

Volume 3 Number 20

T E X A S FORUM

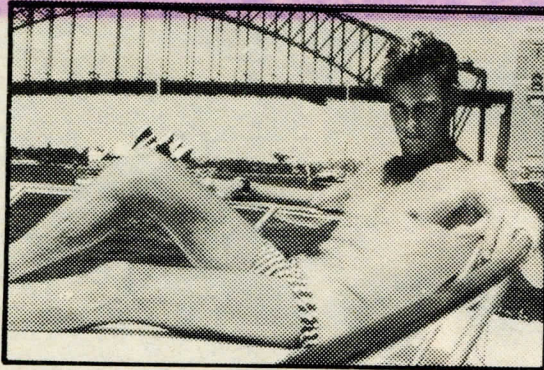
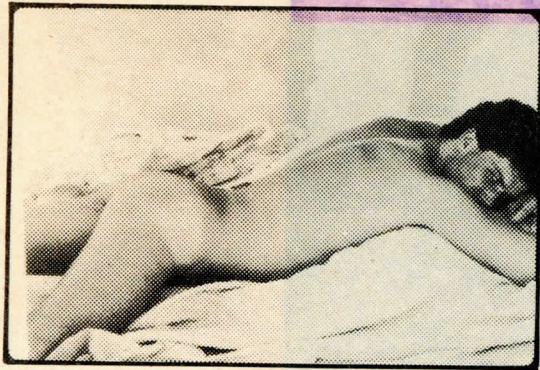
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TEXAS FORUM

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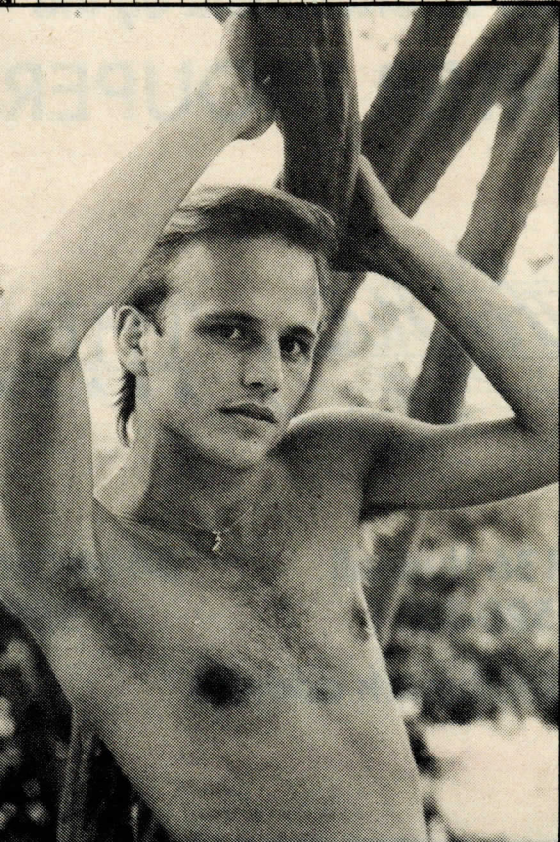
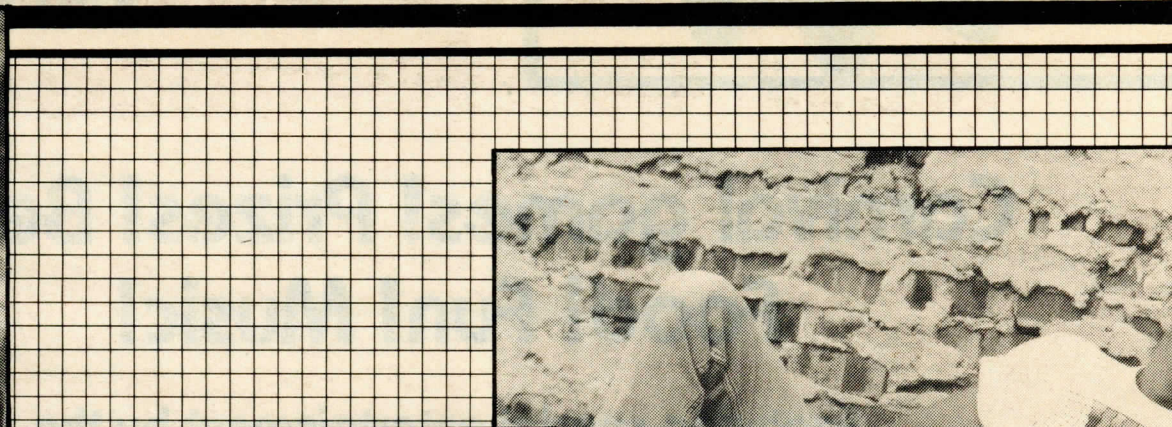
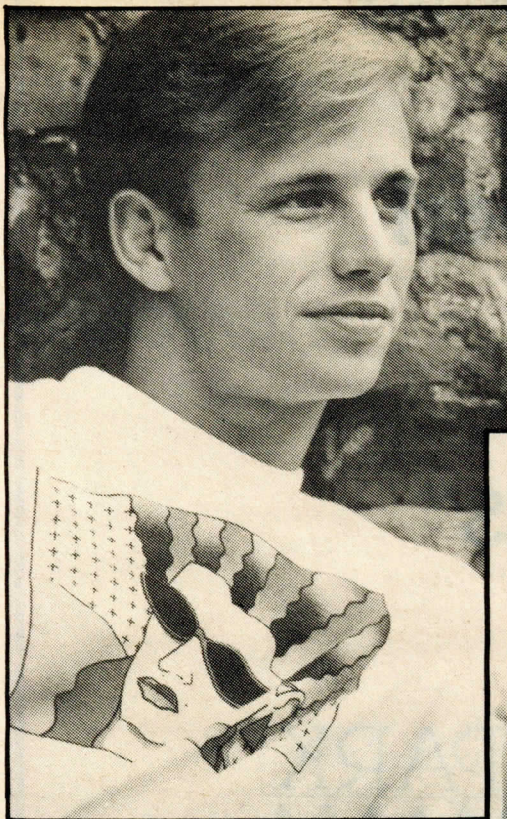
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BEHIND THE FRONT COVER

RON



Born: New Mexico.
Sun Sign: Pisces.
Eyes: Blue-green.
Occupation: Retail furniture sales.
Favorite kind of man: Strong but soft.
Current Projects: Collecting 1950's memorabilia.
Future Projects: To open my own antique shop.
Message to TEXAS FORUM Readers:
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LET'S GET REAL "Good Old Boys Have Had Their Day"

By Randy Brown

It's hard to believe that Texans went and voted someone from the Good Old Boy Network into the governorship of the state. I'm a native Texan and I know what the Good Old Boy Network is all about. I used to think it was really cool getting my tickets fixed when I was a kid. I didn't understand all that went along with that. I didn't understand that somewhere along the way, there is a price on that ticket.

Bill Clements still thinks that the you-scratch-my-back-and-I'll-scratch-yours mentality that prevailed in Texas politics for so many years is going to carry him through. He thinks he can keep talking out of both sides of his cheeks and people on opposite sides of his head won't compare notes. The times when a politician could promise one thing in Leakey and another in Dallas are gone, but Gov. Bill doesn't seem to know it.

His governorship has sunk to a new low, and the football scandal at SMU is the sinker. And his two-tongued approach to the tax problem is the mud at the bottom of the pond.

Of course, being a native Texan, I sort of understand the football issue — sort of, I said. Face it, Texas has always been a very, very, strong football state. There are plenty of sayings about baby Texans (male) being born with little footballs in their hands. All you have to do is listen to the announcement of the starting line-up of any major football game to know how many of the top players come from the Lone Star State. And over the years, we have always bought our football players whatever they wanted.

A kid who could play football in Texas knew he had it made at least through college in this state. And everybody in the state knew that little Kenny Quarterback and big Ronald Running-back were getting cars and cash and trips to the Chicken Ranch for

being winners — or even contenders. Anyone who had been in Texas for any length of time and says he didn't know anything about that was in a coma for most of that time.

His governorship has sunk to a new low, and the football scandal at SMU is the sinker.

And you can't take a system that has been so thoroughly based on the glad hand and the open pocketbook and suddenly shut it down without some of the Good Old Boys getting confused. It is going to take many years to change the mentality that has prevailed for so long in this state about football. And that's not going to be easy. For some of the Good Old Boys, football is as sacred an issue as segregation, and look how long it took to try to integrate the state. Of course the fact that so many football players these days are black has earned some sort of grudging respect from the Good Old Boys — not much, though.

Cleaning up the football program at SMU — or trying to — shows very clearly how the Good Old Boys operate. They were told to stop making payments to the players, but they decided it wouldn't be "fair" to just cut the boys off, so they decided to "phase out" the payments over a period of time — under the table as usual, of course.

When you think about it, that's like an auto theft ring getting caught and the cops say, "We're not going to throw you in jail for stealing all these cars, if you will promise not to steal any more cars." Then the theft ring thinks it over, and decides to *slow* down stealing cars, figuring that they'll stop it down the line when everyone gets used to the idea

of not stealing cars. But, they're stealing, no matter what, and they haven't kept the deal — which was a pretty good deal in the first place.

Gov. Bill and the rest of the Good Old boys at SMU just *slowed* down making those illegal payments to players, but they were still making them. And they got caught. The funny thing about it is that Gov. Bill openly admitted it, thinking that perhaps any good Texas would have wanted to keep a system that churned out so many good football players.

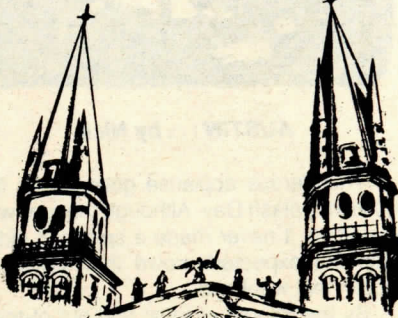
In all fairness, several Texas schools have bitten the bullet and cleaned up their acts considerably. Texas A&M and University of Texas are notable examples. And anyone who has lived in Texas as long as I have knows that the same Good Old Boy Network was working to put cash and goodies in those players pockets for many, many years.

But the Good Old Boy Network is fraying at the ends, and when it collapses, Gov. Bill and his like will all go down with it. They don't know how to play by the new rules. They don't understand that the world has changed and that Texas is part of the world. They keep playing their little games, thinking that the Network is going to go on forever and ever amen, when the truth is that their kind of thinking doesn't have a prayer any more.

Gov. Bill can change his stand on taxes until the state comes apart at the seams, he can hang on to the old pay-offs until his programs are all outlawed, he can try to use the press when it suits him and rebuke it when it doesn't, but he's not going to get away with it. The time for his kind of politics in Texas is gone.

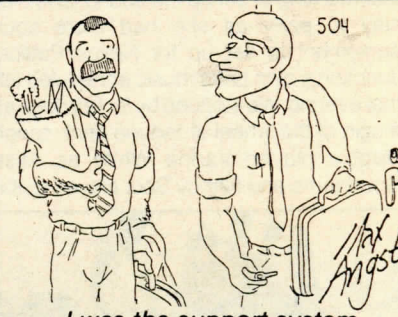


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AUSTIN . . . by Nick

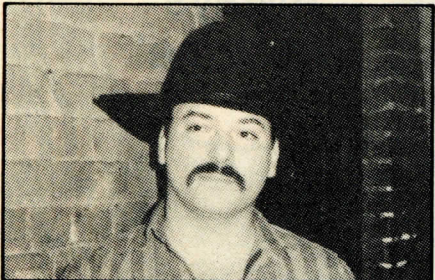
Thunderous applause goes out to the hosts of Splash Day. Although thunder was expected, it never made a splash. It didn't stop the expected crowd that arrived in Austin that weekend.

By the turnout of local and out-of-town guests, it would seem impossible to believe that anyone had even heard a weather report. I arrived at the event via Marcy's boat. The trip across the lake was at full throttle, but as Marcy pulled into Hippie Hollow, we slowed to a *cruise*. The hosts of Splash Day—Boathouse, Badlands/Snuffy's, The Crossing, Hall's, Uncle Charlie's, Sally's Apartment, Private Cellar, Nexus/Petticoat Junction, 505 East 3rd Street—supplied the beer and the music. I'm sure that everyone would like to thank Joni who came out early that morning to set up the sound. She didn't stay to party as she had more sound equipment to set up for Nexus/Petticoat Junction's own patio music scheduled later that evening. We stopped by for hot dogs and a spin of the wheel of fortune drink special. Debbie played Vanna White as Alison Goodgame and Nancy Scot played guitar.



Splash Day, Austin.

Since we're on the subject of music, you can now choose from 660 tunes from the new compact disc Jut Box at the Private Cellar. While enjoying the laser sound you may relax with a 50¢ well drink or 75¢ Corona in the new Lone Star atmosphere on Wednesdays at the Cellar. Frank Serrano (the manager of this fine bar) says that on Mondays for just the low, low price of \$1.75, you and your friends can enjoy Margarita's from Hell.



The Private Cellar's Frank Serrano.



Matt Griggs and friends at the Private Cellar.

Well, guess who re-opened their doors? Give up? Rupert's, now rightly called Rupert's Corner. Philip (who we all know and love from bartending at the Private Cellar), can be caught during the day accepting tips on this corner. On Saturday's, while keeping to tradition, Rupert's still has their famous guest bartender. This past week Philip's other half, Gil Haynes, could have been seen in the spotlight for the Saturday crowd, "Now isn't that special?"

Moving right along, Chain Drive finished celebrating their first year anniversary on the

weekend of the 24th of last month. I heard they all had some good times. Congratulations and many more to ya! Mike (the manager) tells me that a new deejay is needed. No doubt that Madonna will never get a lot of airing in that club. Then again, who knows?



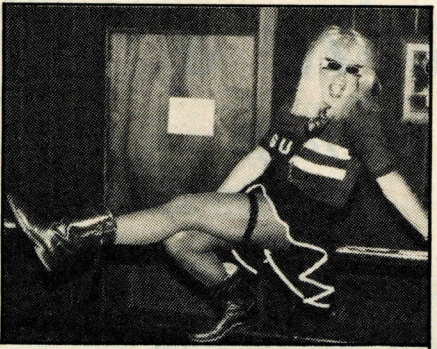
Producer Frank Bengel.

Since deejays are the subject, and I'm not going to be vicious, Randy Minton will be spinning at the Boathouse on weekends for now. The man responsible for bringing us the infamous "Sons and Daughters of Fred and Ethel," Frank Bengel, is now producing the New Improved Radio Hour at the Boathouse on Thursday nights. On Wednesday's you can still catch Naomi's Men, starring Miss Gay USA 1984, Naomi Sims (with Cortney as emcee this week) for only \$2.25 at the door and complimentary cocktails till 1 a.m. This week as it was last week, Naomi is far from home these days in Europe. Now imagine that, Naomi's European Vacation. Hmmm. What a great title for a movie, don't you think?



Naomi Sims and friends at the Boathouse.

Thinking is just what you'll have to do after you read what's going on at Snuffy's/Badland's weekly events. On Mondays, starting at 9 p.m., the pool tournaments and dance lessons will be taking place. Triple Dip can be caught on Thursdays with special guests. If that's a bit too routine you can catch male strippers on Fridays and 25¢ draft to wet your whistle. Jewel's, a Foxx/Gaine production can be seen on Sundays. Come one, come all.



Ms. Mel Ausein of Snuffy's/Badlands.

This past weekend, "Where the Girls Are" Nexus, celebrated their first year in Austin. (We sure have a lot of babies in town.) With live music by Alison Goodgame. You can catch Alison and enjoy 50% hot dogs on their newly-built patio, which by the way, is one of the nicest I've ever seen. All this starts at 6:30 p.m., Sundays. So be there, because I will.

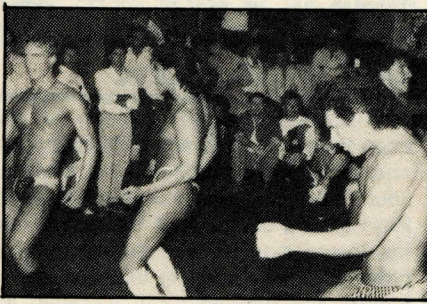


Where Myra and the girls are, Nexus/Petticoat Junction.

On my pleasant tour of our community's hunting grounds, I noticed improvements on many of the bars and businesses. For instance, Ms. Video will be expanding into

new horizons with a non-adult section being added on right next door. They're adding on restrooms and putting on new colors so we all can enjoy those sometimes lonely nights.

The Getaway, located on 8402 South Congress, is the place to go. On May 22, there will be a TGRA show to benefit the Austin AIDS services. Please come show your support and bring cash!



The Headliners at the Crossing on Monday nights.

Since improvements are in the thing these days, the 404 Construction Blues are taking the cake at Hall's. The entire basement will have a Stark-like appearance. By just looking at the blue prints and the dollar figures, this new basement will be a main attraction for years to come. Even the man himself, Steve Higginbotham is, may we say a bit "muffed" up due to the new dress code requiring hard hats. Theme parties will be taking place to celebrate the new improvements. The 404 Construction Blues or whatever this event may be called, will start on May 19 and last eight weeks until the remodeling is done.



Austin's beloved Jane manning the doors at Hall's.

Live life to the fullest and remember to always Play Safe.

SAN ANTONIO . . . by Jackie Oh!

Hello Texas! This is Jackie Oh! here, bringing you fairytales etc. from in and about the Alamo City! Thanks to the **FORUM** for asking S.A. to join in the fun! Speaking of fun, I've been in and out of places the last couple of weeks just having a ball, or two! Like over at the French Connection (Hi Julie!), they always seem to be having fun! Welcome Steve, the new bartender, to the gay bar family! Wet & Wild Wednesdays are a blast with J. Leslie performing, singing anywhere from folk to rock—nice voice! Thursday and Saturday listen to the sounds of Kim and Richard, as a team they're hard to beat. Don't forget the Texas Side Steppers, our favorite clogging team, has a carwash every Sunday and by the looks of cars outside the bars, we need to stop by and support them as they support us.

Stopped by Snuffy's for a cocktail and a bite to eat. Delicious! Nice going, Randy. Over at the Bolt, Monday's and Wednesday's male strippers are still going strong.

Hi to the guys at the 2015! Making plans for the Toaster awards for sometime in August. Stop by and boogie to the beat with Mr. Leather S.A., Rycc Williams in the booth. (He's a cutie, looks good enough to . . .!) My sweethearts' Bob and Dick are there to make sure you have a good time! Hi to my happy-hour cohort, constituent, friend, Ray! Stop by and see the guys at the 2015.

Hi to the guys at the 106—especially to Doug! I see those camel jockeys are still lined up behind Cora. (Hi honey!) I heard they're planning something new, and fun for their customers. As usual, there's always fun at the 106.

Austin San Antonio

Speaking of new C&W bars, as I know someone was, Papa Bear's is adding another addition to his establishment, soon to be . . . Hi Brian, honey (another cutie). Bear was smart putting in a restaurant knowing I'd be around and trying to eat his pretty bartenders, but his steaks will have to do!

Down at the Crew, the gang is always having fun cocktailing and shooting pool. Stop by and see Miss Kitty and the girls at the Crew!

Welcome from San Antonio and the Silver Dollar Saloon are my best wishes to Frank Bengel. Formerly from Austin, now in San Antonio at the Dollar, deejaying Monday and Tuesday. But he can still be found in Austin Thursday nights at the Boathouse with the new and improved Radio Hour. Just one more sick employee at the Silver Dollar along with yours truly, Jackie Oh! Happy birthday wishes to my sis Bobbie Oh! She can be found on the patio, working the bar, the corner, or wherever and whatever she finds! The Oscar for Best Bar Drink of the Month goes to the guys at the Silver Dollar. Way to go, guys! You're all sick!

Over at the Paper Moon (a.k.a. the Pink Pageant Palace), the fun and fiesta continue to enhance crowds of dancing fever fools with your deejays Robert Garcia and Oscar Reyna! If you like larger crowds during the week and weekends, it's the place to be!

Paper Moon, "home of entertainment," hosts many well-done shows that have such entertainers as Pauletta Leigh, Sweet Savage, Donna Day, Shady Lady, Brenda Starr, Casey Starr, Jackie D'Shawn, and one of the most energetic performers I've seen in quite a while, Nakoma Shaye. I don't make predictions but Nakoma is well on her way up and I believe a crown is in her future.

Anways, I'm hungry and I'm going to have a cocktail or both! If there is anyone wishing to contribute anything to this column, please call me Friday-Wednesday at (512)227-2625; the Silver Dollar Saloon, after 2 p.m. If I didn't get by your favorite bar this week, don't fret. I'll be there, so watch out! Give me a break, I'm still recovering from surgery. Till next week . . . be good and do "it" safe for all of us!

DALLAS . . . by Mr. X

Allow me to introduce myself, I am Mr. X. My friends call me anything from A-Z, but mostly Mr. X. I love being a columnist because it allows me to go interesting places, meet wonderful people, and do exciting things! I travel incognito so that I can slip in and out and obtain whatever. A correction is in order, last week's column was created by me and I apologize for the type O. Sometimes I may get down and dirty and slap face but I'll be a gentleman about the situation.

Enough of me.

Last Friday I found myself at Rumors enjoying the fabulous sounds from a fabulous entertainer, J. Christopher. This woman is alive and living. I got personal satisfaction seeing someone who loves to perform. In addition, I recommend Rumors, May 16, for an evening of Bratz. Last time the Bratz played Rumors, there were beautiful women everywhere knock-out drinks (trust me) and a superior performance.

Then I decided to check out a fantasy over at Tramps. There's something about muscles and leather that makes these men exciting. While I was there Friday night, I discovered I could rent a Cowboy/Leather Fantasy Man on May 14, and if you need me on this night, forget it. I'll be busy living a fantasy.

For those of you who like to be tied, lightening strikes at the Trestle Saturday, May 16 with a gallery of erotic bondage and a bare buns in chaps contest. Proceeds will go to the AIDS Resource Center. After this week, I expect everyone to live out one fantasy.



Eagle Creek High Heelers.

On Mother's Day at Eagle Creek, the annual High Heel Race began, and let me tell you, honey, they had pumps that any lady would kill for. The race hit several bars along the way and finished at Tramps. A special thanks to Richard (Ms. Woodpussy) TGRA, the racers and the bars! (Whew! I hope that's everyone) for the hard work and the walk for life.



Eagle Creek TGRA.

That same evening, a friend of mine, Ms. Amazing Grace was performing at TRII's along with Whitney Paige (hello from Russ/Duncan), Deva Sanchez, Shavon, and Cleo. It's good to see these ladies using their talent to make people happy. They are sensational and I love 'em.

One block over at Juggs, the bar was hopping with gorgeous women and Mary wants everyone to come visit and order a drink or two. Don't forget Steak Outs on Mondays.

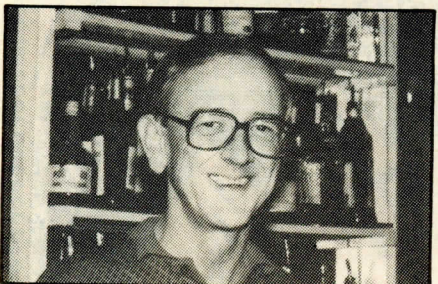


Mary, Juggs.

Get those shorts, tank tops, and bikes ready to pump your hearts out for Arena's second annual Booze Cruise Bike Marathon Sunday, May 24. Think about it, all those buns perched on the seats. If you have any questions, stop by the Arena and ask someone over a cocktail.

Good comedy is hard to find, but Parodize is the ticket this week at Ovations and they are good. Excellent for escaping reality for an evening of relaxing with some friends. If you haven't checked out the bar yet, do so—I think you'll enjoy it.

Parties are so much fun and anniversary parties are a blast, especially Hideaway's fourth year on May 20. If anyone knows how to throw a party, it's Chuck, and let me tell you—go! I've seen some of his parties and when you walk in be careful, Larry makes great drinks, you may need to be carried out. Stop by and wish Dallas' original piano bar a happy fourth year with many more to come.



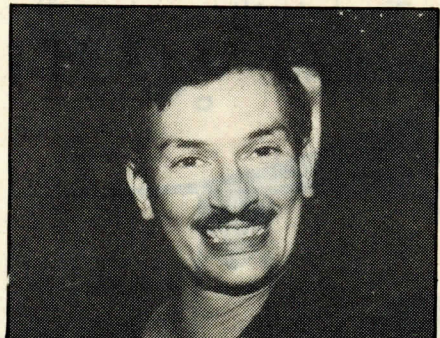
Larry, Hideaway.

Over in Fort Worth, WADS are preparing for a carnival June 7 at 9 p.m. on the parking lot of the 651 Club. If you need a car, go and register for the raffle of a Malibu Classic. Then you can drive to Greenway Park on June 13 for the Gay Pride Week Picnic. This is a very important week for us and we need all the support this year we can get.

Last Sunday at the 651, the Texas Sidekicks were doing some high stepping

with (manager) Dan doing some fancy footwork. I love cowboys and with a beer bust starting at 2 p.m. and going on till ?, those cowboys better have a chastity belt because I'll get on a rampage and rope me a couple. Yahoo!!

I know one bar making summer cooler—Partners. These ladies are having a talent contest and (get ready) a wet T-shirt contest May 21. A special guest appearance by Bette Midler is one of the events planned.



Roger, Zippers.

New comings to Dallas: Zippers opened this past week on 3333 N. Fitzhugh, giving Dallas another hot spot to party. Roger from No Name and Mike from Tramps will be there to serve you cocktails. Also, get ready for the Circuit coming to Maple, and over on Fitzhugh across from the Eighth Day at the old Oriental Theater are reports of a disco/show bar opening sometime in May.

Well, I'm glad to be here in Dallas with all the beautiful people. You'll get to know Mr. X through each column, so stay tuned next week to see what I can get into or out of. I'll leave you with this note: I love you baby, if I don't know you—your turn's coming. Take care until we meet again, and party your buns off!

HOUSTON... by Elroy Forbes

GOOD NEWS

The Wortham Theatre Center is open—ahead of schedule and under budget. After the whole weekend of galas, the first event open to the public was Society For The Performing Arts presentation of The Julliard String Quartet. Our next big concern will be "What to wear!"



The Wortham Center.

Rockefellers was the location for Reg Brand & Friends in a benefit concert of The Foundation For Immunological Disorders. Concert pianist Randy Neal opened the show, performing classical favorites and a special piece written for his mother. Under the musical direction of Rebecca Telep, Reg Brand showered the patrons with gems from Jocke Brel, standards and many of his compositions. One show stopper, arranged by the late Virgil Dickson of radio and Warwick fame, "Black Birds", was a wonderful nostalgia desert for the evening fare.

"This concert came out of a need at the Institute to help raise both the funds and needs that are so desperately needed," spoke the foundation president, Jean Settlemyre. The event was a grand success.



Reg Brand, Jean T. Settlemyre and Randy Neal.

Faces in the crowd included fashion czar Barry Horn who is presently part of Jan Glen's "Picture Perfect" series over at Channel 13; Emery Daly-Lingwood Trinity Design Enterprises, who is preparing to meet President Reagan for personal support on his jewelry, Texas #1 Project, silver or gold medallions with profits going to AIDS patients without insurance and later to help establish a nursing home and old age center for the community; and Phil Blakeway of local bowlers fame.

F.Y.I. Phil disclosed that the Monday Night Men's League and Thursday Night Mixers, who are no longer part of The Montrose Sports Association, will attend the International Gay Bowling Organization New Orleans convention over Memorial Day Weekend. Delegates and individuals from Australia, Canada, Hawaii and points else are planning to participate.

Among the many innovations for Pride '87 is *The Guide*, a newsprint resource magazine directory on our community and Gay Fest '87, a carnival-like celebration on the final Sunday. Ads in *The Guide* range from \$200 to \$30 and booth spaces at the fest are \$10 for non-profit groups and \$50 for commercial ventures. Call me at (713) 524-0409 for more information so that you can participate.

Movemaster's Burton Nix is planning an all out new television/radio/print campaign as a result in his giant fete of moving a complete company from Houston to Austin over the early days of May. All of us pour our hearts and love to one of the finest of our community, Del McGee, at the recent loss of his brother. The Tire Places's Bob Bagot is back from family and ventures in his old home town of St. Louis. As a Mother's Day gift, he took along his mom to visit their many MO relatives. F.Y.I. this is a reward for the splashy *Houston Post* article on The Tire Place and the giant garage sale success. Old treasurer of the Montrose Business

Guild, George Bernedict, is still on cloud 9 from all the excitement that The Greater Montrose Garage Sale generated May 2. Some six non-profit groups were able to use the event as a fundraiser as some 53 locations hosted some 80 individual garage sales all over the neighborhood. The big success will be repeated next year. Attorney John Nix became the auctioneer recently when The Greater Montrose Business Guild held their April meeting as a Trade Fair/Covered Dish Dinner/Auction. Of course only a few know that John had a successful theatre career before he heard the call of the law. BRB's Alan Pierce, in between holding meetings and functions for TGRA is waxing the dance floor for the finals this Sunday for the state-wide Dance Contest for C&W stompers. There is still time tonight to give "A Little Help For Our Friends" as Andy Mills conducts The Montrose Symphonic band at Rice University's Hammon Hall at 8 p.m. Donations will benefit the AIDS Foundation and Aid for AIDS. The Galleon was the meeting grounds Thursday after the Lily Tomlin film benefiting The Montrose Counseling Center. Handsome faces included Jay Muckey and Joe Tumlinson of the AIDS Foundation, deep into discussion of advanced planning for this year's activities. F.Y.I. check the place out on quiet Thursdays, even if you miss the \$1 buffet.

The Sculpture Show continues at the Lawndale Art & Performance Center thru June 20. "Beauty and the Beast," paintings, sculpture and works on paper by Keith A. Moran and A. M. Schaer for The Montrose Art Alliance at 1006 Missouri Street continues thru May 24.

For news on your group and events, i.e. the wonderful Bar-B-Q held recently by The Jolly Rogers and the fantastic vacation enjoyed by Speedy Printings' Mike Reuter, call me at (713) 524-0409 or 529-1112. Until next week.

Night and day,

YOU ARE THE ONE...
ONLY YOU BENEATH THE MOON
AND UNDER THE SUN...
IN THE ROARING TRAFFIC'S BOOM...
IN THE SILENCE OF MY ONLY ROOM...
I THINK OF YOU NIGHT AND DAY...

MARY'S

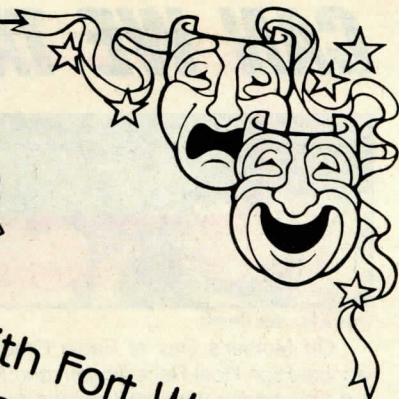
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Bette Midler

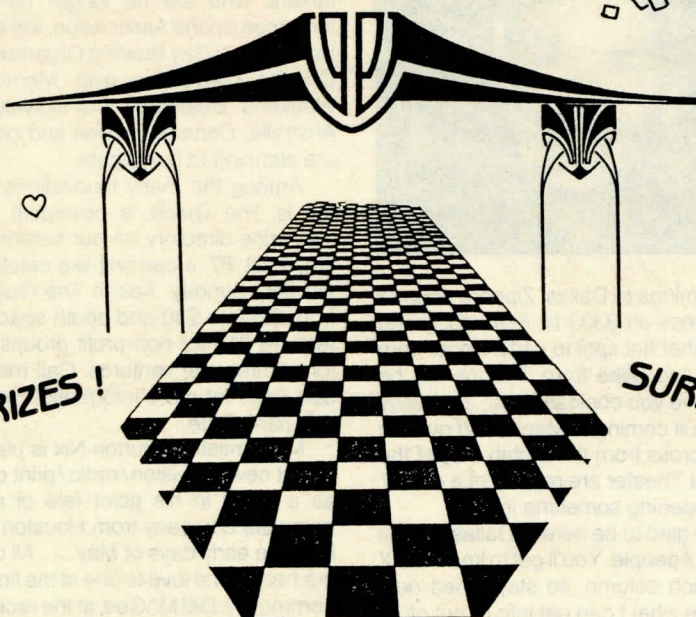


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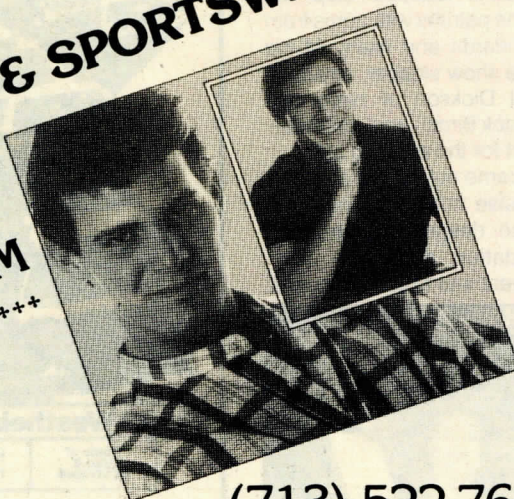
APPEARANCES, JEANS & SPORTSWEAR

BUFFET—8 PM

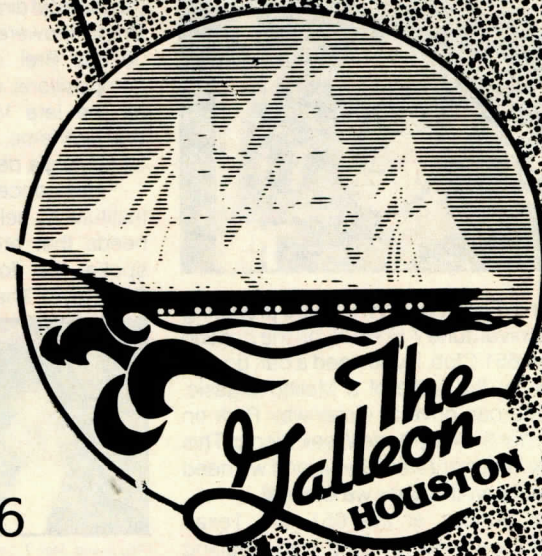
BROTHERS—9 PM

FASHION SHOW—10 PM

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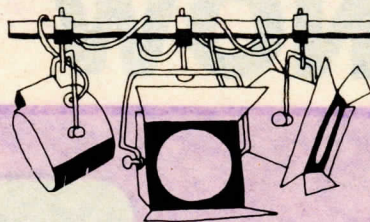
By Shannon McCullough



Photo: SKOT JONZ

MISS TGRA BUBBLES LARUE

Badlands/Snuffys is hosting the Ms. City Austin Pageant this Thursday. This is the first Norma Christy production in Austin in quite some time. Also on the line-up is Sweet Savage on May 23 and the Mr. Drummer/Austin Contest on May 24. Also . . . don't miss Miss TGRA Bubbles Larue on Fridays with some of Texas' hottest men. Bubbles (John to those in the know) will be competing for Miss International Gay Rodeo in September in California. Stop by and give her your support.



Kind Sir, the sophisticated Broadway comedy hit, will open on April 28 at Chris Wilson's **Actors Theatre of Houston**. Its a light-hearted tale about a glamorous star who falls in love with a charming rouge who pretends to be married so he can woo the ladies without the risk of being led to the alter. This should be a fun one! For more details and ticket information, call **Actors Theatre of Houston** Box Office at (713) 529-6606.



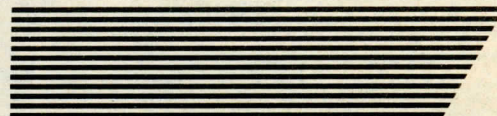
**Dan Gifford & Terry Cochran in
Kind Sir.**

★ ★

Big Daddy's hosting "The Bear" and friends.



Big Daddys seems to have found a new format in entertainment that's really working. With the initial booking of **The Tony Rose Show** and **Pam "The Bear" McCarthy**, Daddy's is packing them in on the weekends. The club's airy floor plan combined with a great sound system just makes the room right for this type of entertainment. I know that J. Riley and Mike have more exciting things lined up for the summer. Can't Wait! **Big Daddys**, 3913 Cedar Springs, Dallas (214) 528-4098.



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



Ruth Hastings

Ruth Hastings will be opening at **Ovations** in Dallas on May 21, after she closes in Dallas, (May 26th). Ruth will start rehearsals for Jacques Beril in "Alive and Well and Living in Paris," which opens in Houston on June 3 at the Carillon.

Three Times A Lady Playing on Tuesdays at Hall's



Nicole, Mistress of Ceremonies

Three Times a Lady starring **Nicole, Tatiana** and **Lady P.T.** is playing to good houses on Tuesdays at Hall's. Despite local rumors that a drag show would not work at Hall's it seems to me it's the only thing worth seeing on Austin's sleepy Tuesdays. Last week Sabrina Ross and Deva Sanchez, did the guest spots and I must say I haven't seen anyone work so hard in some time. Sabrina worked the crowd into a frenzy and the pace was set for everyone who followed her on stage. Stop by this Tuesday and check it out. **Hall's** 407 Colorado, (512) 473-2501, \$2.00 Cover.

BEST BET!



Elizabeth Taylor as "Kate" in *The Taming of the Shrew*, (1967)

Elizabeth Taylor, Jane Fonda, Robin Williams, Lady Bird Johnson, Sally Shipman, Whitney Houston, Diana Summer, Mary Wilson, Lily Tomlin, Joan Rivers, Marcy Fletcher and Cher are just some of the names being thrown around for an event to benefit AIDS Research. **Jim Laake**, promoter of the event told me he has confirmations on some majors, but has not released the names as of yet. firm confirmations included, Esther's Follies, Austin on Tap and Butch Hancock.

Booking talent for benefits is tricky and expensive to say the least. I recently tried booking Phyllis Diller to benefit the Austin AIDS services. The idea seemed simple enough; Ms. Diller has a new video titled *How To Have a Money-Making Garage Sale*. I thought the idea of having a city-wide garage sale, or maybe one in the parking lot at the Boathouse, on a Sunday, with a Tea Dance and premier of the video and a chance for people to meet Phyllis Diller. Sounds like a money-making benefit. Right? Wrong! Phyllis Diller gets \$15,000 for benefit appearances, plus two first-class air fares from Los Angeles, a hotel suite with an adjoining room, and a limo. That's not for a show mind you. Just head shaking and mingling . . .

I think Jim Laake should be commended for the great effort he has taken on. The event will be held at the **Paramount Theater** in Austin on June 13, 1987. At \$50 a seat and seating capacity of 1,100 it only nets out to \$55,000. If you can offer any help with production, organizing, etc. please contact **Jim Laake** at the Raddison Hotel. (512) 476-3700.

Celebrity Quote of the Week

"You never sleep with the slave, if you can sleep with the master."

—Mary Fletcher

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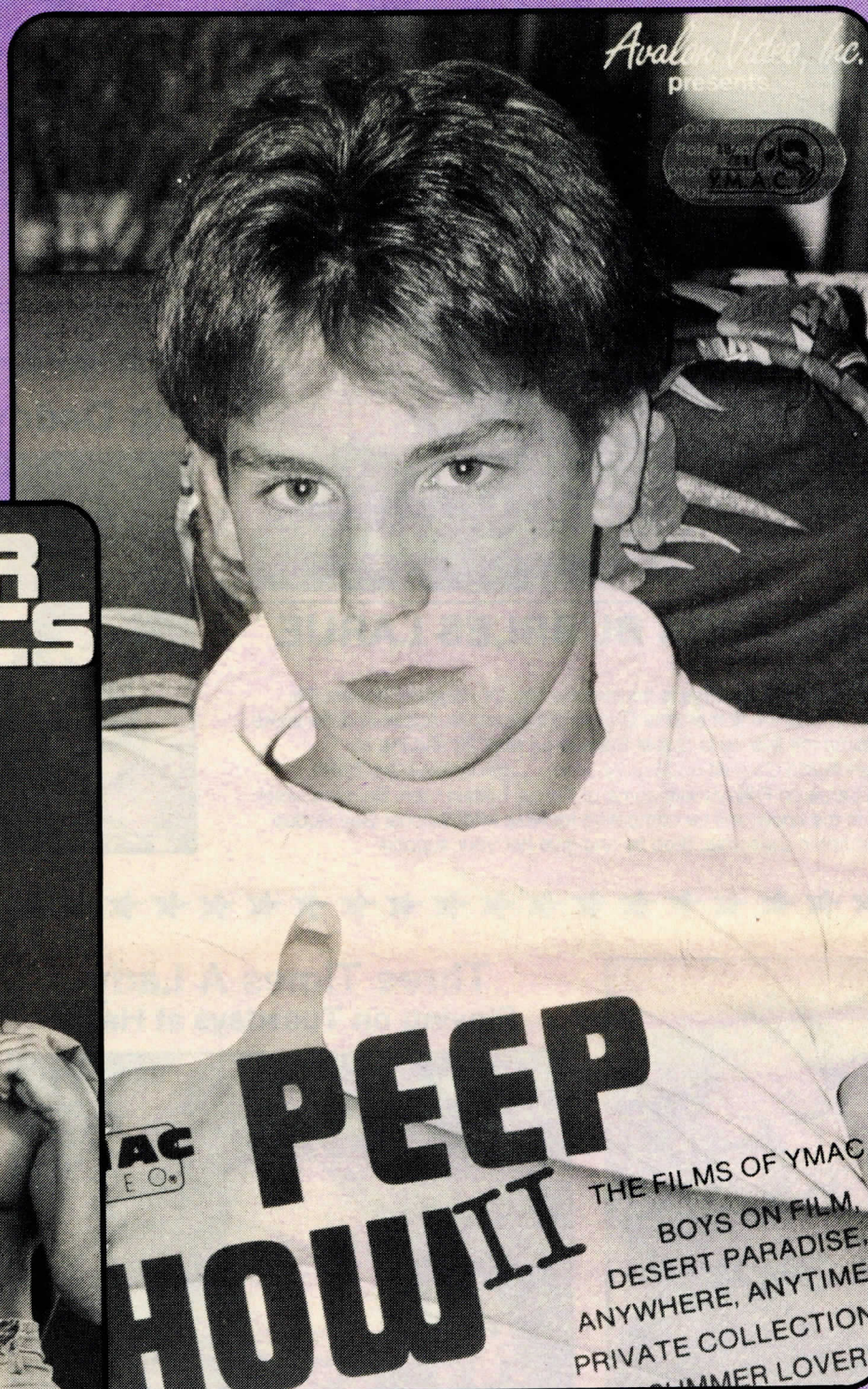
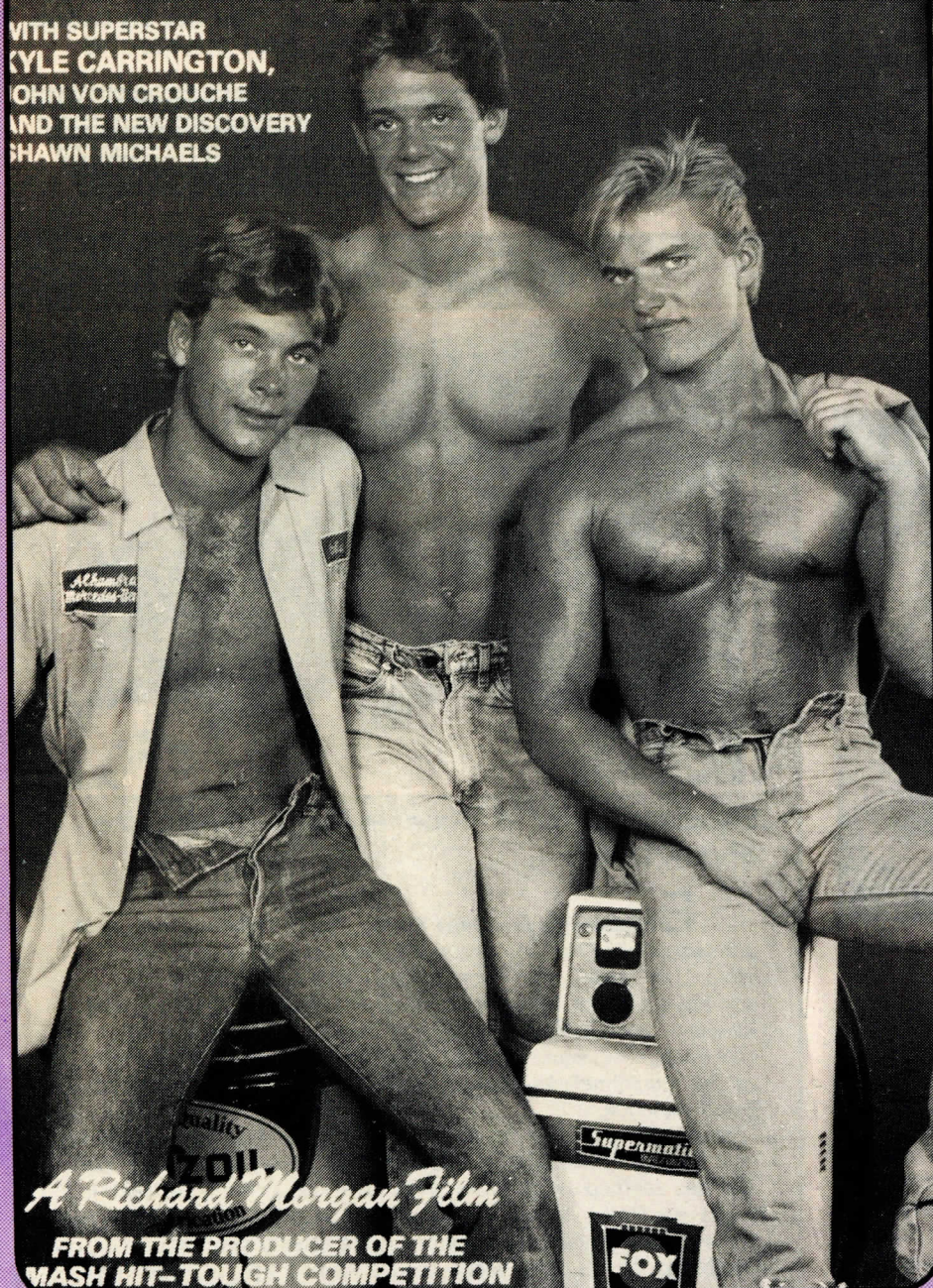
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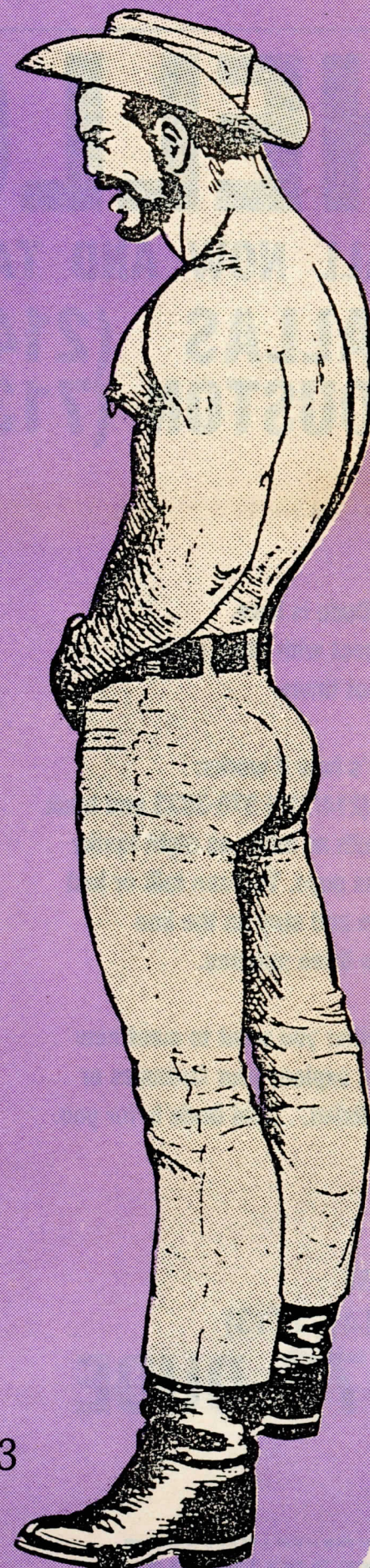
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Speed and Politics

I can't drive 55! What is this? We finally get the chance to really bring the death rate on Texas highways back to where it should be and now they tell me that the new 65 mph speed limit does not apply to I-45 between Houston and Galveston. What a crock. If we're really going to get that death rate back up, what better way to do it than with a bellyfull of beer coming back from the sunny gay beaches of that great Texas island? I guess if I really want to take advantage of the opportunities, I'll have to just shoot some Wild Turkey and zip up to Dallas. At least you can put the pedal to the metal in that direction.

Speeding right along in Texas politics is Vice President George Bush, who visited Houston and Dallas last week and walked

off with over a million smackers for his campaign. I thought we Texans were in a depression? Of course, if Bush gets elected, it could depress a lot of Texans. Not the ones with money, though.

Money is blamed for the fact that Joe Russo jumped out of the race for Mayor of Houston this past week. Russo said that it would cost too much for Houston to have a major campaign struggle. Great. Just when I was thinking of going into the button and poster business. Thanks a lot, Joe baby.

But, now all of us in Texas will have to join the rest of the country (and I know how painful that prospect is) in trying to figure out who in the world the Dems can run for president now that Hart has been screwed out of being the front runner. Hey, I don't care if the man is a blatant heterosexual, I don't think who he sleeps with is anybody's

business. If he wants to boink some blonde bimbo, that's fine with me. It doesn't seem to bother his wife either, so what's the problem? Score another victory for the right-wing religious nonsense that is sweeping this country. Of course, now we're faced with an entire slate of virtual unknowns in the race. Except for Jesse Jackson (sorry, but the good old U.S. of A. is *not* going to elect a black man as president, no matter how qualified he is), the only name that strikes a chord with me is Sen. Paul Simon. I've always loved his music, and I think the Graceland album should get him votes if nother else does.

Famous for a Time

I think that Andy Warhol is really alive and that he staged his own death as an artistic

hoax on the world. Also, now that he's kicked the Campbell's soup can, the price of his work has skyrocketed. One of his silk screens ("White Car Crashing 19 Times") was sold last week for \$660,000. That's the way to go, Andy!

Another famous American hoaxer, Ronald Reagan, had to move one foot over to the side of his mouth to get the other one in when he "quoted" Lenin as saying that the road to America lay across Mexico. No one can find the quote, but the Russians are torqued to say the least. But what the heck, it's just part of Ronnie's continuing ability to keep peace with the rest of the world.

In New York, that zany old Bernhard Goetz is the talk of the town, with his trial being the hottest ticket in the Big Apple. I think someone is planning a big musical based on Goetz and his brand of upholding the American way. It's tentatively titled *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Subway*, and black actors are thrilled, as it will give them more jobs on the Broadway stage than they have seen in a while.

Women Should Be Obscene and Not Heard

A woman in Daytona Beach, Fla., is suing the Lovable Co. because one of their bras caused a permanent imprint across her chest and back, but the attorneys for the bra company asked for two minutes to view her breasts as evidence. Florida's 5th District Court of Appeals upheld a ruling letting them do that. Well, the two *men* on the bench said it was okay, but the one woman dissented. Sure, it's fine for her to dissent, she's got her own bazoogas to look at. Who's she to take the little bit of sunshine out of the dull lives of the attorneys, anyway?

Two newlyweds were arrested in Houston's Intercontinental Airport on obscenity charges, but the story isn't as good as the lead-in. All they did was get drunk, say nasty words and threaten someone with a fork. I was hoping for something a bit more racey.

Fort Worth has the best sex story with the trial of state District Judge Tom Cave, who has been charged with trading leniency for sexual favors, including that old under-the-robe favorite oral sex. He should be on the bench in Florida, he could order women to expose themselves legally. It's just a pitiful case of a man being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Another case that proves how kinky heterosexuals can be (and are) is that of the woman in India who slept with her dead husband's corpse for almost two years, because her guru told her he was just in a spiritual coma. There's a stiff joke in there somewhere, but even I am going to avoid it.

★ ★ ★

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By Amanda B. Recondwith

Well, Dear Fans, Amanda had to pull every string she had in this state to get her tightly corsetted, black and magenta tulle wrapped derrier into the gala opening of the Wortham Center in downtown Houston. Now, before those of you in Dallas roll your eyes and turn away, you must realize that Amanda has also been brash enough to attend open houses at places like the Wyndam Hotel, which was the largest granite bic lighter we've ever seen in our lives! And we also attended the gala opening of the new River Walk Park in San Antonio a few years back, where mobs of people stormed the waters, jumping into all the boats at one time, and causing a general tidal wave atmosphere that completely ruined our summer outfit. So, when the Wortham Center opened in Houston, Amanda just couldn't resist — and what a chore to attend!

Dear Fans, the least expensive tickets were \$250, and every seat in the house was taken and accounted for. We knew right then and there that it would be useless to go with our usual opera and ballet contacts. So, we called our friends in Los Angeles, and our West Coast agent said we had to get ahold of none other than Tony Randall, who would be hosting the show. Well, we had become friends with Tony way back in our beatnik days, when we would sit in smokey brick-walled bars under the streets of Greenwich Village and wait for days for various gurus to rise from their stupor to speak — usually saying just one word, and leaving us to puzzle over the greater cosmic meaning of it until the next outburst. Dear Tony was waltzing down Third Street one night with a rather ruffled looking woman in a mink coat, and we realized that she was Ethel Mermin, and he was a good good friend of hers. Well, she has always reminded us of a huge cicada without wings,



Dear Fans, the least expensive tickets were \$250, and every seat in the house was taken and accounted for.

but the young man in her arms was a joy to watch. He was taken with our hip-hugger mini skirt and Greek sailor sweater with the for-real miniature '57 Cadillac rubber titty cups.

Anyway, our long friendship paid off, because when we contacted dear Tony, he was flabberghasted that we had not been

given a pass, and he got us in under unusual guise. It was not easy to hide our huge de la Renta bustle pouf skirt in stage worker coveralls, Dear Fans. We looked like a war victim with massive thyroid problems, but with a bucket in one hand and a back stage pass in the other, we were admitted entrance, where we immediately barged into

Tony's dressing room and changed into our evening finery.

What an evening, Dear Fans. You know, considering all the hideous news everyone hears about Houston's struggling economy, one cannot help but think that it takes real guts to have such an opening night, where jewelry was glittering under the lights like flash bulbs and champagne flowed like toilet water.

Lynn Wyatt and Carolyn Farb bumped into each other and thought they were looking into a mirror, they looked so much alike. It's amazing how far dear Carolyn has come. Now, with the new contact lenses, she can even have Lynn's eyes! Kathy Whitmire was busy walking around, fairly unnoticable in a very discreet black gown. In fact, at one point, an irate conductor grabbed her by the ears and threw her down into the orchestra, thinking she was a tardy cellist! She escaped unruffled, however, the Wortham will be looking for a new conductor soon.

We were delighted to meet with our Dear Friend Diahann Carroll, who took great pleasure in complimenting our gown. She was just recovering from a recent script review of Dynasty with Joan Collins, but her makeup flawlessly hid the scratch marks on her neck and forehead. Finally, Amanda got away with another Dear Friend, Tommy Tune, who told us all about his recent affairs, and then promised to meet us at church the next day. His mother attends Bering Methodist, you know, and when he stands in front, you can't tell him from one of the white pillars!

Anyway, Dear Fans, you must all come see the Wortham. It's THE cultural showcase of Texas, and a fabulous sign of our independence and grit!

EXILE II

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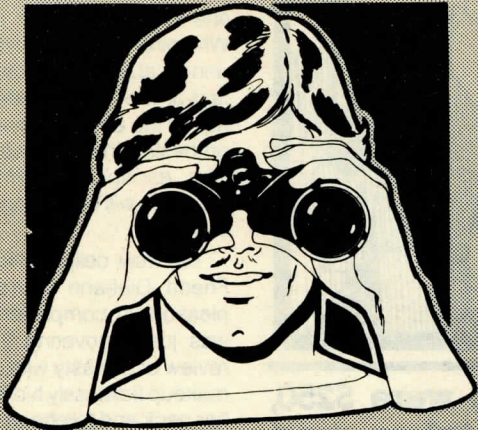
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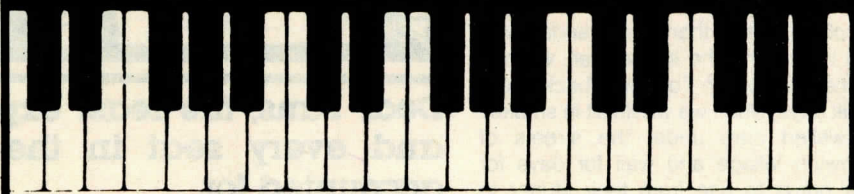
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EARLY EVENING ENTERTAINMENT 5 PM TO 9 PM
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By Jeff Bray

Just what is it exactly that we are looking for in a presidential candidate? The recent tragedy of the Hart campaign is perhaps the most blatant sign of this nation's bizarre double standard and hypocritical moral policy available.

There is no doubt in my mind that Mr. Hart acted quite stupidly, flaunting his affair in the public eye after already having to answer up to it. I have little misgiving about the fact that he was discovered in his affair, and that he was exposed. Also, it is true that he let down thousands of supporters and investors, who had faith in his integrity and potential. It is, indeed a sad blow to all those people who tromped the streets, getting signatures and pledges from people door-to-door. But all those things are really not very important when you look down into the actual workings of what is happening.

Gary Hart was not necessarily a victim of his own stupidity as he was the victim of our society's double standard. After all, other presidents have had mistresses, and they didn't necessarily face the full brunt of the public's anger. Why then, does the public choose at this time to make such a bid deal out of something that has been going on since time began? Surely we are not all becoming our very own TV evangelists!

At some point in the recent past, the "New Morality" issue began to seep into the mainstream of American life. To those who were not terribly learned in history or religion, it seemed that a new direction was necessary for this country's survival to be assured. Politics after Watergate became a hotbed of moral degradation, where every congressman and senator was on the make, and every political candidate had to be carefully screened. Unfortunately, such moralistic policies resulted in the inept and image conscious Carter administration,

which only succeeded in making us all feel even more helpless and lost in the turmoil of world events. Then, Reagan came, with his

Gary Hart was not necessarily a victim of his own stupidity as he was the victim of our society's double standard.

rosy cheeks and fatherly image. His bravery and flair was desperately looked upon as just what this country needed, and we tried to put Watergate aside for awhile, and believed that at last politics was running rather well.

At this same time, however, the press had taken on a whole new dimension, thanks to Watergate. After all, the Washington Post had revealed to the nation the God Awful Truth, and without that truth, we could all have lost our freedom! The president could have had us all bugged! Big Brother was just around the corner. So, the press became our watchdog, and the watchdog became a rather violent, angry animal with sharp teeth and a very weak leash. But that was fine, you know. After all, the press was our protector.

Unfortunately, as the New Morality began to infiltrate the press, and people began to believe that there really was truth and high morality inside the presidency, a new doubt sprang up. Suddenly, the new generation of press, the one just out of school and more than eager to make a name for themselves, began to cover different aspects of public behavior. AIDS came into being, and national hysteria proved too attractive to these young, aggressives. When the shuttle went down, the whole nation gasped in dismay, and then it became open season. Corruption, vice, scandal — they all seeped back into the front pages. And Ronald Reagan was suddenly too old to handle the pressure, and his staff appeared to scatter like roaches under

sudden kitchen light. It became open season.

Are your finances in order? Do you know everything there is to know about everything?

family ever been homosexual or engaged in homosexual activity? On an on it goes, as we search for something we'll never find — the perfect candidate who will embody the mythical image of Uncle Sam, Apple Pie and the Family. Meanwhile, times change, and people outside the media continue to realize that human beings are complex creatures, capable of doing many conflicting actions at the same time. It's human to do so. But, as long as the press and certain people continue to ride this wave of persecution, we will never be satisfied.

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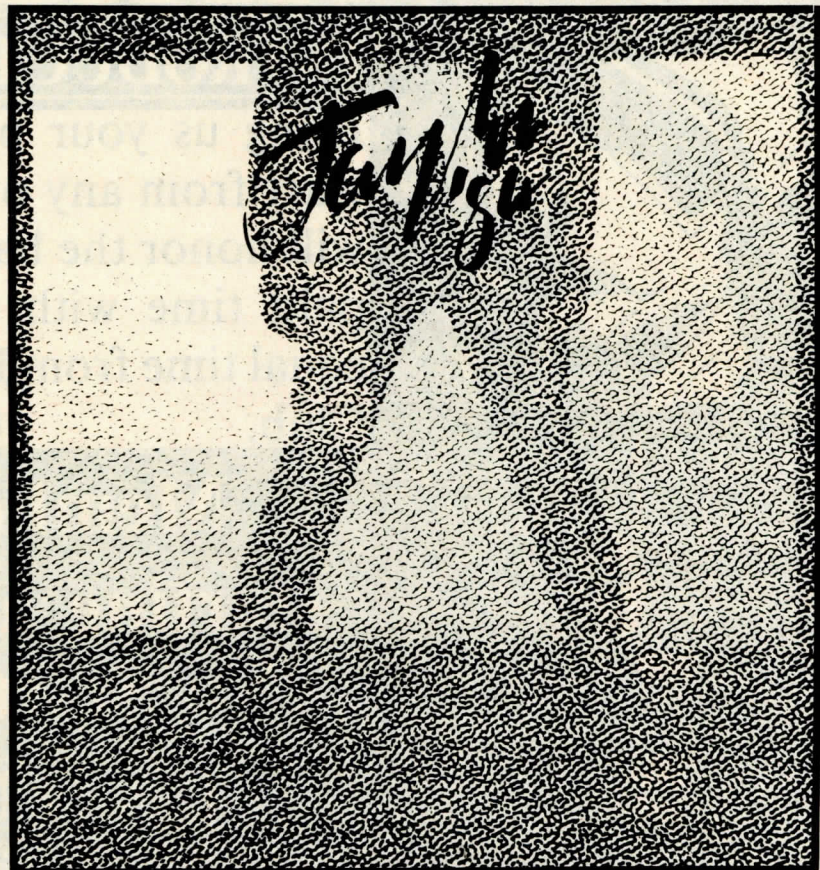
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Exhibition of Photographs by John Taylor
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NEWS BITS . . .

AZT for AIDS

The first drug to be approved by the FDA is azidothymidine (AZT) which is not a cure but a relief from the disease. Costs for AZT are expected to be between \$8,000 - \$10,000 a year. At Parkland Hospital in Dallas approximately 52 people are receiving treatment with AZT. About 75 percent receiving the drug responded well by gaining weight and leaving the hospital.

Second AIDS Virus Causing Concern

French researchers are voicing renewed concern over the spread of HIV-2, a cousin of HIV-1, which was discovered in 1984 and is now considered to threaten a new epidemic in West Africa.

Só far only HIV-1 is responsible for the development of AIDS in people in other parts of the world, but the French researchers think that testing should be modified to

screen for the second virus as well as the first and vaccine research should be aimed at both forms of the AIDS-causing virus.

Gay Pride Week Needs Your Help

According to Micheal Robinson and Delphine Gomez, chairpeople of the Gay Pride Association in Dallas, the money for GPW in Fort Worth is restricted this year due to aids and the economy. Money and Food have been donated by WADS, and D.J.'s Bar/Restaurant but more is needed. Contact TCGA News at (214) 336-8242 for more information. GPW T-shirts and caps will be available, though supplies may be limited.

AIDS Awareness Update

Local reports from Fort Worth - Tarrant County Health Departments show 90 cases of AIDS in Tarrant County and 5,000-7,000 people have been exposed to the virus and

are capable of transmitting the disease. Scientists predict by 1991, 5-10 million people will be infected with 270,000 cases of AIDS and 179,000 deaths.

Coors Boycott by Gays/Lesbians

Joseph Coors is against Equal Rights Amendment and supports Moral Majority (which favors death penalty for homosexuals). Coors recommended for an answer to the AIDS crisis that we quarantine PWA's at Buzzards Bay, Boston Harbor (formerly a leper colony). Coors was sued for toxic dumping and damaging the local water supply by Westminster, Colorado. In addition employees of Coors were on strike because of mandatory lie detector tests concerning religious, sexual, and political preferences. "We cannot let Coors profit from our community and then use the profit to suppress our people," reported Rich Amato

(chairperson of the Gay/Lesbian Action Coalition of Long Island, NY).

Congressman Dies of AIDS

Rep. Stewart B. McKinney, R-Conn., died at the age of 56 of AIDS, which his doctor claimed he had contracted through a blood transfusion. The Washington Post, however, quoted sources that indicated that McKinney was known to have engaged in gay activities and may have contracted the virus that causes AIDS through one of this forays into gay life.

McKinney had served nine terms as a Republican congressman from affluent Fairfield Connecticut, just north of New York City.

TEXAS FORUM

WATCH US GROW!

H O R O S C O P E S

by Jack Marvin, AMAFA

The SUN will enter GEMINI on Thursday morning at 8:10 AM, VENUS, the planet of romance and values, will enter TAURUS on Sunday morning at 5:56 AM, and finally, MARS will enter PISCES on Wednesday at 9:01 PM.

Quite a busy week coming up for you according to the zodiac. How will each of you be affected? Initially, you will pursue avenues that can increase your resources and assets. VENUS, on the other hand, can be quite fickle during its transit of TAURUS. Stated another way, don't commit yourself to any love relationships during this period. At this same time, you should search your mind thoroughly

 **ARIES:** Difficulties in communication will occur with your neighbors or brothers and sisters which could lead to some mental stress. The areas of concern also apply to travel, religions, and higher level education. This indicates you could become involved in arguments with religion leaders or, if still in school, someone regarding your grades. Either way, you will have a tendency to suffer some form of minor depression unless you refuse to get involved in trivial spats.
* Favorable Days: 19th
* Unfavorable Days: 15th

 **TAURUS:** Communication difficulties will occur in areas dealing with your assets or possibly your lover's assets. Stress will center in this area and could cause some problems with goals either of you may have set for your relationship. You could have a tendency to involve friends in your disputes. Don't. The ultimate outcome of this rift could be a separation of you finances or assets if they are currently connected. You would both benefit from this separation.
* Favorable Days: 15th, 20th
* Unfavorable Days: 17th

 **GEMINI:** You, of all the signs, will experience the most problems in communications this weekend and possibly into the following week. These problems involve you and your lover or romantic interest and could involve either your career or status and reputation. Problems will occur dealing with freedom and independence within the relationship. Neither you nor your lover own each other. You should re-examine this area of your relationship as too much possessiveness could be the root of your problems and may cause the relationship to split.
* Favorable Days: 18th
* Unfavorable Days: 15th, 21st.

QUESTION: "I have heard that whenever there is a Full MOON that it is usually very stressful to everyone. Why is this? During the last Full MOON, I had the time of my life. It was anything but stressful. Why? I was born 10/28/57." **RD**

ANSWER: 'Everyone goes nuts under a Full MOON' is a common misconception about Astrology that is usually spread by the non-Astrologers writing Astrology columns. The Full MOON is generally stressful only to the signs that make difficult aspects to it. Since the last

 **CANCER:** You may be worrying too much about your job and whether or not your performance is up to par. Some of your insecurities may concern the level of education required for the position you currently hold. You may be worrying needlessly. Talk to your boss towards the end of next week and ask if he is satisfied with your performance. If he is not satisfied ask him which areas he feels need improvement and then work on these areas.
* Favorable Days: 20th
* Unfavorable Days: 16th, 17th, 21st

 **LEO:** You, the king of the Zodiac, will experience some communication difficulties with friends and in explaining exactly what goals you want to achieve. there could be some stress and problems in your pursuit of fun which could lead to some problems sexually. There could be some desire to have a secret liaison with a romantic interest other than your lover. Be very careful as this could cause an argument and break-up due to misunderstandings within the framework of your relationship.
* Favorable Days: 11th
* Unfavorable Days: 18th, 19th

 **VIRGO:** You may have some unsolved difficulties between your mother and father that could be causing stress with you lover or potential lover. This could cause arguments between both you and your lover and each of your parents—a four-way tug-of-war. If you see difficulties arising, don't fan the flames as nothing can be worked out this weekend. There is the possibility of a separation on Wednesday. Be very careful of what you say and how you say it.
* Favorable Days: 18th
* Unfavorable Days: 20th, 21st

and seek therapy to help you get your mind together.

NOTES: GEMINI & VIRGO will have some psychological stresses that could involve physical violence on Saturday. THINK before you speak! CAPRICORN will want some mothering and tender loving care on Sunday. A broken romance for AQUARIANS on Sunday. ARIES will be argumentative on Thursday. By Monday, LEO will be under some stress, but it will end on Wednesday.

 **LIBRA:** You could have some problems understanding the workings of things of an advanced electrical or mechanical nature. If your television, PC, or anything mechanical breaks down, call in a qualified repairman and don't attempt to do it yourself. Avoid any conflicts at your job since any disagreement could work against you. Now is not a favorable time for you to become self-employed. Avoid long distance travel.
* Favorable Days: 15th, 20th
* Unfavorable Days: 17th

 **SCORPIO:** Sexual difficulties are in the air (and you thought I would say "legs", didn't you!) for the sex sign of the Zodiac. The problems are temporary and will be because of problems with your finances and assets. Because of financial difficulties, you may not be as much fun to be around as you are usually. I would recommend that you avoid social activities for the next week and until you begin to straighten out your finances. Financial difficulties should work out to your benefit and then you can be back in the bedrooms again.
* Favorable Days: 16th, 20th
* Unfavorable Days: 18th

 **SAGITARIUS:** There are problems indicated this weekend centering around your home and relationship. This could also concern your parents and your lover, but more than likely it is a conflict with your mother and your lover. You could be having urges to be more independent at the same time that your lover is becoming more possessive. A slight problem. Don't discuss it this weekend as only an argument will ensue. Wait until the end of next week when discussions are more favorable. Above all, don't make hasty decisions!
* Favorable Days: 15th, 19th
* Unfavorable Days: 17th

Full MOON was in SCORPIO, the difficult aspects would be TAURUS, LEO, and AQUARIUS. These would be the signs under stress. The Full MOON conjoined your SUN in SCORPIO which was a good aspect. In your particular case this could signal the beginning of an emotional rebirth, emotional contentment, and a certain amount of inner peace. Last weekend, SAGITARIANS should have felt this way since the current Full MOON made an excellent aspect to their natal SUN. **JM, AMAFA**

 **CAPRICORN:** There are indications of some mental anxieties concerning your work and the desire to be financially independent. Be very careful what you say to your partners and those you work with as you may say something that could be misunderstood. There is a strong desire to be independent in your thinking and to make decisions without consulting your partners. This could lead to misunderstandings. Think carefully about what you say or do concerning your employment.
* Favorable Days: 15th, 16th, 17th, 19th
* Unfavorable Days: 21st

 **AQUARIUS:** There could be some trouble in goals you may have set for yourself that may have gone awry. These could be causing you some financial difficulties since conflicts are occurring in both of these areas of your life. Communications will be under stress also this weekend with little romances (not full-blown love affairs). If you have recently begun dating someone, by all means do not get involved in a controversy. If he wants to argue, don't respond as you will be the loser.
* Favorable Days: 15th, 18th, 19th
* Unfavorable Days: 21st

 **PISCES:** There is an emotional tug-of-war brewing between you, your mother and your father which could become a very heated argument. Even though you may identify with your mother and feel empathy towards her, you should try to understand why the strong desire for independence by your father. conflict may occur on Wednesday between you and your father if you allow it. Do not allow yourself to become involved in arguments between others since you will not be able to solve their problems. Instead, try to solve your own problems.
* Favorable Days: 16th, 20th, 21st
* Unfavorable Days: NONE

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**

By Nancy Ford

A funny thing happened to me on the way to domestic tranquility.

It was one of those grey, rainy, silent afternoons — the kind of afternoon in which one can go for hours without hearing the sound of another human voice — the kind of perfect, interruption-less afternoon that artistically-motivated people, particularly writers, cherish. Minimum distraction yields optimum concentration, you see.

As would any good and true writer worthy of his craft, I spent the afternoon rearranging the furniture.

No major rearranging occurred, mind you. No big deal. Just slide that loveseat over here, angle that coffee table over there, move the electronics from one corner to another. *No big deal.* No walls were knocked down. I don't have the stamina for renovation. If it's not permanent press or requires the strength of more than one person to move it, it has no place in my life.

When my Significant Other arrived home that evening it became crystal clear that one man's *No big deal* is very often another man's *Dear God, what have you done to this living room?* and/or *If you don't put that couch back where it belongs, plan on sleeping on it tonight.*

All this aversion to change was quite a surprise. Up until this point, based on a number of past, pleasant experiences, I'd come to believe that my S.O. was at least, well, *flexible*. If only I'd known — if only only I'd been cautioned that it was so important to her that our furniture have a sense of permanency — I would have *gladly* left the 200-pound potted plant in front of the same window until it sprouted roots into the carpet.

Eventually we compromised, kissed, and made up. Happy ending. But fact is an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, unless the cure is only available in Mexico. In that event, an ounce of prevention is worth the price of a bus ticket to Matamoros.

Therefore, the following guide has been compiled to warn you of *The Little Things* — those situations/complications that can lead to trouble in paradise for too many love-mates. Clip it and magnet it to your refrigerator between the pizza coupons and hurricane tracking chart.

- Purchase toothpaste in the stand-up, pump-style dispenser. Old-fashioned toothpaste tubes that can be squeezed from the middle or rolled from the ends can bring spring-boards to tragedy when PMS levels run high.
- Private, funny little nicknames for each mean absolutely nothing to the rest of



the world, and should remain private for precisely that reason.

- Just Say No to ex-lovers, no matter what the request may be.
- Do not use pins that represent past achievement or the memory of a loved one (i.e. - a fraternity or sorority pin, the antique brooch of a favorite deceased aunt, or an International Thespian Society medal,) for any purpose other than its intended one. Remember that for some, there is sanctity in symbolic ornaments, and those ornaments should not be used to remove splinters or in-grown hairs.
- Never, ever rearrange the furniture.

Dear Mona:

Recently, I met a real nice guy, who seems to be very attracted to me, as I am to him. He is getting over a breakup, though, and he seems really scared to do anything with me. He says he's just recovering from disappointment, and I can see that, but I wonder if it's just that. Do you think I'm barking up the wrong tree? Friends tell me to find somebody who is in more stable condition, but it's not easy to find ANYBODY these days. What do you think I should do?

Signed: Grasping at Straws

Dear Grasping:

It is true that people who are just recovering from splits in other relationships can be very difficult. However, I have always felt that a person who is in the process of changing his life, while probably much more confused and erratic, is also usually more open and truthful. Frankly, if you wait around for someone who is in "perfect" stability, you may wait a long long time. I suggest that you be patient and willing to listen, and you may find that one day your friend will suddenly wake up and see color and light again, and you will be there to help him re-discover happiness. Why not?

Dear Mona:

My lover is a mortician, and recently, I read something in Anne Landers about a woman

whose fiancé was also a mortician, and he liked her to take cold baths before going to bed with him. She wanted to know whether this meant he was little weird or something, and of course he was. Well, my lover told me about a week after that article that he had done things to dead people. He said that when he was in school, they would give corpses erections and do other things, especially when they were "fresh and good looking." He said the best times were after Memorial Day weekend and Labor Day weekend, because that's when they'd get younger, more attractive people from car accidents and shooting incidents. I was completely sickened by this. I've since left him, and he's having a very hard time coping with my leaving him. I feel guilty, but I can't stand the thought of him touching me after what he had done. And how do I know he hasn't been doing it all the time I've known him? It's just a real sickening thing to do, don't you think? I am very freaked out about the whole thing. What should I do? Forgive him and move back? I love him, but I can't love what he does for a living. Not like that!!

Signed: Horrified in Houston

Dear Horrified:

I can understand your revulsion in what your lover has told you. Necrophilia is one of the basic taboos of society. It has been that way since time began. There is, however, a rather deep-rooted curiosity about death that probably attracts people like him to such an occupation. There are issues of helplessness and domination at stake when you deal with such actions. I prefer not to condemn someone totally for such an act, however, I strongly suggest that he see a psychiatrist, or talk about it with someone. Obviously, it bothers him, or he wouldn't have told you. If you do love this man, you must help him work with his problem. The solution may be for him to change occupation and if he has never asked you to do "strange" things for his gratification, then his problem is probably not so serious. Remember that he may need help, and that he told you something that had to be very difficult for him to admit. If you love him, be sure there is no doubt in your mind that you cannot see him through this problem. Sexual perversion is not always incurable, you know.

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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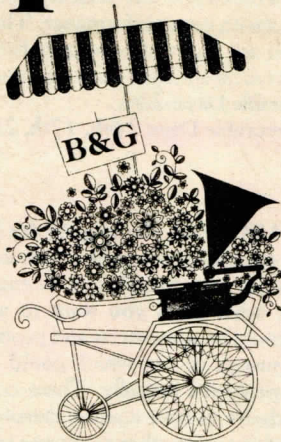
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