi on your case for the next year or forever as the case may be. Promise!



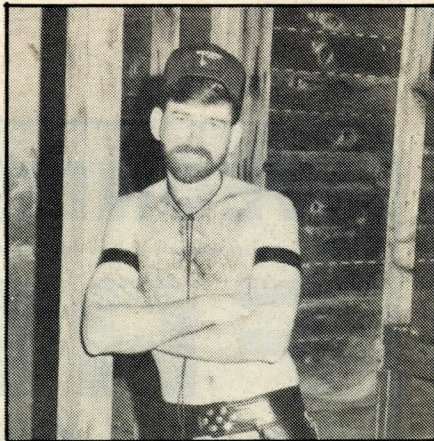
Are you kidding? Of course I'm going to Bar's birthday party.

Well, wasn't it a rainy weekend. Second year in a row that it rained on Splash Day. But I understand that the beaches in Galveston were, although not sunny, well attended by festive hunks from all over. Greg and Oppie were looking for the Ben-Gay when they got back from all the whip-lash of looking in more than one direction at once—something about each of them scouting for the other one. Then coming back to Houston and getting depressed and deciding that all men are scum and going to ——— each other. (That's an almost direct quote.)

For those of you who know them, Alfonso and Virgil have tied the knot—rice and all. Virgil, "He's everything I've ever looked for and more." Scares me.

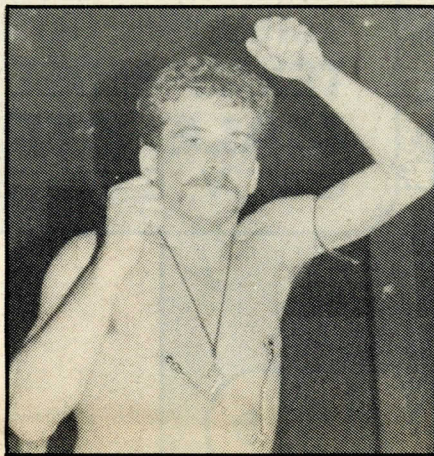
When you are at The 611, do ask Mr. Don Wally (who I hope will perform as Kitty Key at my party) all about the New Orleans Jazz Fest. The old girl should be well rested by the time this hits the street and be over the extra crispys that New Orleans does to us all.

Robert DeCola of Yesterday's World Antiques (our cover boy), was just in a dither this week. Seems that his favorite bush in front of his Westheimer shop was run over by a car. The motor on the car just chewed up the plant. Robert was out there all day with a spade trying to dig up the remains in 95 degree heat, just a fussin' and a cussin'—poor baby. Kyle probably had to give him a back rub for just hours to calm him down.



Just waiting to go to Bar's birthday party.

And speaking of babies, Maria has told me that I'm history. She has a new man that gives her diamonds . . . and things. Jes, that's right, diamonds and things. She wouldn't tell me who this paragon of wealth is (is she ashamed?), but she tells me that she has to think of her future and things. Oh well, I guess I'll have to wait a little longer before Maria and I have any marital bliss and things.



Oh, I can't wait to be in Bar's B-day show!

The Exile's opening last Friday was a huge success. Naomi was wonderful and so were her men. Pete tells me he's planning a benefit for the Omega House on May 30. That should be quite a party!

Mary's new patio is a must see! It's big enough for volleyball, waterfalls, or the field for a small football game. Check it out. You won't believe it! Well done.

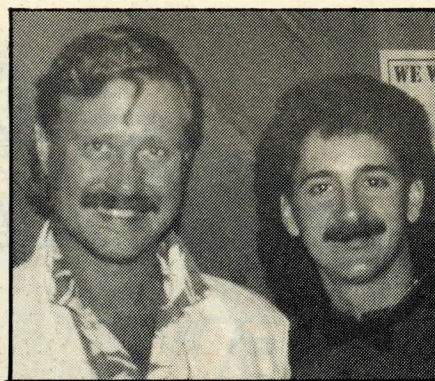
Last, but certainly not least, the Brazos River Bottom will be hosting the Texas State Dance Contest finals Sunday, May 17. Now this should be a hoot! There will be 14 finalists represented by San Antonio, Austin, Dallas and Houston.

For those of you who are wondering what is happening for Gay Pride Week, here is a brief schedule: Friday 19: WomynSpace dance; Saturday 20: GLSwitchboard event; Sunday 21: Dignity concert: Romanovsky and Phillips; Monday 22: Art Alliance; Tuesday 23: Gay & Lesbian Film Festival/F & L Prom; Wednesday 24: Gay and Lesbian Film Festival; Thursday 25: Interfaith Alliance; Friday 26: Theater Night; Saturday 27: Gay/Lesbians Hispanics Unidos/Band concert; Sunday 28: Parade and Gay Fest 87.

There will be a parade this year! It is a people parade, not, *repeat not*, a protest march. The only things that are different from previous years are that there will be no motorized transportation and that you will be allowed (read that *encouraged*) to join the parade when it passes. The parade route will be on upper Westheimer from about Chutes to the location of the Gay Fest 87 location at the Kwik Kopy parking lot. Entrees can be bands, dragons, horses, elephants, lamas, people, clowns, clubs, floats (hand-drawn), and just about any other unit imaginable. It should be one of the most creative and wonderful parades imaginable, and it can be if everyone pitches in to help make it

that way. I'm real excited—everyone is keeping what they are doing secret and that alone is making me crazy. Rumor has it that Jay Allen is going to have an ark. (I just hope that Randy, Carl and Robert don't get carried away and keel haul poor Vanna, even if she would like it.) Harry at Mecca is frantic looking for camels so that he can have the fabulous four in harem veils in a theme of "Midnight at the Oasis." (Ron Lacy get to follow the camels to clean up if one isn't house broken or is that to put the camels to bed, I forget.) By the way, if Ron isn't at my party, I'm going to tell who he has been mooning over for the past two years.

The whole point of the parade is that it celebrates the anniversary of Stonewall, where some people stood up and said this is one raid too many, and it is also a celebration of being gay and being alive and is a party for us. It's a statement about being proud about the way you are and that you aren't going to change. But most of all, it's about having a good time with your brothers and sisters.



Of course . . . we're going to Bar's B-day party.

Also don't forget about the AIDS Foundation Houston annual yard sale. All proceeds go to AFH Social Services. There will be appliances, clothing, furniture, art work, records, cars, and many other items not mentionable.

Donations should be brought to 1004 California after 6:00 p.m. on Friday, May 8 or during the sale on Saturday, May 9; hours of the sale will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 1004 California. For more information, call Ron Sparks at the AFH office: (713)623-6796.

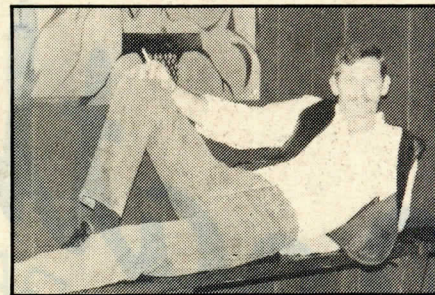
THINGS GOING ON THIS WEEKEND: Friday: Chutes/Male Strip Finals and After Hours; Galleon/Crazy Hour 9-10 p.m., \$1 well beer and shots; Exile II/Naomi's Men; Mary's/After hours, 2 a.m. till; The 611/Cruzin'. Saturday: Chutes/Leather Fashion Show; Venture-N/Cruzin' and boozin'; Roosters/Fantasy in Motion. Sunday: Chutes/Bar's B-day Party; Roosters/Live cabaret; BRB/The Brazos River Band; Galleon/Steak Night, \$1.25 frozen margaritas; Mecca/Sunday show of the Fabulous Four; Chutes/Lube wrestling; Kindred Spirits/Super Sunday, free BBQ; Ripcord/Cruzin'.

I hope that everyone has a wonderful time and that all of you show up for my birthday party on Sunday, May 10 at 6 p.m. at Chutes. It will be a wonderful time and it will make this old queen real happy.

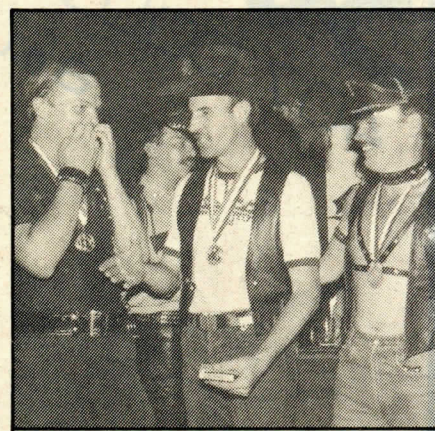
Till next week in Houston.



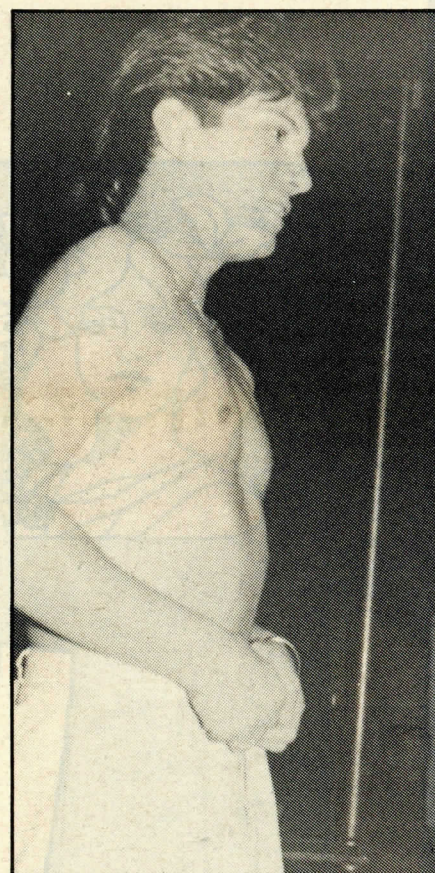
Ted and new husband waiting for Bar's birthday party.



Happy birthday Bar



Leo, Dale and Brian in dress rehearsal for Bar's B-day party.



I'm supposed to come out of a cake?

DALLAS . . . by Russ

Hi Dallas! How are you?

This past weekend may have dampened your spirits a little, but I assure you it was a weekend I'll never forget. Why??? Because I met someone special, that's why (and is he gorgeous!?). Let me tell you, I've heard Dallas called "Big D" and now I know why. Thank you very much.

continued



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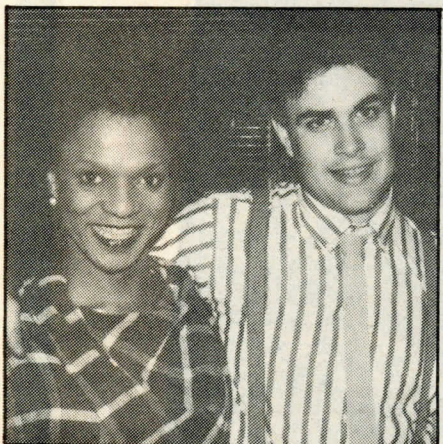
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CAN WE TALK?

Anyway, speaking of big—the Bear was at Big Daddy's this past weekend and like always, she was a wild animal. The crowd seemed to be enjoying themselves and seemed to be wanting more (if that's possible). Thanks Bear and Big Daddy's. Also now on Tuesdays: "Express Male," blonds and brunettes from far and distant places ready to excite you as they dance their way to exposure.

Now—Ovations had a group that was special, Central Expressway, a 40's big band playing swing and jazz. Great show—keep up the good work. Also on Monday nights at 10:30, "Bodyworks"—male dancers who are a fabulous full-blown fantasy! This is wonderful, because I get pictures of these guys and I tell you it will be quite a collection.

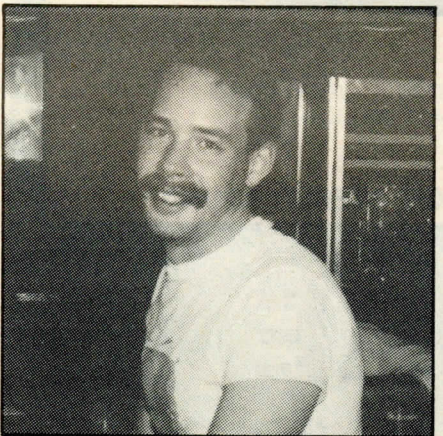
A special thanks to Caven Enterprises and the Village Station for a food drive donating to the AIDS Resource Center. The



Dennise/Scott, Village Station.

Village Station allowed everyone with food free admission. Midtowne Spa is sponsoring a food drive this week for the AIDS Resource Center and they are matching dollar for dollar. Please help support these worthy causes.

On May 1, over in Fort Worth, Partners had an all-girl band, Blind Date, and with the renovations going well, the cooler temperatures, and the spectacular entertainment—a good time was had by all. Girls, remember to thank Charlie for the work he's done on Partners and thank Earl and Barbara for getting Blind Date.



Tramps.

Coming up this week on May 14 at Tramps is Western/Leather night. There will be a beer bust and rent a Cowboy/Leather Fantasy Man. Show at 10 p.m. Honey, if I get too close to a cowboy, the show may begin sooner.

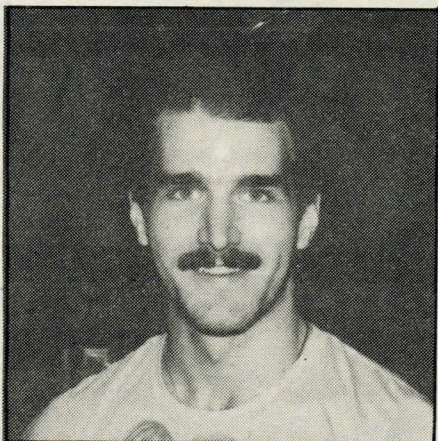
Speaking of leather, the Trestle is having Domination Night, May 9, which is Saturday (don't forget). It's something for the master and slave in everyone. I just can't decide on what end I'd like to be.

Now for a heel of another color, the annual High Heel Race is coming soon in May sponsored by TGRA. The race will begin at 4 p.m. at Eagle Creek, wind around many bars along the way, and finish at Tramps. The minimum heel must be 2", so girls get those high-steppers out and go break a leg. Sorry, I want to be in the race, but I can't see myself standing or running on 2" or more (I would rather be

barefooted on the sideline—it's the only way I'll be able to keep up). Sound bizarre? Be there for the race—it will be something to tell your grandchildren. Stay tuned for information on a bike marathon.

Cultural events around town include several good plays. Theatre Gemini located in the rear of the AIDS Resource Center, is performing two one-act plays, *Dos Lesbos* and *Immediate Family*, May 8-31 at 8:00 p.m. Also don't forget *The Magic of Peter Pan* benefiting AIDS Program/OLCC at Arcadia Theatre, May 17, 3:00 p.m. For ticket information, call Arcadia Theatre at (214)357-9911.

Well, if you're into sports or men in uniforms, the Pegasus Tournament will have all the softball teams at Big Daddy's May 16 for a fundraiser for the softball league. There will be a \$2 beer bust from 4-7 p.m., come join the fun and the men.



Doug, Arena.

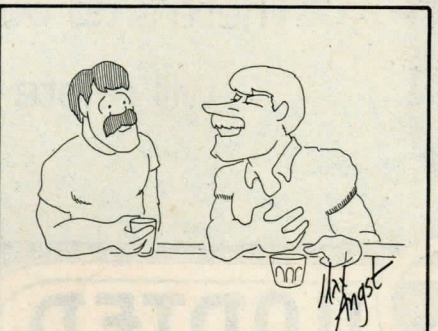
At the Arena on Wednesdays from 8-12 p.m. is a free beer bust. If you can't make it, then try Friday 5-12 p.m., Saturday 5-11 p.m., and/or Sunday 4-12 p.m. for the weekend beer bust.

The Blue Mill seems to be doing very well—perhaps its due to the wonderful food and entertainment. But I think the main reason is because of the fabulous service, so stop by to say hello to Dale and the gang.



Dale, Blue Mill

Well Dallasites, that's the talk about town this week. Don't forget to pick up an extra item or two at the grocery store for the AIDS Resource Center. (Mostly hygiene items like soap, toothpaste, etc. and fresh produce—freezers and refrigerators are available.) Take care of yourself and look out for your friends. By working together we can make life a more pleasant experience. Keep smiling and remember we love you.



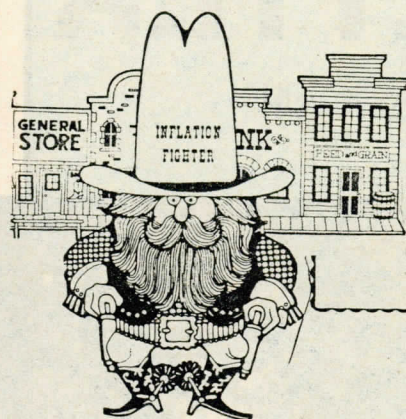
Darling, your new lover is a knockout but how do you plan to keep your hooks in him?

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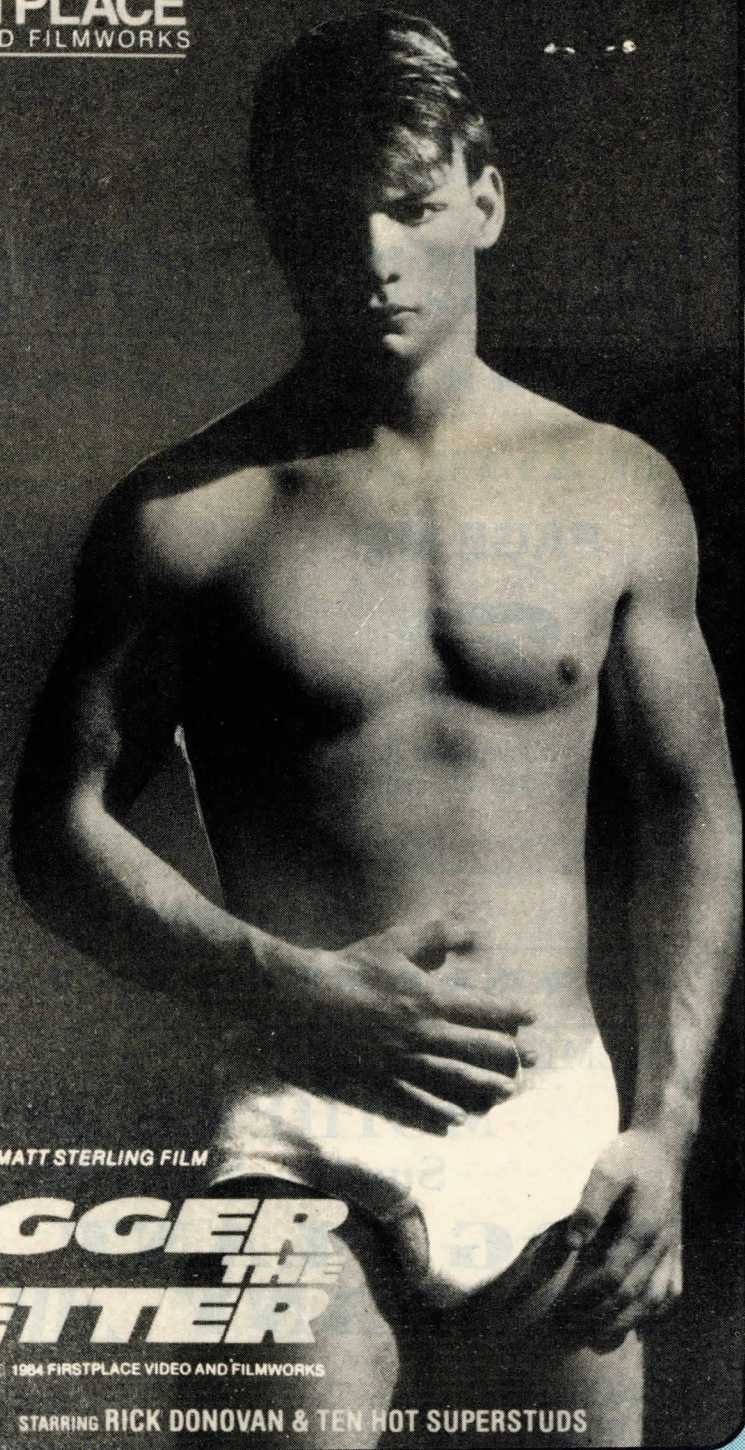
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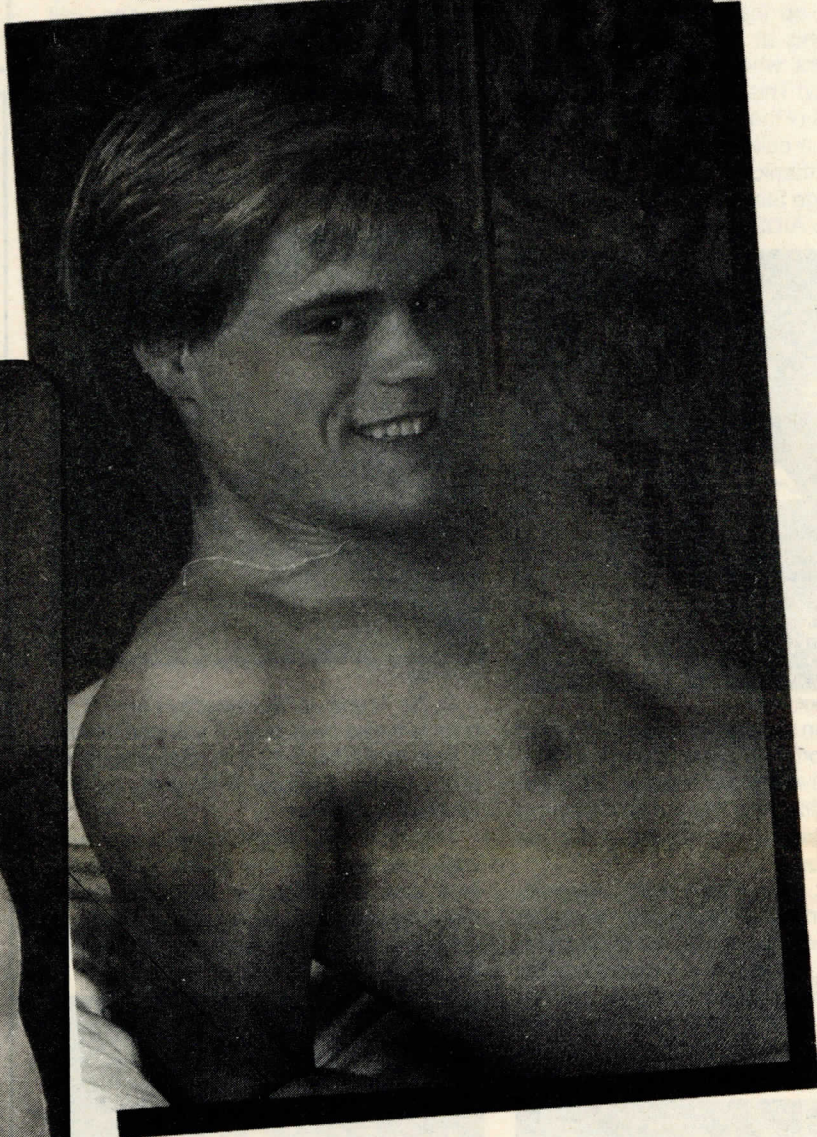
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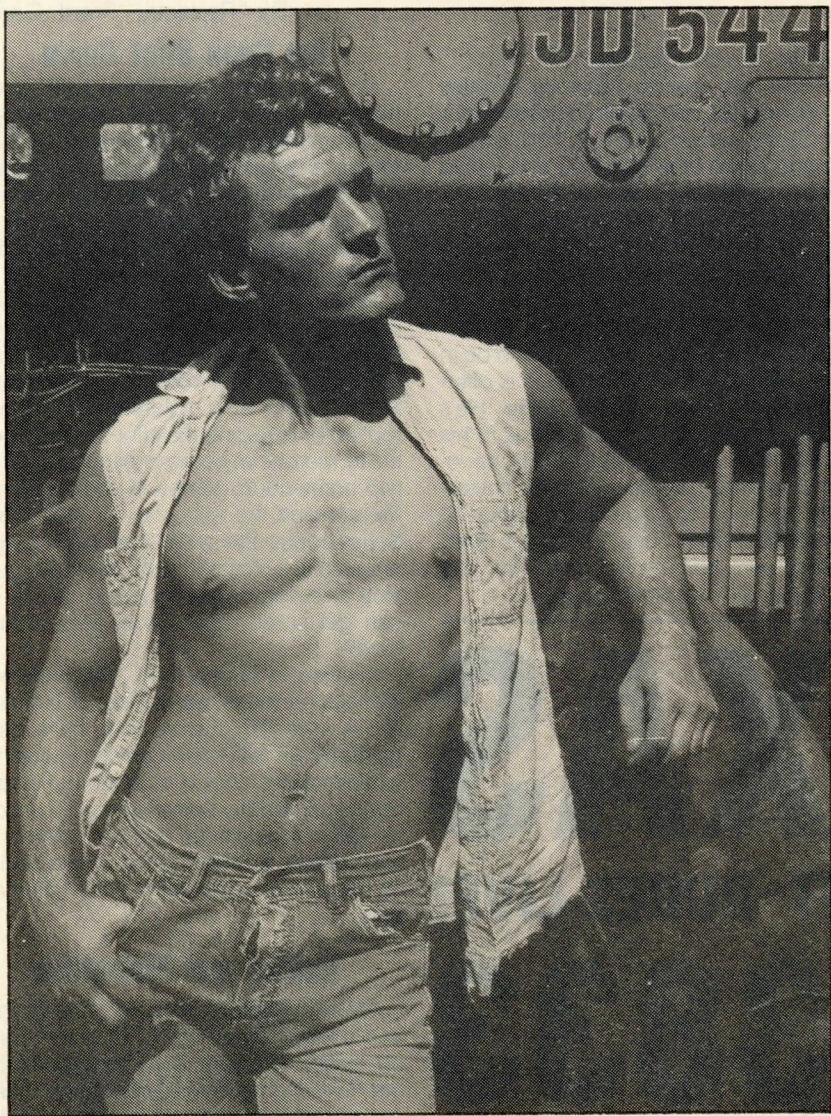
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Movies and Real Life

Murder Ordained was not high on my own personal must-see list, but I loved the response of Rev. Thomas Bird, whose real-life story is being taped for the small screen. Bird is caged for life for killing his wife and plotting to off his lover's hubby, and he's upset that he's not being portrayed fairly. The main thing that bothered him about the movie was that there was no way the writers could have known what was said between him and other people involved since they did not talk to him at all. Right. Like the guy is going to remember all those conversations verbatim? Has this turkey ever watched a movie based on a true life incident before? There's a simple rule of thumb here: if it's a documentary, you have conversations; if it's a movie, you have scenes. Boy, if you had to talk to the principals of every event on which you

based a script, no one could ever make a historical film again. After all, unless you're Shirley MacLaine, it's very hard to interview dead people.

In Fort Worth, there's a great subject for a TV movie unfolding. Tarrant County's senior felony court judge (Judge Tom Cave) is on trial for swapping sex for leniency. Allegedly, he'd boink some baby then cut her loose from prostitution charges. Judge Cave brings a whole new dimension to the term "disrobing."

Another Texas case that could be camera fodder is that of Dr. Hugo Ramirez who was suspended by the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners after one of his liposuction patients died of massive infection. *Sucking Fat* is a natural for the title, and I can hear the promos now: "When she said, 'I would absolutely die to get rid of this cellulite,' little did she know how pro-

phetic her words would be."

In California, real life reminded Michael and Wendy Glover of Alfred Hitchcock's *The Birds* when over 2,000 swifts swooped down their chimney and would not leave. Needless to say, by the time animal regulations officers got them out of there, the furniture was ruined. Hey, it's California after all. They can just put plastic covers on everything and call it a new decorating style. It'll probably start a trend.

But for real life people who want to be in the movies, director Bobby Davis is offering a way in good old San Jose. He's charging people \$240 to be extras in his Civil War film, *Draw Sabres*, which he insists will pay the people back their "investment" because he expects the movie to gross \$100 million. Sure. This guy's other top films were *Barbie's Hospital Affair* and *Dingle Dangle*, two flicks I missed.

By "Perfectly" Frank Carello

Top Guns Shot Down

So Gary Hart had dinner with some blonde? So what? I'm really tired of people who think that men and women can't be friends and that any time a randy old politician meets up with a nubile young female that something oo-la-la is going on. Of course, that trip to Bimini on a boat called Monkey Business is a bit much.

In Houston, the cops are once again trying to do their part to make the city a well-known sports town by arresting Scott Shelton and Kevin Williams of the Seattle Super Sonics at a nightclub. The Sonics replied by arresting the efforts of the Rockets to win one at home in either of the first two home-court games. If you recall, the Mets kicked the Astros out of their World Series hopes after two of their players were arrested at a Houston club. Will these guys stop arresting opposing teams so that we can get some more Texas titles around here?

In Jim and Tammy land, billboards with the faces of those two darlings at Heritage U.S.A., the PTL theme park, have been painted over with brown paint. No one has explained the choice of color, but I have been assured (by someone totally unconnected with anything) that the color in no way reflects a subtle hint at brown-nosing on the part of either of the PTL's fallen angels.

Quirks and Weiridities

Amelie Magne of Bergerac, France, has had a tough time getting rid of rumors of her death. The bank even demanded that her husband provide them with her death certificate for inheritance purposes. Unfortunately, her husband has been dead for 10 years. It sounds as if she's living in backwardsland, doesn't it?

In Baltimore, Sony is suing a woman named Sony for using her name on a small restaurant to the tune of \$2.9 million. I hope she counter-sues for harrassment, wins, and the victory is shown on Sony TVs all over the country. That woman has a right to use her own name and Sony Corp. is a big bully.

Galveston County has an interesting suit. It seems that a couple of the residents of the former city of Crystal Beach have claimed that the election that disincorporated the city was full of irregularities. That's no surprise. The running of the city was so full of irregularities to begin with that that's why they had the election to do away with it in the first place.

Finally, in Los Angeles, siamese twins, Yvonne and Yvette McCarther enrolled in college at the age of 38, despite the objections of their protective mother. The two are joined at the crown of their heads, so now we will have the answer to the question: Are almost two heads better than one?

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FORUM
RECOMMENDED

By Amanda B. Recondwith

Well, Dear Fans, Amanda has recovered from another wild year of Splash Day flinging. No sooner had we dusted off our sombrero from Fiesta, than we were donning our finest leopard skin pouf suit for the high waters of Galveston. Of course, the beaches of Texas are far better than they used to be, with the wonderfully macho "Don't Mess With Texas" litter program going on, but the water still left something to be desired. Just in case we were attacked by roving jellyfish, we put on our finest steel mesh mermaid sheath, guaranteed to ward off the most determined jellyfish, as well as any passing shark, speedboat or National Geographic film crew. Sebastian wore his trusty Speedo with the target on the front. Of course, Amanda thinks that this is rather tacky, but who are we to cross the hands of fashion—especially when put into such wonderful attire.

The beach was quite crowded, but we had little difficulty in landing our leased helicopter on the roof of the pavillion and climbing down the ladder from the crow's nest. Incidentally, there was not one crow to be seen up there, so we still can't figure what that's all about. Anyway, once we hit the beach, we had our usual beach setup made, complete with Acapulco-style palapa draped in pink mesh and aluminum Star Trek beach mat to ward off those nasty sand crabs. Amanda had heard that one may pick up crabs during Splash Day, but we don't ever remember seeing crabs on that particular beach. Anyway, we set our crab traps and hoped that the nasty little monsters wouldn't spoil our day. We did, however, wonder why several of our dear friends laughed so hard when we suggested boiling any crabs we might catch that day. . . .



No sooner had we dusted off our sombrero from Fiesta, than we were donning our finest leopard skin pouf suit for the high waters of Galveston.

The air was sultry and fresh, and the beach was just full of roaming men in several different cuts of bathing suits. We took great pleasure in noticing the fashion, and remembered several fairly hot trends.

We noticed plenty of beautiful Speedo bikinis that show nearly everything. The

most popular colors seemed to be black and turquoise. We did, however, see one man crawling out of the water, looking very shy and distraught because his companion was forcing him to wear a white bikini that showed EVERYTHING when wet. It seems that his companion was using him

as some sort of lure, and we were disgusted that we had seen this device used before—only Elizabeth Taylor was far more alluring. Nobody likes to see wet sausage through gauze, Dear Fans!

There were several men stalking the beach, wearing the most amusing Tarzan-like chamoise bikinis with the ragged front and string sides. They reminded us of Tina Turner doing bad Proud Marys. We tried not to tell them that the Bo Dereck look had long since come and gone, but we couldn't help ourselves, and ended up borrowing one suit for the next time we washed the Rolls.

Others were comfortable in the new "Jams" type suits that are very long on the leg and rather tight in the crotch. They make for wonderful viewing, when worn by brave persons who don't prefer athletic support. In fact, when several of them began to play volleyball, Amanda had to look away. It was just too much like watching a tennis match, only up and down instead of back and forth.

Of course, there were many pretty ladies there, also, wearing everything from fashionable bikinis to cut-offs and T-shirts. Amanda was especially drawn to one woman who seemed to take great pride in her Barbarella plastic titty cup suit, although as the heat increased, she began to have serious meltdown.

We couldn't help but think of all those teeming masses out there on the lone prairies in Dallas, Ft. Worth and San Antonio. We saw many many of our friends from all over the state, taking great pleasure in the sea breezes, but it was sad to think of those who couldn't make it. Oh, well, maybe next year! Hopefully it will be sunny BOTH days instead of just one.

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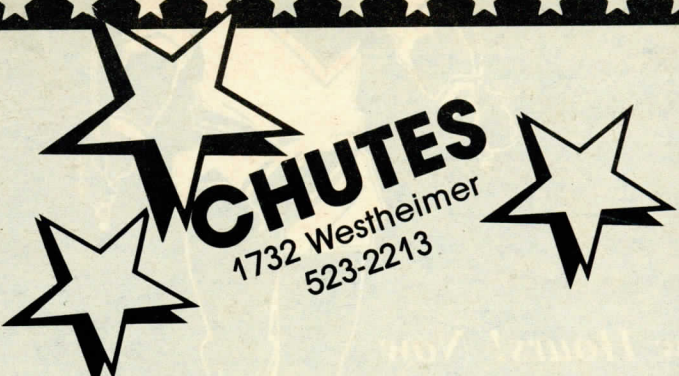
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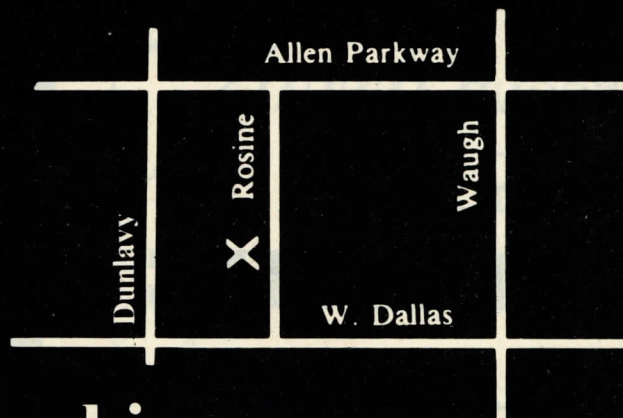


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NETWORK

"One City's Window"

By Jeff Bray

They changed it again. It happens about once a year, but usually it takes a few days to notice it. Those who visit Houston from other cities have also grown to notice the huge billboard above Tila's on the curve of Westheimer, just east of Montrose.

... the window of our community is telling the world that those men have finally grown up, and the conquest is not quite so predatory.

You can see it from the busy intersection. Thousands of people a day drive through there, from all walks of life. Lawyers and accountants, secretaries and bankers, bartenders and school teachers, bums and salespeople—they all drive past the huge old billboard that seems to always reflect the pulse of Montrose, Houston's major gay community.

When I first came to Houston, I remember seeing very explicit advertising up there, usually for liquor or cigarettes. There was always a 20-foot man up there, his legs straddling a canoe, or sprawled over a tree trunk. He always looked like a lumberjack or a parachutist, and he was always rugged and macho and brawny as he either swilled his beer, sipped his liquor or smoked his cigarette. Those were the days when you expected to find that sort of person looking for the next sexual encounter. He never showed fear. He never expressed concern. He existed for adventure and conquest. He was the man on the billboard, and he represented what was happening in rather a subconscious mass consumer way.

Then, there was a change. Instead of the virile macho man, there appeared a more sophisticated, intellectual type, wearing expensive suits and horn-rimmed glasses. His 20-foot figure was not quite as rugged—not quite as carefree. Instead, he was urbane and suave. He advertised wine, or new lower tar and nicotine cigarettes. His legs weren't spread quite so far apart, and while he still was a pleasure to look at for most of the community, he reflected a real change in community attitude. The Yuppies were moving into Montrose, and Guppies were doing major renovation. The sophisticated man in the form-fitting linen suit was more interested in driving a nice car, owning a nice home, making the correct investments. His conquest was more muted. His goals were more substantial.

Then, the sophisticated form disappeared from the billboard and was replaced by a big advertisement for a local radio station, catering to the masses of young kids that flood the area on weekends. These irresponsible masses of bleached, bombed and bumbled out teenagers suddenly attracted a new market, with their stereos blaring insanely into the night, accompanied by waves of verbal abuse. The area was no longer the residence of those who lived there. Instead, it was No-Man's Land, where those of us who have homes nearby locked our doors and parked our cars off the street. The giant billboard heralded a very insecure, very greedy and very dangerous influence in the neighborhood.

But now, suddenly the old sign has taken on a new role. Have been such a window into the Montrose psyche for so many years, the huge sign has taken a complete turn and come full circle around to the original market it was intended for. But there is no hot macho man lighting his cigarette. There is no handsome lumberjack with tight bulging jeans straddling the intersection. Even the sophisticated Yuppy no longer exists to keep watch over the busy street. Instead, the huge sign now advertises an AIDS hotline number, where people may obtain counseling and information.

What a window into the consciousness of the community! Having shocked the meek and the Victorian for years, the huge old billboard now goes one step further and tells the world of something deep and serious and horrible just below the surface

of visual reality. The days of conquest seem to be gone. The self-assured sexy man no longer displays himself to the public in gay abandon. Instead, we see something far more useful, and far more interesting. The handsome men are still around, of course, but the window of our community is telling the world that those men have finally grown up, and the conquest is not quite so predatory.



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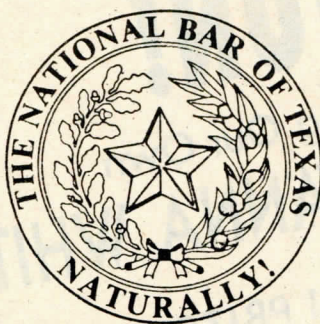
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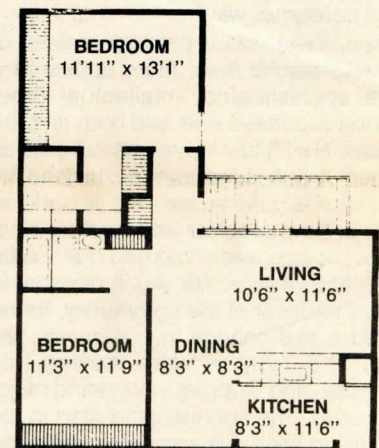
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NEWS BITS . . .

Homophobia Believed to Be Cause of Massacre

William Bryan Cruse, who killed six and wounded twelve in a shooting spree in a Winn-Dixie Supermarket in Palm Bay, Fla., is said to have been obsessed with the idea that people thought he was gay. This homophobia may have been what led to the shooting, according to a story in the *Orlando Sentinel*.

The *Sentinel* revealed conversations between Cruse and the woman Cruse held captive after the initial shooting in which he told her about his fears.

Gephardt Reveals AIDS Plan in Houston

Presidential hopeful, Richard Gephardt, a congressman from St. Louis, was in

Houston Monday laying out his campaign, and he stressed that AIDS was a top issue in that campaign, outlining a comprehensive nine-point plan that would ensure fair and supportive treatment for victims of AIDS.

While in Houston, Gephardt toured the Institute for Immunological Disorders,

Survey Reveals Teen Ignorance

A survey reported by UPI of 860 Massachusetts teens showed an alarming amount of ignorance about the cause and spread of AIDS, including the fact that 4% of those surveyed had not even heard of the disease, despite massive media coverage as well as entertainment features about AIDS.

Even though 70% of the teens said they

were sexually active, only 15% said they had modified their sexual activities to prevent the disease. Of that group, only 20% used those methods that could actually be regarded as safe sex.

Reagan Promises AIDS Commission

In order to form a cohesive policy in regards to the AIDS epidemic, President Reagan has decided to form an AIDS commission that will have a look at research and funding, insurance problems, prevention and education, as well as any other issues surrounding the spread of the deadly virus.

Various Reagan administrators have differed widely on how to handle problems associated with the crisis, with the president advocating a moral stance in which

education should be aimed at getting young people to abstain from sex rather than be educated as how to have sex safely. Reagan's sluggish response throughout the spread of the disease has frustrated health officials and researchers, as well as giving authority to the segment of the population favoring drastic homophobic measures designed to punish the patients rather than slow the epidemic.

Anti-Testing Bill Blocked in State Senate

In an attempt to prohibit wholesale mandatory AIDS testing, Sen. Craig Washington, D-Houston, tried to bring a bill to the floor of the Texas Senate that would eliminate unreasonable and indiscriminate testing for the virus. The attempt failed by nine votes.

H O R O S C O P E S

by Jack Marvin, AMAFA

There are two interesting occurrences this week in the Zodiac. The first, and most obvious event, is the Full MOON which will happen in sexy SCORPIO on Wednesday morning at 6:51 a.m. The second, and not so obvious event, is MERCURY entering GEMINI. Since MERCURY rules GEMINI, this is an excellent placement for the planet of communications. For the next several weeks, we should experience ease of communication and meeting people.

Planets visible in the early morning are VENUS, JUPITER, and SATURN while MARS can be

seen soon after Sunset.

Notes: LEO will be on an emotional high Friday while CAPRICORN will find love and romance. CANCER and SAGITTARIUS will have a tendency to over-drink on Sunday. ARIES and AQUARIUS will feel emotionally comfortable on Monday. The Full MOON will spell romance for everyone with the great alignment of MARS/VENUS. AQUARIANS definitely have a strong edge on romance during this Full MOON.

 **ARIES** (March 21-April 20): You should begin serious thinking on increasing your financial worth and assets. During the next month, you should formulate plans that could prove very successful especially in areas dealing with real estate, oil or mining stocks. The area highlighted, and needing a little work, is your sex life. There may be some difficulties here which are usually caused by stress. Avoid the tendency to become bored sexually with your partner. A little "roaming" may do both of you some good.

* Favorable Days: 13th

* Unfavorable Days: 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 14th

 **TAURUS** (April 21-May 20): With the SUN entering your sign, the power of the Zodiac shifts to you and places you in the limelight. You may notice that you are becoming much more noticed than in the past (especially last month!). If you are having some difficulty in your relationship, this is something that you need to put a little effort into—some stress may occur in this area towards the end of the week. Discuss things frankly and openly with your partner. Leave no stone unturned.

* Favorable Days: 8th

* Unfavorable Days: 11th, 12th, 13th

 **GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): This month will be a good time for you to look inside yourself and really get to the bottom of exactly what is bothering you. You may find some therapy or group-encounter sessions may be good for you. You should also look into your work and all matters relating to your health. Certainly take care of yourself and avoid over-drinking or overindulging. On Monday, there could be some confusion dealing with goals you may have set for yourself, friends and travel or higher-level education and philosophies. Avoid any arguments on this day.

* Favorable Days: 8th

* Unfavorable Days: 13th, 14th

 **CANCER** (June 21-July 20): CANCER more than anyone else feels the stress of the Full MOON. This will occur in your house of romance indicating that this area of your life needs just a little more illumination. What are you doing wrong? Ask a past lover. With the SUN and VENUS in your house of friends, this may indicate a romantic encounter with a current acquaintance. Avoid a powerful argument around noon on Thursday with a lover and concentrate your energies towards setting goals that are achievable.

* Favorable Days: 12th

* Unfavorable Days: 9th, 13th

 **LEO** (July 21-August 21): The Full MOON could be an especially stressful time for you with the SUN and MOON combining with your natal SUN to form a T-square, an especially difficult aspect. Areas under high stress: career, status, and your home life. Don't let this get you down as it is only temporary and will pass by next weekend. You may feel inadequately educated and may even have doubts about your ability to perform your current occupation. This should pass by the following weekend. The Full MOON brings into full light your home life.

* Favorable Days: 8th

* Unfavorable Days: 13th

 **VIRGO** (August 22-September 21): Of course, the SUN in TAURUS makes an excellent aspect to your SUN sign indicating a very favorable time of the year for you—specifically in areas dealing with travel and higher level learning. With the Full MOON highlighting your near neighborhood, you should get involved with activities within your community. Have you thought about joining one of your neighborhood associations? Every community has one. Call and ask. Have you also been neglecting your brothers or sisters? Call them and tell them you care.

* Favorable Days: 8th

* Unfavorable Days: 13th

 **LIBRA** (September 22-October 22): There could be some communication difficulties in areas dealing with your home life. This probably comes from confusions and misunderstandings of events where the facts were incorrectly stated. There should be some increased action in your sex life with the sensual SUN transiting this area. With VENUS also here this could indicate the beginning of a romantic involvement. Areas that could be having some trouble are your financial assets and resources. Be careful of what you sell or buy during this week.

* Favorable Days: 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 13th

* Unfavorable Days: none

 **SCORPIO** (October 23-November 22): There is certainly a romantic involvement for you with both VENUS and the SUN in your area of partnerships. If you aren't married now, you may be by the end of the month. You need some improvement on your outer self. You should work on your wardrobe and your "bod." Be very careful with your communication at work because you will have a tendency to be misunderstood. Sexually, there could also be some confusion. This is still a very lucky time for you—bet on a lottery!

* Favorable Days: 12th, 13th

* Unfavorable Days: none

 **SAGITTARIUS** (November 23-December 20): Your job will be greatly emphasized during the current month with some stress during the period of the Full MOON. Your independent nature is very obvious, but don't go too far out. You need to do some self inventory and get rid of some of the garbage that is cluttering your mind during the Full MOON. There could be a romantic encounter at your job. Don't move any of your assets during this period. With the Full MOON lighting your area of health, start today on a program of self-improvement.

* Favorable Days: 14th

* Unfavorable Days: 10th

 **CAPRICORN** (December 21-January 17): This weekend should really be an outstanding time for you with the SUN entering TAURUS and the MOON transiting VIRGO making a Grand Trine (the very best aspect) with your natal SUN. This next month is very favorable for romantic encounters, but not necessarily leading to a lover-type relationship. You may encounter some communications problems in your home life. They should pass by the end of next month. You need to reexamine your goals and aspirations.

* Favorable Days: 8th, 10th

* Unfavorable Days: none

 **AQUARIUS** (January 20-February 18): There could be some stress in areas dealing with your home and reputation or career. There could be a sudden enhancement in your career immediately after the Full MOON if you do not overreact to situations that you do not have all the facts correct. There could be some communication problems in your neighborhood or with your brothers or sisters. You should be very fortunate in your financial area with the current transit of JUPITER. This is not a good period to get involved with anyone either sexually or romantically.

* Favorable Days: 11th, 13th

* Unfavorable Days: 9th, 14th

 **PISCES** (February 19-March 20): There will be a lot of emphasis on your close relatives and a renewed emphasis on higher level education. Watch your assets carefully as you may have some difficulties in understanding your financial worth or your assets may not be as they appear. You will attract someone in the near future that will directly enhance your net worth, but only as a friend and not a lover. There could be a romantic involvement in your near neighborhood. You may appear erratic and unstable to those that don't know you.

* Favorable Days: 12th

* Unfavorable Days: 8th, 10th

QUESTION: "What's the big deal about the Full MOON? All the bars seem to have Full MOON parties. Is the Full MOON supposed to make you want to drink or take drugs or what? If I didn't actually see the Full MOON, I would probably feel no different than any other day." S.P.L.

ANSWER: Obviously, there are no simple answers to anything in life—including Astrology. To completely answer this question would take several chapters of a book, and the

TEXAS FORUM will not give me that much space. Essentially, hundreds or thousands of years ago, people noticed that some people (not all!) acted strangely during the Full MOON. This gave rise to the words "lunacy" and "lunatic" for people who acted that way all the time. Usually, the Full MOON has little or no noticeable effect on any of us. The main people who are affected are those born under a Full MOON, a New MOON, or whose natal SUN is currently causing a difficult aspect with the Full MOON. J.M., AMAFA

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

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WHAT A WORLD!!

By Nancy Ford

Dear Mother, It's time once again for my annual State-of-Your-Daughter Address which always comes enclosed in this accompanying Hallmark card.

It's hard to believe another year has passed so quickly. My how time flies when you're committing illegal acts of intimacy in the privacy of your own home.

Another year. Much has happened and much has changed, though much has also remained the same. To be specific, I'm still gay, and you still wish I wasn't. Apparently our birthday cake blow-out-the-candle wishes came true for neither of us this year.

But you know, Mom, if it's any consolation, you're not alone. For every gay person who ever lived, loved and lispd his way through this mortal coil, there is an accompanying tale to tell of how his parents found out. Do you remember the day/night/full moon **you** found out? I thought you might.

As memorable as it was for us all, I want to assure you as one who has been a member of the community long enough to hear it all, that compared to other "Mom and Dad, sit down" stories, ours is a joy ride. Why do you think they're called Grimm Fairy Tales?

Therefore, this Mother's Day, my gift to you is the simple yet hopefully comforting knowledge that my sexual orientation was revealed to you in none of the following manners:

- (1) You did not unexpectedly walk in on me in the shower to find a pink triangle tattooed on my buttock.
- (2) You did not read it advertised on an urban billboard. "Marry me, Wanda. Love, Jerome." could just as easily

have turned into "Forget Jerome, Wanda, and fly away with me to Belize. Love, Nancy."

- (3) You did not recognize my voice on "Good Sex with Dr. Ruth" while listening to the radio.
- (4) You did not hear it from my former mother-in-law during one of her blind revenge sprees.
- (5) You did not hear it from my former husband during one of his blind revenge sprees.
- (6) You did not hear it from any of my former lovers during any of their blind revenge sprees.
- (7) You did not see me interviewed by Geraldo Rivera as my company's "token lesbian" for an upcoming national TV expose entitled "Gay In America." (Note: in the event Geraldo should arrive unexpectedly at your door wanting an interview, simply tell him you're not really gay at all, but an itinerant house painter, and that you will sue if he doesn't immediately vacate the premises. He'll leave.)
- (8) You were not told via Singing Telegram (sung to the tune of "Happy Birthday To You"): "Your daughter sends news, Not diamonds or pearls; She's a lot like her father, They both prefer girls."

So, happy Mother's Day, Mom, and thanks. Thanks for my birth; thanks for my life; and thanks for loving me no matter what.

Your daughter,
Nancy

P.S. Please give Dad a copy of this letter on June 21.

MONA

Dear Mona:

Why is it that whenever I meet someone I think I could live with forever, he moves away? This is the third time in the last year that I've met Mr. Right and he takes flight. Am I just picking these people out for that reason, without realizing it? What's wrong with me? Or is it nothing?

Signed: Crazy and Lonely

Dear C&L:

It may be possible that you are subliminally seeking out people whom you know will leave. It could be a "safe" way for you to have romance. After all, there's nothing safer than love from a distance—and it's so nice to fantasize about people when they're not around. No muss, no fuss. I think if this is a pattern, you should consider it the next time you think about attempting a relationship. Ask the person what his future plans are. If he appears discouraged with Texas, or is planning to move in the future, perhaps it would be best to disregard him.

Dear Mona:

Do you ever get tired of giving advice? Do you ever get in a fix where you need the advice of others?

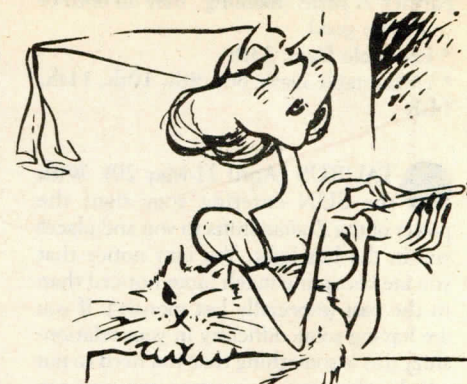
Signed: A Fan

Dear Fan:

Yes, of course, I am only human, and I often take the advice of friends and family. In fact, I consider myself lucky to have many friends, and a wonderful family who not only listen to my troubles—they offer excellent advice. I also try to surround myself with positive people, who don't take life and work so seriously. One must have room for play and friendship, and more than anything, a listening ear is very important.

Dear Mona:

A friend I have had for years has broken my confidence. I told her something very



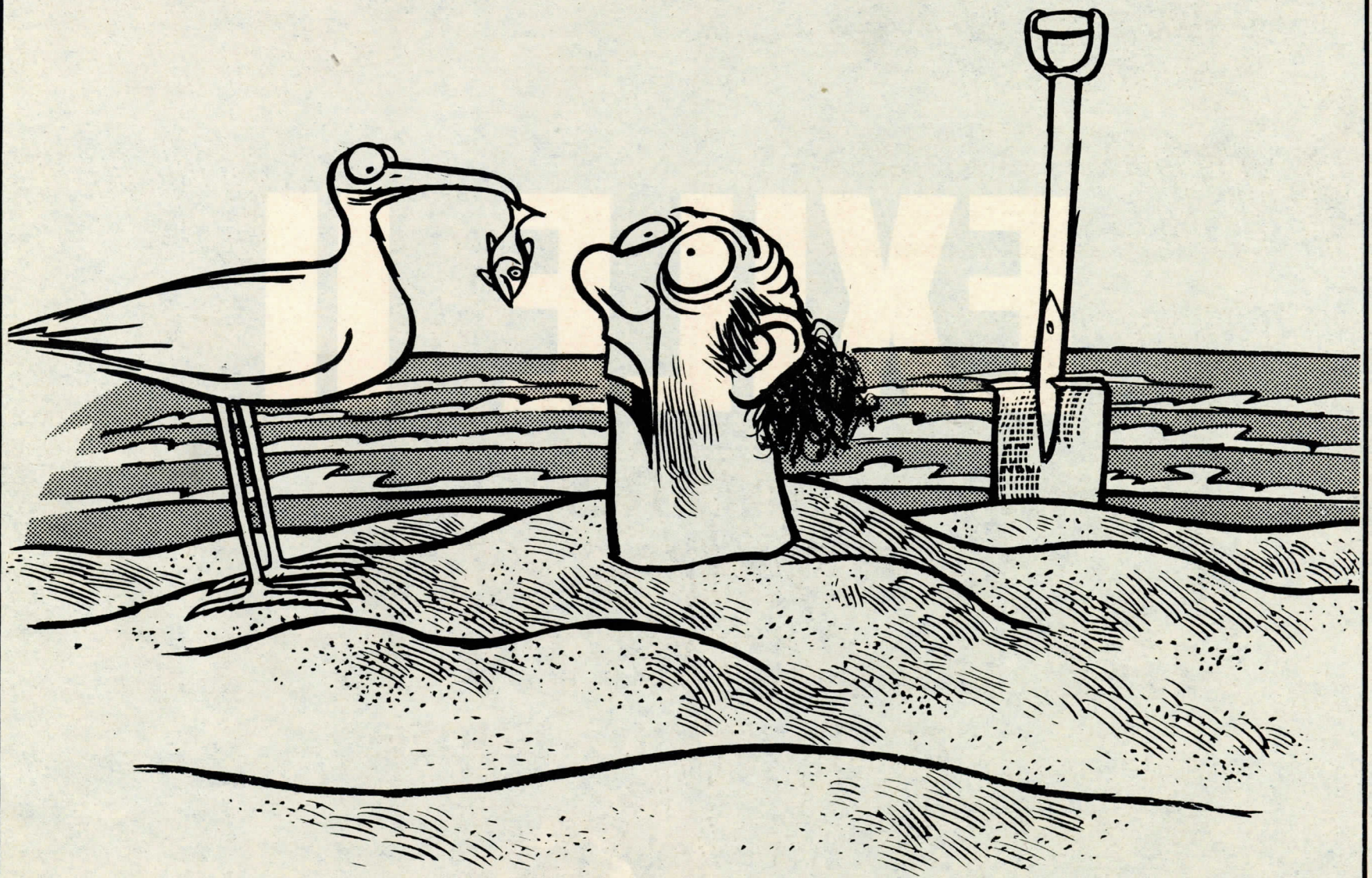
confidential, and I've recently found out that she has told others who are very upset about what I told her. I'm so mad at her I could just drop her completely, but I don't know if I should do that. I just don't even feel like speaking to her anymore because of this. It makes me sad, but then, it makes me even more sad to be around her. What should I do? We have so many mutual friends!

Signed: Madder Than Hell

Dear Mad:

Anger is a very useful emotional outlet, but only if it is expressed properly. Your friend was very wrong in divulging information, if it was understood that it was confidential. Of course, there is always danger in telling someone damaging news. When friendships are intertwined, it is perhaps best to not confide EVERYTHING. You will save yourself lots of anxiety if you hold more to yourself and be very discriminating about who you tell classified information to. I would avoid your friend for awhile, and if you feel it justified, I would certainly express your anger. If you are good enough friends, you will eventually cool down—but I would never confide in that person again.

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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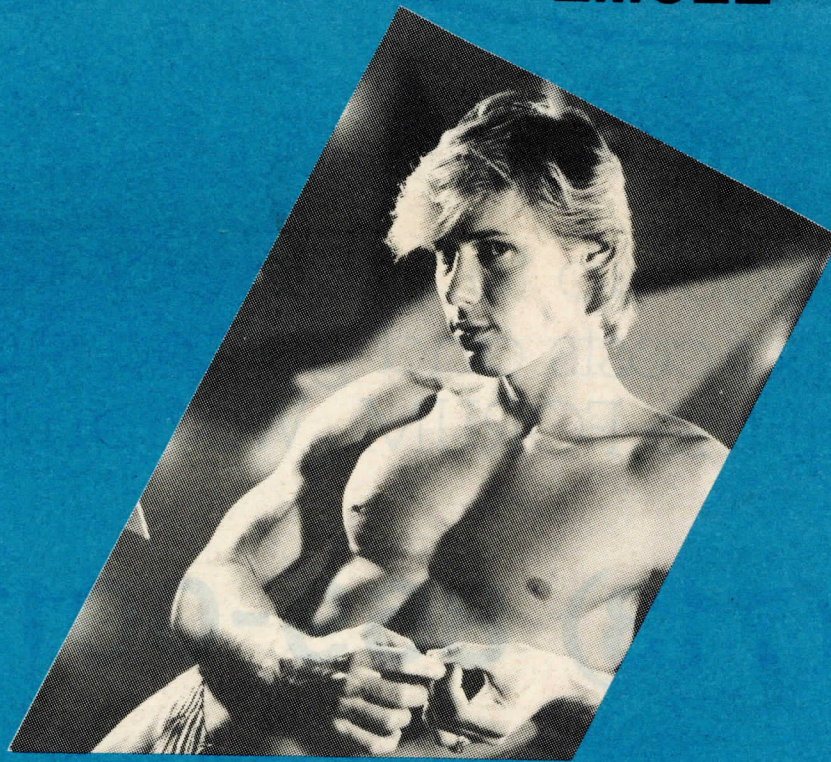
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