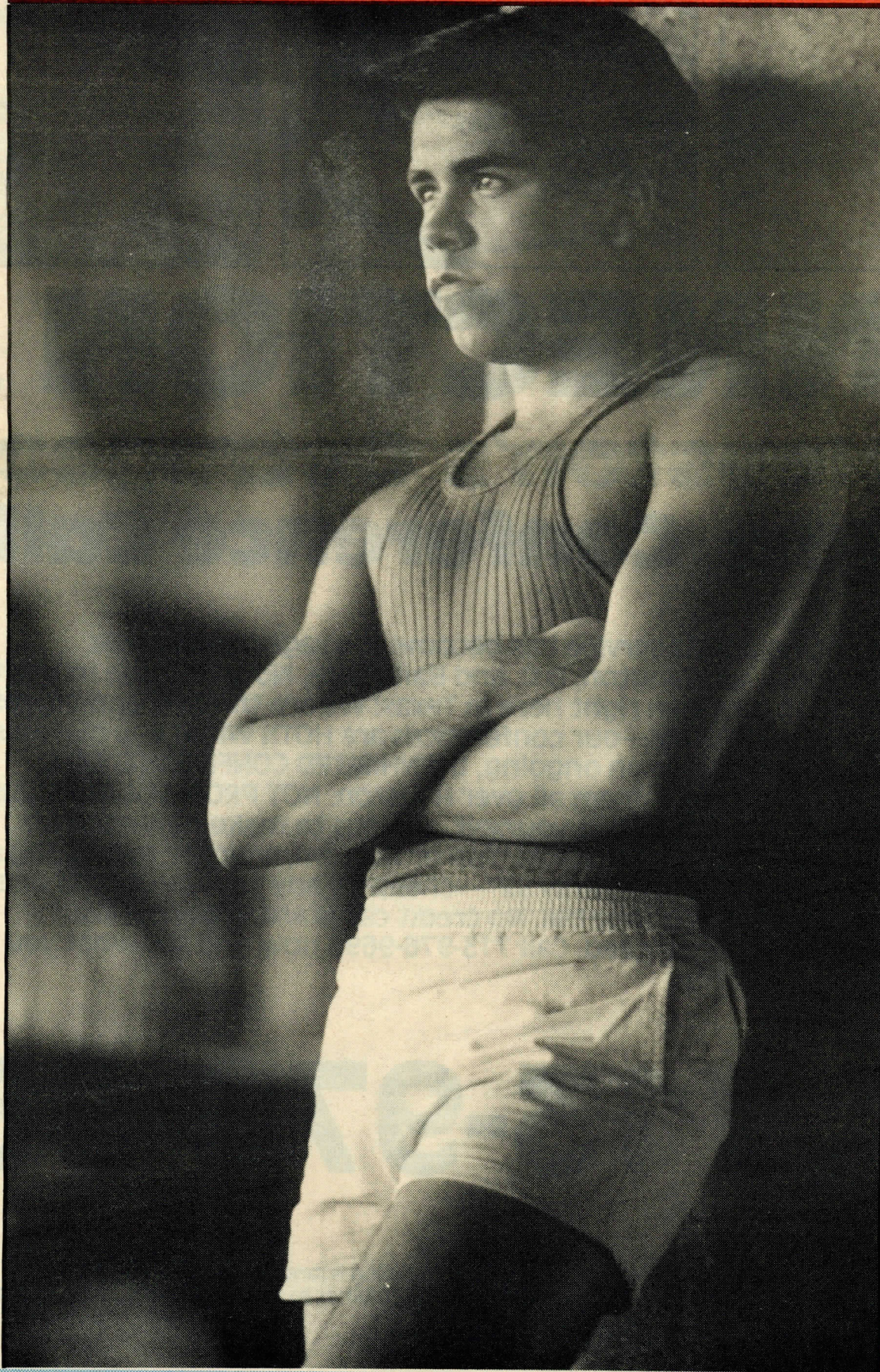


Volume 3 Number 26

T E X A S FORUM

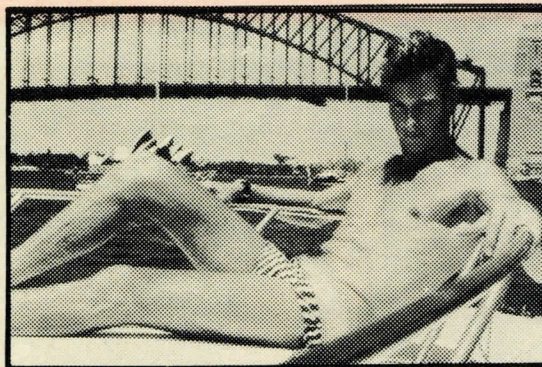
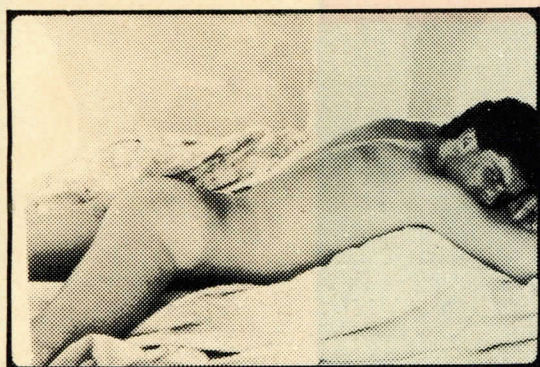
"The Best Revenge Is A Great Lifestyle"

Anthony Garcia



June 26, 1987

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TEXAS FORUM

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LET'S GET REAL

The Cops Need To Back Off

By Randy Brown

By now, most of you know that the Houston Police Department has been at it again. They've been tearing through the Montrose in Houston on a series of harassments thinly disguised as legitimate police business. When Michael's was raided, not many of us thought much about it. Even though it was right at the start of Gay/Lesbian Pride Week, it very well might have been just a coincidence.

But then Chutes was raided the very next night, and it looked really suspicious. Then, there was a report of a young man being pulled out of the passenger side of a car stopped at a light on Taft and Westheimer. Then, the marathon AIDS benefit at Club Rendezvous was visited by the cops, who gave the club a ticket for excessive noise.

And, we have heard from customers in several other clubs that cops have been "dropping in" for one minor thing or another.

Certainly, the HPD has a job to do in Houston to keep law and order and protect the rights of citizens. But, the amount of action in the Montrose right now is unwarranted. And there is no way that I am going to believe that all these incidents are "coincidental."

Remember, the reason that we celebrate Gay Pride at this particular time of year is because of a police raid on a gay bar in New York City back in 1969. At that time, raids on gay bars were pretty commonplace, because most gays did not wish to have their sexual preference known, so they were an easy target for a quick fine. Not many people wanted to show up in court and admit that they had been arrested in a gay bar. It was just easier to pay the fine and quietly steal away. But after the raid on Stonewall Tavern in which those being raided got fed up and wouldn't just allow themselves to be carted off, a new self-awareness grew in the gay community.

That self-awareness is being challenged right now.

Apparently the HPD thinks that we have suffered some defeats, what with the Straight Slate raking us over the coals with the Gay Rights Referendum. But we are not defeated. And we are not going to lie down and roll over for fear of the HPD. They can put on all the innocent faces they want to, claiming that they are just doing their job, but we know

Well, the HPD can just kiss my Gay Pride button.

—and they know—that this is a game of oppression that they are trying to play.

Of course, they are smarting right now because of the recent Supreme Court decision in favor of Ray Hill that knocked down a city ordinance that prohibited the free speech of people when that speech was directed at the boys in blue. You see, the HPD wants to have total control over people, and they don't want to have to listen to someone telling them that they are off base. In the Ray Hill case, Hill yelled at a police officer who was assaulting a person. He never laid a hand on the cop or obstructed him in any way. The officer's own inability to handle people caused the problem. He couldn't stand to hear someone yell at him.

Ray Hill did not use abusive language, he just used English language. Perhaps the cops would rather use German language from World War II. That would be more in keeping with the heavy-handed, unAmerican tactics that they seem to enjoy.

This is the United States of America. We are not slaves. We are not subjects. We are citizens. We have rights, and among those rights is the right to free speech. Apparently the HPD doesn't like that. Well, the HPD can

just kiss my Gay Pride button.

I am sick and tired of being considered a third class citizen by people who don't even believe in the principles on which this country was founded. If I am in a bar when the cops troop in, you can bet that I am not going to meekly line up for them without exchanging a word or two. That's my right. Of course, anyone who wants to join in with me had better keep it clean, because the last thing we need is to give the gestapo any cause to oppress us any more.

There is no way that the gay community is going to go back to the days before Stonewall. But the cops don't seem to have the picture yet. And we are not going to give them that picture unless we let them know that we are not going to put up with their nonsense.

Freedom is not something that falls into people's laps. It has always been something that people have to fight for. I'm willing to fight for my freedom. Not only that, but I am prepared to fight for it.

This Gay Pride in Houston has been marred by the actions of a few uniformed and uninformed people. Thank heavens that has not been the case in the rest of the state, but we cannot sit back and let it happen anywhere. Not in Houston, not in New York, not in Dallas, not anywhere. Being gay has never been easy, but there are people who would like to make it even harder. What they don't understand is that gayness is not something that can ever be eliminated—it's part of the Big Picture. And even if they managed to drive us all back in the closet, that would not mean we would cease to exist.

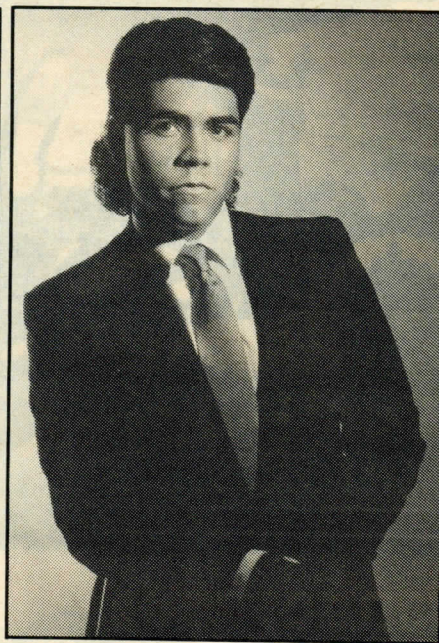
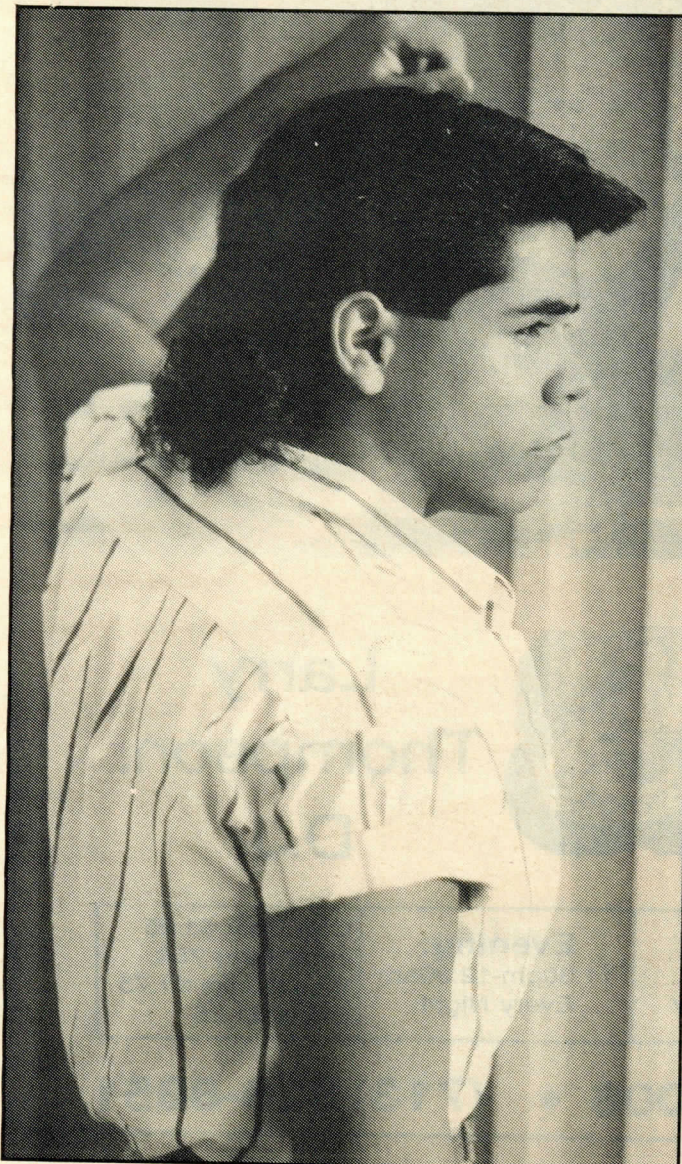
But we will *not* be driven back in the closet.

We are free. We are proud. We are gay.

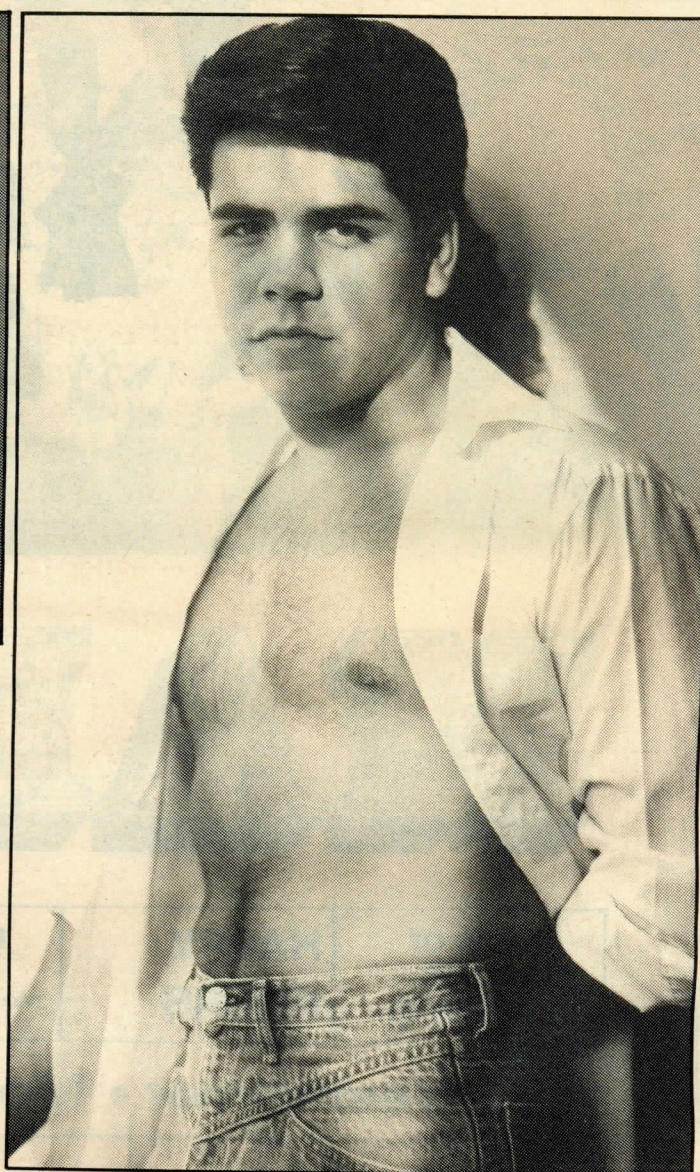
It is time for this harassment to stop. It is time for all of us to say, "Enough!"

BEHIND THE FRONT COVER

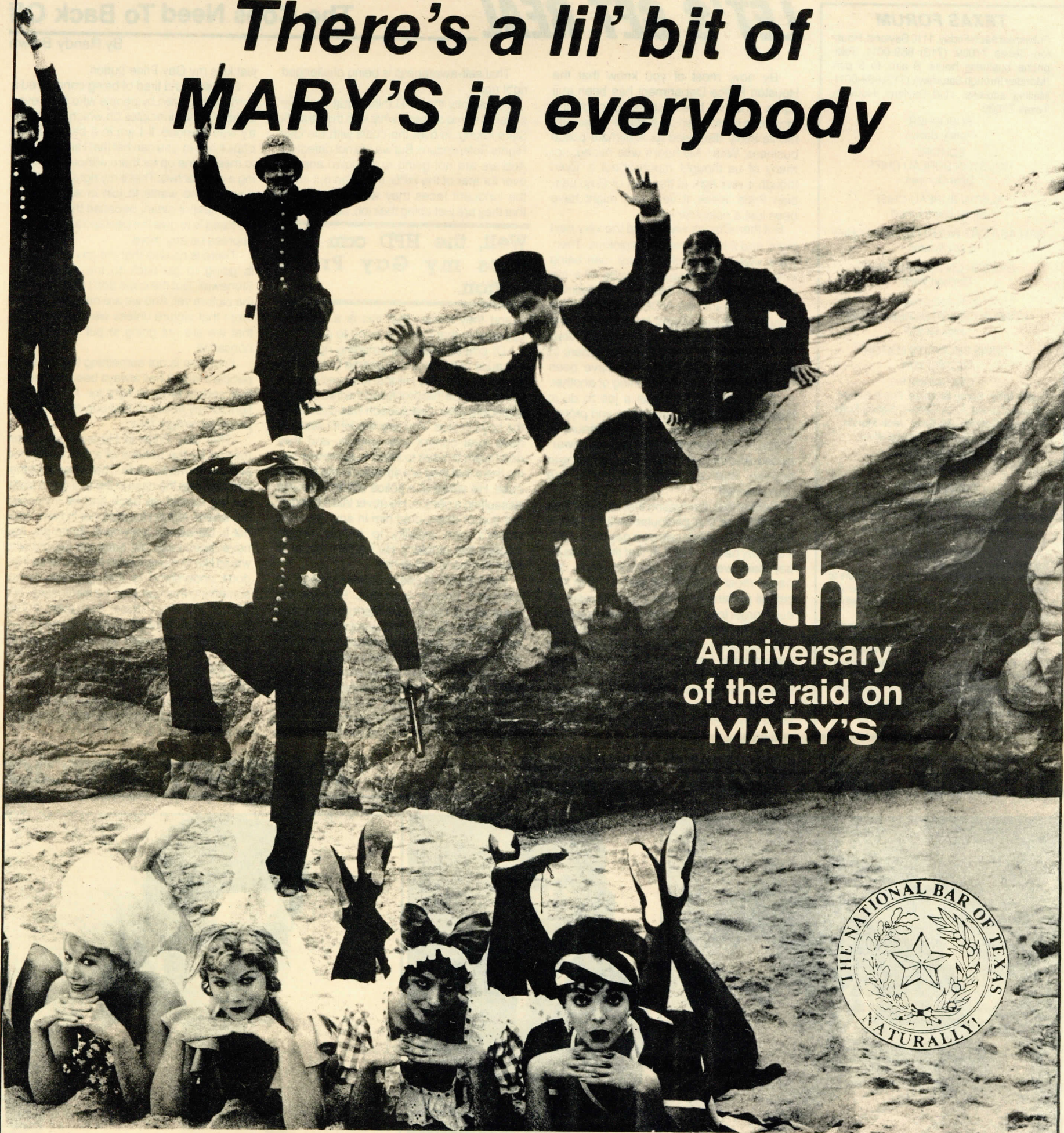
Anthony Garcia



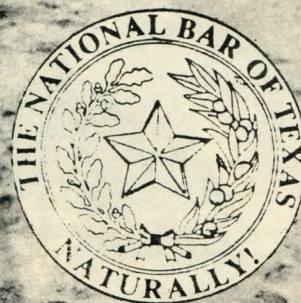
Born: Houston, Texas.
Sun Sign: Cancer.
Eyes: Brown naturally, but in the picture, it's green.
Favorite kind of men: Blond, blue eyes and built.
Favorite political figure: I have no idea; I'm too young to be involved in politics.
Age: Early twenties.
Current project: I'm a student of U of H, studying speech communication.
Future project: Complete my degree and find work in the public relations field.
Message to Texas Forum readers: Be good to yourself and others.



There's a lil' bit of MARY'S in everybody



8th
Anniversary
of the raid on
MARY'S



MARY'S

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Houston Gays Enraged by Raids

By Billie Duncan

"I'm too old to keep coming out at this time of night for this kind of nonsense," grumped Ray Hill last Sunday night after letting higher-ups of the Houston Police Department know that the appearance of officers at an AIDS benefit at Club Rendezvous was not appreciated. HPD had ticketed the club for "excessive noise." In and of itself that would not have been cause to call activist Hill out, but the incident was just one in a daily list of incidents in which Houston police made arrests under one pretext or another.

On Thursday, June 19, Michaels', 428 Westheimer was raided and four employees, three customers and one male dancer were arrested. On Friday, June 20, Chutes, 1732 Westheimer, was raided, and one employee and several customers were arrested. That same night, a man was pulled from the passenger side of a car stopped at the light at Taft and Westheimer and arrested for public intoxication. On Saturday, June 21, the Society of J.O.E., a private safe sex men's club, was raided and one employee plus nine members were arrested. On Sunday, June 22, the incident occurred at Club Rendezvous, 1102 Westheimer.

All of this occurred while Chief of Police Lee Brown was out of town and followed on the heels of a Supreme Court decision in favor of gay activist Hill that knocked down a city ordinance that had made it a crime to shout at a police officer.

Hill stated at a press conference at Chutes on Saturday that there were two theories on why the raids were taking place. One was that it was the beginning of Gay/Lesbian Pride Week in Houston, the other was that "They may have had their macho bruised by a recent court decision."

Also at the press conference was Steven Pickett, who had been pulled from a car driven by Don Haughton, arrested and al-



legedly beaten by a police officer in the paddy wagon. Pickett stated that he had not been feeling well and had not eaten, but had had two drinks at the 611, 611 Hyde Park. After the drinks, he did not feel that he should drive, so he asked Haughton to drive him home. He said that he had his head resting on the headrest when his car door was jerked open by a female officer, who then pulled him out of the car and subsequently handcuffed him.

Pickett said that the officer asked him, "Are you queer?" Pickett replied in the negative. Pickett said that the officer then said to him, "Don't touch me you queer. I don't want to get AIDS." Pickett said that after he was put in the police van, "The door opened, and it was the woman cop. She kicked me in the face. Then she kicked me in the ribs and kicked me in the stomach." Not long after that, Pickett stated that he threw up in the van.

Don Darragh, manager of Michaels', said that they were taping the evening's festivities, as it was their First Anniversary Party. He said that they would fight the arrests and use the video tape as evidence.

Bar Wilson of Chutes said that they were also going to fight the arrests, one of which was a bar back (a non-serving position) who was arrested for serving drinks to intoxicated people.

Henry McClurg, founder of J.O.E. and also publisher of the Montrose Voice, a Houston gay newspaper, stated that he was going to fight the arrests of his club members as well as press charges against individual HPD officers involved in the raid. Said McClurg, "Three plainclothes vice officers entered the club without a search warrant. They verbally abused everyone there. And physically abused several people."

McClurg said, "I think they thought it was a dope house, because once they got in there and saw just a bunch of naked men drinking beer, they seemed to panic." McClurg said that the officers searched the premises thoroughly, found no illegal drugs and then arrested the nine men, some of whom were charged with public indecency and some of whom were charged with indecent exposure in a public place. The manager was charged with serving alcohol without a permit. J.O.E. is a private club and does not sell drinks, but provides free beer for those who wish it.

Charges of illegal entry will be filed against the officers, promised McClurg, who said, "What it boils down to is that the police officers broke the law, and we intend to hold the individual officers accountable, along with the city government. We're going to charge them with everything we can think of, including littering." He explained that one of the officers tossed away an empty bottle, which

he retrieved and will have tested for the officer's fingerprints.

Although McClurg says that the club will not reopen until "we get legal and administrative guarantees that there will be no more illegal police actions on our premises," he plans to have an Open House Community Party on Fourth of July weekend.

Ray Hill gave the following rules for the community to follow in order to "get rid of oppression":

1. Register to vote.
2. Keep informed.
3. Stay in touch with political organizations in the community.
4. If you see a brother or sister being handled by police, stop and watch. Challenge them if they are about to brutalize someone.

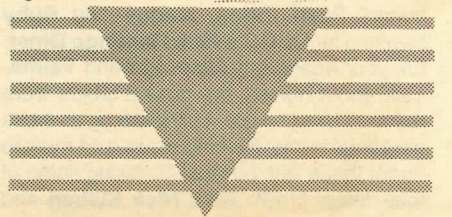
INFOBIT:

What Is Stonewall?

In June, 1969, New York City Police conducted a routine raid at the Stonewall Tavern, a local gay bar. They were met with resistance, causing the arrest of many patrons.

Over the next few days, violence erupted frequently in the area near the Stonewall, as gays displayed their solidarity in resisting police harassment.

This event is generally considered to mark the birth of the modern lesbian/gay rights movement.



Showbit...



Personals Packed with Personality

"Real fine lookin' one-legged lady wishes to know tight one-legged man." Imagine the personals from the Village Voice set to music and woven together with clever sketches, and you have a slick, stylistic piece called *Personals*, now playing at Stages Repertory Company in Houston.

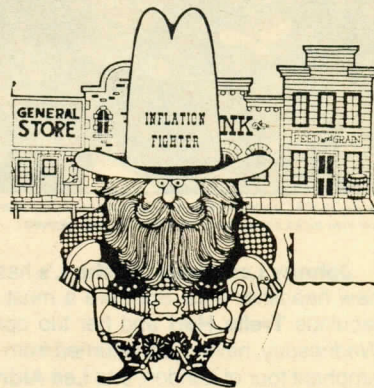
Paul Randolph-Johnson's direction of this neo-vaudevillian romp is superb and is matched by Michael Tapley's inventive staging of the 15 musical numbers, each of which has its own distinctive style and, sometimes, clever gimmicks. Len Rhodes, as musical director, skillfully makes us remember his vocally talented cast rather than the mostly forgettable music.

Leading the romp is former cabaret entertainer Alex Haas, who has finally found her niche in legitimate theatre and offers vigorously varied characterizations all the way

from a Jewish American Princess to a tough leather broad who is chapped with men and women. The other five shining stars manage to delightfully chew up the high-gloss, multi-level, red and black set, exquisitely designed by Bill Wells and glimmeringly lit by Mat Crowder.

If this show is the hit I predict it to be, I feel sorry for the folks who will have to view it from the section behind the orchestra. Perhaps that's where the smiley-faced ushers will seat the real fine lookin' lady and the tight one-legged man she met through an ad in the personals. (Reviewed by Buzz Bellmont)

Personals, with music by William K. Dreskin, Joel Philip Friedman, Seth Friedman, Alan Menken, Michael Skloff and Stephen Schwartz, with book by David Crane, Seth Friedman and Marta Kauffman. Starring Jared Cooley, Brent Darnell, Julia A. Figueroa, Alex Haas, Luis Lemus and Dawn Monachino. Through August 15 at Stages, 3201 Allen Parkway, (713) 52-STAGE.



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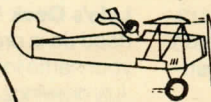
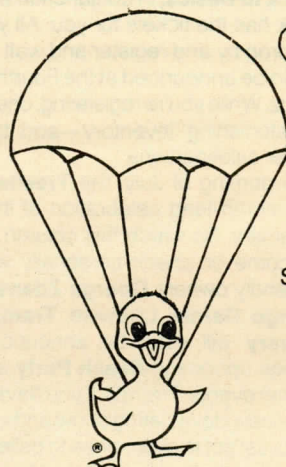
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Dallas ... By John Birdshot

DALLAS SIZZLES

The rains fizzled and Dallas sizzled. After a week of torrential rains threatened to dampen the spirit and success of **Razzle Dazzle** and with only a few hours left before "showtime," the rains suddenly ceased, clouds parted and the sun reigned (**Jimmy, Jerry and Oral** were obviously on break, or the deluge would have continued) as Dallas partied into the wee hours to the beat, beat, beat of disco, the strum, strum, strum of C&W guitars, and the clop, clop, clop of **Dallas Cloggers**.

Razzle Dazzle roared as an estimated crowd of 8,000 fund-loving Dallasites and guests braved sweltering humidity to support this spectacular fund raiser. The exuberant crowd willingly dug deep in the pockets and purses to enjoy game booths, casino gambling, food, drink (Ugh, those long lines) dancing and lots of hugs at this gay gala and most worthy cause. Thanks and congrats to Razzle Dazzle for a great show!

One (actually it was four) of the most popular attractions was that bevy winsome honies **Pearl, Edna, Madge and Ruby** hawking for **OLCC's Pink Flamingo Diner**. Eat your hearts out **Alice, Flo and Velma**. Talk about honies, the casino tables were manned (And I mean MANNed) by all those gorgeous hunks flashing sinew and muscle under those little bowties. Showing some of that dealer brawn were **Nick Staben** and **Jon Thomas** (be still, my heart), not to mention **Bill** (be still my ...). And there was **Richelle**, showgirl or shillgirl. Whatever.

Game booth barkers had no shame, soliciting players with reckless abandon. **Gemini Theatre's** booth was lustily manned by **Kevin Lawson** and **Barry Burns**, while **TGRA's Charlie Tuna, Jim Close, Ken Eaves** and others enticed customers with sexy smiles and big hugs. How could anyone resist those cowboys flaunting their waves? Neigh Me.

GAY PRIDE

With Razzle Dazzle kicking off **Gay Pride Week**, Dallas has been a roller coaster ride of events all week. This weekend's schedule of events include the **Stonewall Observance 18th Anniversary**, the **Crossroads Carnival** on Saturday, the **MCC Potluck Picnic** on Sunday and many more. So drop by the **Gay Alliance Center** and pick up a schedule, and take some fund by the Alliance Center. I understand cleaning supplies are much in need too.

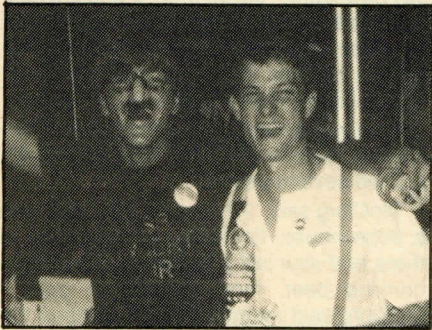
Gay Pride Week ends Sunday with the **AIDS March/Candlelight Vigil** beginning at the **Gay Community Center** at 7:30 p.m. and ending at **Reverchon Park**. The March is sponsored by the **AIDS Resource Center** and **Dallas Gay Alliance**.

COMING UP

When you get that urge to quench your thirst for entertainment this week, you've got a lot to choose from, as great shows abound on the club scene. **Ovations**, for example, is featuring the much awaited return of **Peñny Hamilton** to our fair Dallas. Penny hails from L.A., but calls herself a "Provincetown performer with a huge set of pipes." Besides her own melodious vocals, Penny does many routines of which we never get enough ala **Streisand, Garland** and more. To **Ovations** headliner **Parodize**, our apologies for last week's spelling typo. Ditto to **Hideaway's Bernie Siben**. By the way, the Hideaway's new slogan "Everyday's a Holiday Here at the Hideaway" says it all. So take a holiday and relax at the Hideaway.



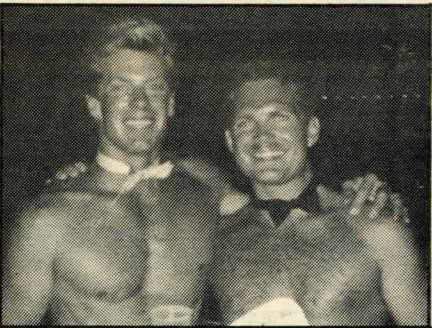
OLCC's Pink Flamingo Diner waitresses were gorgeous Pearl, Edna, Madge and Ruby.



Kevin Lawson and Barry Burns entice chance-takers to Theatre Gemini's booth at RDD.



TGRA members Jim Close, Charlie Tuna, Ken Eaves and other volunteers sold T-shirts, etc., for RDD.



Razzle Dazzle Casino Dealers Jon Thomas and Nick Staben must hide their tricks somewhere other than up their sleeves!

Johnny Lemmons of **John L's** has two new headliner acts. Both are a must. The fabulous **Trella Hart** and her trio opened Wednesday, having just returned from a triumphant tour of London, and **Lee Aldridge** is making his Dallas debut at John L's with his New Orleans style cabaret show. Both Trella and Lee are receiving thunderous approval.

With Gay Pride Week ongoing and the **Fourth of July** on top, what next? How does three days and two nights on South Padre sound? **Back to Basics**, in conjunction with **Lyle's Deck** has the tickets for you. All you need do is drop by and register and wait for your name to be announced at the Fourth of July drawings. While you're registering, check out their astonishing inventory—and that includes their salespersons.

With the coming of July, the **Trestle** is planning a month-long celebration of their First Anniversary. So watch this column for events to come or check personally with Trestle's friendly owners **George Zdansky** and **Domingo Garcia**. Likewise, **Tramps' Joe McGeary** will soon be announcing dates for their upcoming **Beach Party** and other Summer events. Tramps, if you haven't heard, has a new devastating snow and light show you've just got to experience to believe.

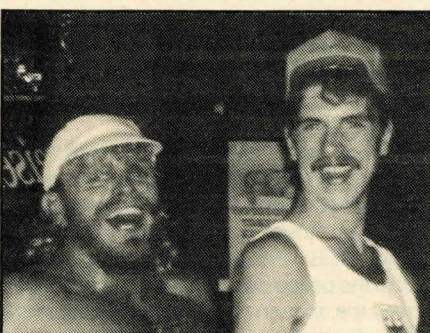
While you're on Maple, visit the **Arena**, already a Dallas legend, which is also coming out soon with a full schedule of summer fun events. And don't forget to say hello at the **Circuit** to bartenders **Tim Vaughan** and



Celebrating 'Pride Week'!



Bill Ashley and John Cook, Detroit bookstore entrepreneurs, visited Dallas and RDD.



Tim Vaughan turns on charms while Michael Erickson sets off alarms (if you get the meaning) at the Circuit.

Michael Erickson. Michael's pecks and gyrations are a major event in themselves and Tim will charm you into putty. Not to be forgotten is **Eagle Creek** on Fitzhugh. They too are planning summer festivities, beginning with last week's hugely successful benefit show.

Ft. Worth ... By John Birdshot

MISSING FT. WORTH

Laid Back? You bet. Dull? No way. Ft. Worth hospitality is an undiscovered gem by many of you. So get over there and get acquainted. You'll be doing yourself a big favor. There's dancing in every bar, disco and country western. Pick your spot and relax or do 'em all. Summer fun has just begun and Ft. Worth has something (someone?) waiting just for you. I must admit, I didn't make the Ft. Worth scene this last week, but I know it won't be long before I return. There're gems to be polished in them thar hills of Ft. Worth, and mining for gems can be such fun.

HOUSTON ... By Elroy Forbes

GOOD NEWS

For the past seven years, **Jim Merring**, tuba player for **The Montrose Symphonic Band**, has participated in both parades and concerts for Gay Pride celebrations here and in Dallas. Jim suffers with various tumors. Over the last few years, tumors threatened his hearing and now other problems. This week his doctor pronounced he could play the concert and in a few days, after more tests, perhaps he will be able to march in the great **People Pride Parade** next Sunday. **The Montrose Symphonic Band** will perform at 8 p.m. this Saturday at **MCCR Church** with the **MCCR Choir** and then perform 4 p.m. in the Parade. GOOD LUCK, JIM!

ILL WINDS FAN PRIDE

There is a Chinese Proverb that states: It is an ill wind that blows no man any good. The police raids and harassments over the

beginning of **Pride Week** may well be the stuff to unite this diverse Community. Raids interrupted **Michael's Anniversary**. **Chutes'** events, **J.O.E.** in mid stroke and began work on disrupting **Club Rendezvous** and **Charlie's** great fund raiser for the AIDS groups. Saturday afternoon a press conference was held at Chutes. After the media left, Activist, **Ray Hill**, had a few words for the rest of us:

1. Register to VOTE;
2. Keep GPC informed and vice versa;
3. When you see one of us being arrested, stop and witness the event;
4. If we see brutality in any form, ask WHY.

Ray just won his **Supreme Court** decision that gives us, all citizens, the right to ask WHY. But above all, COME OUT AND CELEBRATE!

WOMYNSPACE DANCE

Gay and Lesbian Pride Week began Friday night at **Bering Memorial Methodist Church**, site of the **WomynSpace Dance**. Tables of refreshments, arts and crafts, and a Live DJ stage show delighted the many participants. It was a cheerful opening to our special 10 day celebration.

SWITCH ON MECCA

After the **Women's Softball Tournament** on Saturday evening, **Mecca** opened her doors with a fund raiser for **The Gay and Lesbian Switchboard**. Crowds poured onto the cool surroundings all evening. I left to find the entrance way filled with a line up all around the block. FYI faces in the crowd handsome **Jack Valinski**, Switchboard President **Kevin**, hot **Harry**, **Trinity Design's Emery Lingwood**, brutish **Jack, Carl, Bobby, Ray, Alex, Irving, Myra, Raedale, Olivia, Rita, John K., Otto, Ralph** and many others.

HOT SHOW AT RENDEZVOUS

The stars were out at Club Rendezvous to help raise nearly \$4,000 for AIDS Sunday. Everyone performed: **Latino** straight from Mexico City, **Del Ray** from Chicago, **Ricki O'Shay** from points everywhere, **Patsy Cline** from her grave, **Billie Duncan** from Clute, **Tanya Seville** from old Bears, **Rainbo** from the **Circus**, **The Dolly and Barbee Show** from **Charlie's**, **Lolla Fontain** from the **Pits**, **Miss Alabama**, now the Empress of **Out-laws**, **Dietra Allen** whose Pasadena still cries and much much more. The show which started about 4 p.m. ran until about 5 a.m. Monday morning with both the audience and the performers sharing the heat. Many guests artists were live performers, some lip sync, some just performed and as we were reminded many times during the run, this was not a Drag Show, but a performance to help out with AIDS. **Doug** from the **Ripcord**, **Tom** from **Brazos River Bottom**, **Teresa Mauney** from **Norma's 5611** and the **Texas Forum**, and the list goes on and on. Some 100 performers and some show. **Randy Miller** did all the coordinating and that was no easy task either. One of the best numbers was the wonderful hula by the staff of **Charlie's**. Charlie's people gave some \$1,200 from their tip money too. The whole spirit of the shows run was giving. That says a lot for our Community as a unit too. I hope to see this spirit during **Gay Fest** and the Parade this coming Sunday and during the remainder of all the other events.

Norma's 5611 has been busy, busy, busy lately, with **Teresa Mauney** pulling in the crowds on Friday and Saturday nights. And last week a benefit there for the **Omega House** brought in \$187 in donations. Norma wants to thank everyone who participated in the event, especially the entertainers. Coming up, Norma plans another nifty event to raise money for that worthy cause. They are going to auction off the masks that they wear in the Pride Parade on Tuesday, June 30. There are wonderful masks, and the event should be a lot of fun Oh, all you entertainers out there need to come by Norma's on Wednesdays for her new **Open Mike Night**.

U OF H CONCERT

A big house awaited the sounds of



MECCA hosted Gay/Lesbian Switchboard Nite.



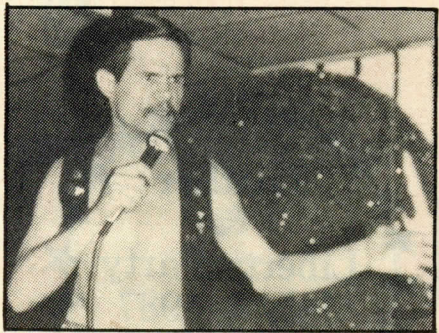
The Montrose Country Cloggers are everywhere!



Club Rendezvous "Puttin' on the Ritz" featured Tom, Dina and Don.



Randy Miller put together the whole show.



Tom Beck in Memories!

Romanovsky and Phillips Concert for Gay and Lesbian Student Association and Dignity. The group was well received thanks to the many local club DJ's who have pumped their music into our heads. Their following keeps growing in the Houston and Texas area.

ARTFUL PRIDE

A good crowd supported the annual **Men and Women Together Art Show** at the 1006 Gallery Monday night. I will try to turn in photos before the deadline so that you will know how large this event has grown on the Community Social Calendar.

SUNDAY SUNDAY

I hope to see all of you turn out and join in both the Parade and Gay Fest this Sunday. I will be working some shifts in the booth marked: Christmas in Montrose. I would like to meet you and get your ideas on how we can make our Community a greater place to live, work and enjoy. Until next week, may Good News guide you toward Tomorrow.

SAN ANTONIO ... By Jackie Oh!

HI, HAPPY CAMPERS!

Yes, it's me, **Jackie Oh!** Coming to you

almost live from the Alamo City (Yea!). I need a shot of Grand ManYea!

This past week was different and fun. I met some gorgeous men from all over the country. That was different and I partied with them, and that was fun!

I hope everyone enjoyed **Gay Pride Week** along with the **Parade and Picnic**. I took lots and lots of pictures, so if I can talk **Billie** into it, I'll send all of them, and maybe they'll give me a page or two or three (dreamer!) of Gay Pride S.A. (Yea!)

DEAR DIARY

Yes, it's true, Jackie Oh! is bowling on Monday nights with **Jan's People**. Our league is the largest in S.A. even the Baptists don't have a bigger league than the **Gay League** (Yea!)

More nominees for the **Jackie Oh! Hair, No Hair, Real Root Color Awards** include **Brice** from the **French Connection**, **Brian** from **Papa Bear's**, **Randy** of the **Bolt**. These plus the other nominees last week are competing for something. Results are being tabulated! Winners to be figured out within three weeks! No, they don't cook like **Betty Crocker**, but they could pass for **Donna Reed**!

Congrats to the **106 Pool League Team** who narrowly beat out or off the **Silver Dollar Team** at the 106 last Wednesday night. The rematch will be at the Silver Dollar this week! Revenge is sweet, but a kiss is sweeter (kissy, kissy), so kiss me, you fool!

PTL: PRAISE THE LOUNGE

The stage was set in more than one place this past week. Congrats to **Mark, Dwayne** and **Javier**, top three in the **Mr. Gay S.A. Contest**. Congrats also to **Sereta, Tiffany** and **Sassy**, top three finishers in the **Miss Gay S.A. Metro/U.S.A. Pageant** at the **Paper Moon**!

I hear **Julee French** "Cleaned house" after the picnic Sunday, or is it she just rearranged everything? Stay tuned ...

Clean-ups are just to "dye" for on Fridays. Just ask **Lanny** of the Paper Moon just what color was it? "Pie Face!"

I personally want to thank the **Gay Pride Committee**. It just keeps getting better!

There are a lot of charities and people do give to them. I know the AIDS funds are important, but the **Gay Switchboards** are also important. The Switchboard in S.A. does get funds, but not enough (there never is), so when you're walking down the street and you find \$50, remember your local switchboard. I'll close this column with a quote: "We are not the cause, but we are the solution."

Artbit ...



Dominique Seeks Art Lovers

Just when we thought that neo-Nazi architecture for public buildings (especially concert halls) was in vogue, **Dominique de Menil** offers Houston her totally accessible, unpretentious, subtle and simple Menil Collection to the world. From the **Museum of Modern Art** to the **Louvre** to the **Hermiteage**, the art world is praising the Menil Collection. Thank Dominique for putting Houston on the art map of the world. The Menil Collection is located at 1515 Sul Ross, in the heart of the Montrose, and is a must-see. Admission is free. Hours are from 11-7, Wednesday through Sunday.

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PEOPLE'S FORUM

What is TGRA??

From Austin chapter of TGRA

TGRA is the Texas Gay Rodeo Association. We are a group of women and men in a federally recognized non-profit association whose purposes are to promote the sport of rodeo, support our Western heritage and facilitate harmony within the Gay community. TGRA is a member of the International Gay Rodeo Association—TGRA has member chapters in Texas, California, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico and Oklahoma, with affiliates in Kansas, Missouri, Nevada and Canada.

TGRA each year raises money in each of the Chapter cities—Dallas, Houston, Fort Worth, San Angelo and Austin. This money provides the funds necessary to promote a statewide rodeo, normally held in November. This rodeo attracts contestants and spectators from other IGRA chapters and states nationwide. Each state hosts a similar rodeo at various times of the year, forming a gay rodeo circuit. The profits from the Texas Rodeo which in 1986 were \$15,000, are split among the city chapters based upon a percentage of active members and how much money each chapter raised during the year.

In 1986, Austin's share of the rodeo profits was roughly \$3000. These funds were donated to various charitable organizations such as AIDS Services of Austin and Waterloo counselling. Funds raised locally eventually are returned to the community at a profit.

In connection with the rodeo, TGRA sponsors a Royalty contest for Mr., Ms., and Miss TGRA. Contestants from each chapter raise money directly for local charities such as ASA and receive points for the amount raised. Then at the rodeo, there are horsemanship, fashion and talent contests to

determine the winners who serve for a year as the representative of the state.

To achieve the goal of harmony in the gay community, TGRA takes an active role in many other activities from Gay Pride Parades to Bar Hops. Membership in TGRA is open to anyone who is interested in the goals of the organization and who is willing to work. An initiation fee of \$20 is charged with monthly dues of \$5 payable monthly. We meet on the first Monday of each month at the Sunrise Hotel, Hwy 183 and I-35 North at 8:00 p.m. These meetings are open to the public and guests are always welcome. For more information call (512)462-9419.

Dallas County Health Department Explains AIDS Study

From Marc Lerro, AIDS Prevention Project
The AIDS Prevention Project of the Dallas County Health Department will soon begin a longitudinal study of gay and bisexual men in the Dallas area. Men will be offered the opportunity to join this study after they have contacted the health department for anonymous HIV antibody testing. The gay cohort study, as well as our regular antibody testing, will remain both voluntary and anonymous.

As a community leader, we would like you to understand why we are conducting this survey of attitudes. The gay cohort is required as a condition of continued support by the U.S. Public Health Service and the Centers for Disease Control, the groups which fund the AIDS Prevention Project in Dallas. The same gay cohort is being conducted in other cities which also receive federal money for AIDS projects, therefore we could not change or omit some of the

questions which may seem less appropriate for Dallas. Across the country, federally funded AIDS projects will offer this survey to gay and bisexual men. The results will be collected by the Centers for Disease Control to better understand the most effective educational programs for reaching men at highest risk of infection with the AIDS virus.

Most importantly, both our regular HIV testing and the gay cohort will remain *voluntary and completely anonymous*. We will not have any record of the identities of men in the study or of their sexual partners.

The success of this study will rely on the understanding of community leaders like you. I will gladly answer whatever questions you have about the AIDS Prevention Project or the gay cohort.

Open Letter To Readers of The Texas Forum:

From Joseph Moore, Spencer, W. Virginia

Would you let a friend be buried in a paupers grave, or go without medicine, or a roof over his head? NO, I don't think so. Yet, while millions of dollars are raised each year for research for a cure for AIDS, very little money is allocated for "Supportive Services".

We here at J&D Memorial Foundation have a unique program, we are one of the few non-profit organizations that do in fact offer supportive services to patients with AIDS anywhere in the United States. We help defray the costs for rent, utility bills, food, medicine, and we even pay for burial if the request is made. But like any other non-profit organization we need the financial help from all areas. so we ask the question, would 5 or 10 or 20 dollars hurt you? Would you really miss having those last few drinks

knowing that that 5-10-or 20 dollars would go a long way to help a victim of AIDS, and might just help to give that person a decent christian burial. Or would you rather just toss down a few more drinks, then God forbid something should happen and you need the service but it is no longer available because we ran out of money, or we could not help you or a friend of yours because we did not have the available funds to help.

We need the support of every member of the Houston Community that reads the **Texas Forum**, and those that don't read the Forum. Last year alone we assisted in the burial of some 11 people, men and women, from Houston and other areas of Texas, that was a cost to us of some \$38,500.00 (\$3,500.00 per individual for burial alone). This does not include monies spent for everyday living.

Therefore we hope that each reader would send a check in whatever amount they can afford to:

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Spencer, West Virginia 25276

Your help is appreciated and needed.

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NEWS BITS

Juneteenth Ad in Gay Papers Draws Charges of Racism

HOUSTON—Two newspapers ran a full page ad last week for Juneteenth celebration at Mary's, a Houston gay bar, in which the main picture was of white men in black-face doing a minstrel show. One of the ads listed events for the celebration that included watermelon spitting.

Both the Montrose Voice and the **Texas Forum** were criticized by blacks for running the ads, but Mary's manager said that they had checked with their black customers

before running the ads and that the event was supposed to be a tribute to the freedom won by Texas blacks and not a show of ridicule.

Gay Pride to Honor PWA's

HOUSTON—The main thrust of Houston's Gay/Lesbian Pride Week festivities will be to honor those who have contracted AIDS or ARC, and money that would usually be spent on expensive floats will be donated to various AIDS organizations. Instead of the floats, the community has planned a walking parade with innovative and colorful contingents from all over the city, as well as some visitors from out of state.

After the parade, the celebrants of Gay Pride will be asked to join together at Gay Fest, in the parking lot of the 3317 Montrose building, to continue a night of fun and entertainment.

The parade will run down Westheimer from Woodhead to Montrose.

O'Brien Receives Three Years for Child Sex Abuse

HOUSTON—Dr. Richard Fry O'Brien, 59, of the 200 block of Arborway, was sentenced to three years in prison for sexually

assaulting a five-year-old boy. He pleaded no contest to indecency with a child in a plea bargain arranged so that the boy would not have to testify.

The child's father has been sentenced to seven years in prison for sexually assaulting his son.

Porn Star's Manager Denies AIDS Rumors

LOS ANGELES—Bill Amerson, manager of porn star John Holmes denied rumors that Holmes is suffering from AIDS. He said that Holmes is recovering from colon cancer surgery.

H O R O S C O P E S

by Jack Marvin, AMAFA

We end the month of June with all the outer planets (SATURN, URANUS, NEPTUNE, and PLUTO) still in retrograde. In addition, MERCURY joined this group last week which has a pronounced effect on anything dealing with communication. As I explain over and over, when MERCURY begins its backwards motion, this is a period to keep your mouth shut and listen with an open mind. Since we are still under the influence of the New MOON, if you are beginning any new projects, this is still a favorable time to pursue them. For example, if you are considering a job change, pursue it with vigor for the next two weeks. However, by all means remember to listen to what people are saying when they speak to you and don't jump to any conclusions. If so me of you mail gets lost, that is just going to happen. If your TV cable screws up, accept it. All of these things plus



ARIES: The New MOON is always symbolic sign of rebirth each month, who feels more of a rebirth than you. Go out to the shops and store and purchase some new spring clothes that make you feel good. This would also be a good time to start the workouts at the Parkway Athletic Club and get some sun at Eurotan if you don't have much time on the weekends. The SATURN retrograde in your 9th house will cause you to be more reflective in religions and philosophies. Don't travel.
* Favorable Days: 27th, 2nd
* Unfavorable Days: 29th



TAURUS: Your New MOON cycle begins with an understanding of your inner emotional self. Get rid of all the clutter that has been hanging around your mind and pulling you down. Count to three and say, "Be gone, Bitch!", and all that junk messing up your mind will depart. You should really start to reconsider exactly what it is that you want out of sex. The SATURN retrograde occurs in this area of your life. Communications with friends could be difficult and cause misunderstandings due to the MERCURY retrograde.
* Favorable Days: 2nd
* Unfavorable Days: 30th



GEMINI: The MERCURY retrograde is still causing confusion and problems to you. As always, be very careful of what you say and do as you are apt to be misunderstood. With SATURN retrograde in your house of partnerships, you may find yourself a little more domineering and less understanding than usual. So take care and avoid hurting a lover by your actions or words. The New MOON occurred in your house of finances and money, so now is the time to think of new ways to make your money work for you or to get a job that pays better.
* Favorable Days: 26th, 1st
* Unfavorable Days: none



CANCER: This is a beginning for a new career or a whole new you. The New MOON occurred in your own SUN sign—CANCER. This is your New Year and you should start this new year out with a brand new image. Be very careful what you say and do for the next two weeks as you should avoid anything that may tarnish your image to others. The retrograde SATURN in your house of employment signals a rethinking of your position at your job and more concentration on your work. MERCURY is retrograding over your SUN. Take care what you say and how you say it.
* Favorable Days: 26th, 27th, 29th, 30th, 1st
* Unfavorable Days: 28th



LEO: The New MOON occurred in your house of secrets and mental growth. You should find a rebirth of your sexual prowess and more concentration on love affairs and romances. With URANUS still occupying your house of romances, there will continue to be changes in lovers, but aggressive MARS causes you to continue to seek new lovers, even if only for one night! There could be some communication difficulties between you and a partner this weekend over sex and finances—remember MERCURY is going retrograde in your 12th house.
* Favorable Days: 28th, 29th, 30th, 1st
* Unfavorable Days: none



VIRGO: Now is the time to forgive and forget misunderstandings between you and your partner. If there have been some unsolved differences, then toss them aside and forget them, never bring them up again. Communication difficulties could occur between you and your partner this weekend, so hold any serious discussions until the first of the week (better yet, wait until July 15th!). For the next several weeks, you will be concentrating on your home and how to improve your surroundings.
* Favorable Days: 26th, 1st, 2nd
* Unfavorable Days: none



LIBRA: If you have desired to get attached, now is the time. With the SUN joining your ruler VENUS in your house of partners, if you do get attached, it should prove very successful. There could still be delays and difficulties in your work so be very understanding and don't say or do anything that may offend your superiors or peers. You should get involved in organizations that will clean-up or promote your neighborhood. Short distance travels are not favored.
* Favorable Days: 30th, 2nd
* Unfavorable Days: none



SCORPIO: If you have considered going on a trip or vacation, now is the time with New MOON occurring in your house of travel and philosophy. There may be some difficulty meeting new and exciting people for one-night-stands since MERCURY is going backwards in your "play house". You may find that everything you say to Mr. Wonderful comes out wrong.... This should be a very good period for investing and making money as your powers of concentration in this area will be strong.
* Favorable Days: 26th, 29th, 1st
* Unfavorable Days: 28th



SAGITTARIUS: This week end is a great time to find a new romance, but be careful what you say around your home or you may find yourself heading for a divorce. The SATURN retrograde is giving you stronger powers of concentration and an ability to look at yourself objectively. If you dislike something about yourself (Body not so hot? Enroll at Parkway Athletic Club! Need new clothes? Hit Union Jack!, etc.), then now is the time to undergo a face-lift and change the merchandise. Remember, people have to like the outside in order to explore the inside....
* Favorable Days: 30th, 2nd
* Unfavorable Days: 27th, 29th



CAPRICORN: Now is the time to change your address and relocate. This signals a new beginning in a new location. Be careful of what you say and do in your neighborhood as you could be misunderstood. This also applies to communications between your brothers and sisters. You should put some of your activities on hold until you clearly have an idea of what you wish to accomplish. The SATURN retrograde will give you plenty of inner strength to get tasks completed that you previously thought impossible. Think before you speak around a lover as the MERCURY retrograde is in this area of your life.
* Favorable Days: 29th
* Unfavorable Days: 26th, 27th, 2nd



AQUARIUS: Start this New MOON period off with a short trip—to Galveston or Austin or San Antonio. This will certainly improve your outlook on life and help to get rid of the garbage left over from the past several weeks. Now will not be a good time to make changes in the way you have your money invested, so leave it alone. You should spend some time rethinking your goals and aspirations. You may have set some of your goals too high, and may be setting yourself up for a big hurt.
* Favorable Days: none
* Unfavorable Days: 28th, 29th, 30th, 2nd



PISCES: The New MOON occurs in your house of romance and dating which could mean you should prepare for a whirlwind of activity and some disappointments. This is the beginning of a new period, however, and a time to forget the past. Live for the present and don't try to project too far in the future. You may have some difficulties communicating your feelings, but by July 15th, all these difficulties should be ending. With the MERCURY retrograde aspecting your sun sign, this means that you will tend to misunderstand people and they could misunderstand you more than normal.
* Favorable Days: none
* Unfavorable Days: 26th, 28th, 1st, 2nd

QUESTION: "With all the questions concerning AIDS recently, is it possible to see if you can contract AIDS by looking at their Horoscope?" **SPR**

ANSWER: This is a subject that is currently being very heavily investigated within the legitimate Astrological Community. There are currently many theories as to the Astrological causes of AIDS. I know that there are no current facts or conclusions about the causes because the disease is too new and not enough cases have been examined. However, a leading contender

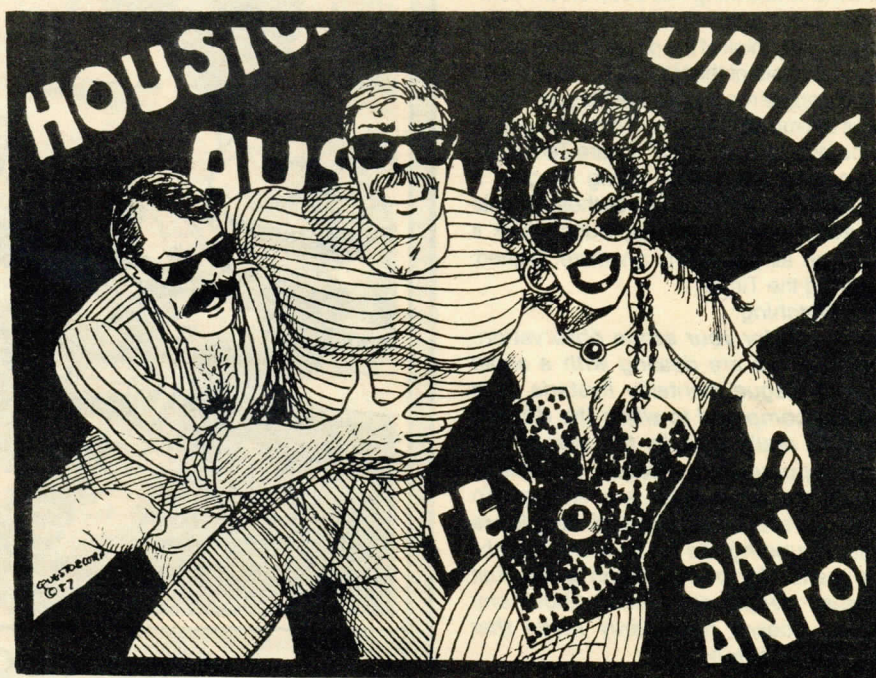
in the investigation is the newly discovered asteroid, ATLANTIS, that was discovered around the time that AIDS was "discovered". In the investigation of Rock Hudson's birth and progressed Horoscope, it was noted that difficult aspects between ATLANTIS and several personal points in Mr. Hudson's Horoscope occurred several times during the later part of his life. I have recently acquired an "ephemeris" for ATLANTIS and am currently doing my own investigations into this disease. **JM, 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**

Dear Fans, Amanda has been hanging out some of the state's most notorious downtown areas, looking up old friendly stock brokers and several bankers, along with a few wayward lawyers. We have had a wonderful opportunity to take in and assimilate much of the moods and characteristics of some of Texas' largest and most popular downtowns, and thought we should put these impressions down on paper, where they will eventually be reduced to postage stamp size and entered into microfilm libraries for alien beings to ponder over after President Reagan's foreign policies have come to fruition.

Because we travel so much, we have to admit that no one city holds our complete esteem. However, we must admit that Houston's skyline is truly a wonder for everyone who first comes upon it. When we first saw it in 1980, we were amazed, but since then, it has taken on a personality of its own as a world-recognized art form. Even French artists come in from abroad to paint light pictures on the sides of the buildings. Trying to superimpose their own creativity upon something that only the inhabitants of Houston could conjure up. And it means Money, Power and Creativity, Dear Fans. Oddly enough, while tromping the streets of Houston in our organdy burgundy Monk's Robe tulle summer billow skirt and Mega Brimmed Saturn hat, we have found ourselves either breaking our neck looking up, or buried in the depths of literal tunnel vision. It's rather strange that a city with so much skyline has such a network of antlike tunnel systems. It's all very dramatic—something right of of H.G. Wells. Especially at around 6:30 p.m. when all the little hatches open up and the Morlocks come out in their little orange vests to clean the place up.

Dallas, Dear Fans, is always a fabulous



Because we travel so much, we have to admit no one city holds our complete esteem.

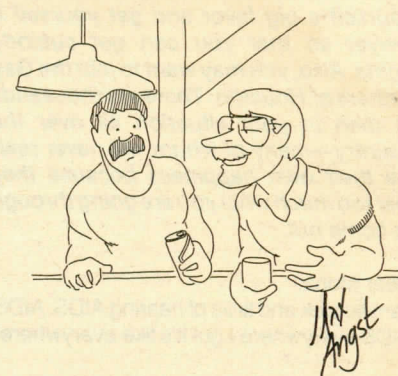
treat! We recently went there to wander through the streets, visiting the beautiful art museum and scavenging gum wrappers from the waste baskets of Neiman Marcus. While Houston's skyline is an art form, Dallas' skyline is simply megalithic. We think it lacks the symmetry of Houston's, but when it comes to size and complexity, the two cities must draw a truce. Dallas has such nice little

narrow streets, and the downtown isn't so grid-patterned. The place has a little more charm, and Amanda feels a little less alienated from the humanity around her in Dallas. For those reasons, we enjoy romping up to the Melrose and haunting the well-defined bar district. It reminds us vaguely of Castro in SF, without the mist. In fact, the heat can fry eggs!

One has to be completely vapid not to love San Antonio's River Walk. The city has an older charm about it that gives it a more permanent feel. It's so nice to go down streets where people actually seem to be living and working. The sidewalks are not very clean, but they have so much character, and Amanda loves to sit on the Riverwalk, just below a certain bridge, where the sidewalk has a lovely crack, and we can drink margaritas with our friends and giggle at all the tourists who trip over it.

Then, of course, there's Austin and the infamous 6th Street. There are very few places in this world where Amanda can squat in the gutter in her sequined orange capri pants with Take-Me-Rake-Me hoop tulle extra skirts and not even draw a glance!

We have to face it, Dear Fans. There just isn't anyplace like Texas for such remarkable variety from city to city. You not only enter another city when you travel this state, you enter another WORLD!



You've not been out in a month?!
I'll bet you can't even recall your zodiac sign!

NETWORK

Riding the Tides of Change

by Jeff Bray

I recently had lunch with a girl friend of mine. We had once worked in the same office together, and although we had been miserable in our positions at that time, we had become close friends. Three years later, we still meet for an occasional chat, and we gather information on those who have slipped away and are no longer part of our day-to-day routine.

She has had two jobs since we worked together, and I am now on my second. We laugh over the fact that while we were interviewing, potential employers would comment to us that our tenure was rather "brisk." To us, it seemed ludicrous that anyone would consider a year's tenure anywhere in Houston as being very short, considering that many of the companies we've worked for no longer exist.

She and I are not what I would really call "victims" of change. Instead, I would rather like to think of it as riding the wave of change, and Texas these days is the proverbial beach where those waves continually crash and pound.

My friend and I both have college degrees, but we have recently noticed that to not have a Masters is to fall behind. We are both oriented toward public relations and marketing, but have found, much to our dismay, that those are the departments that are first to suffer cutbacks when companies no longer roll in money—and we all did roll in money, didn't we?

Together, we worked for a well-known real estate developer, whose personal business practices and private life-style shocked the established community, but fit so well with the then overpowering eccentricity in Texas business. He was wild, brilliant, daring, cruel, shrewd, and incredibly successful. He drove us both into the arms of therapists, because he was never satisfied with

our work, and we thought it simply had to be our fault.

Now, of course, this man has filed Chapter 11, along with all the other dynamic, aggressive, eccentric, overconfident business tycoons. My friend and I moved on to other jobs that also proved weak and dependable. And now, we have grown very hard to many things in the job market.

In our separate ways—she, because she is a woman, and I, because I'm a man—we have conquered the raging tides of change around us.

In our separate ways—she, because she is a woman, and I, because I'm a man—we have conquered the raging tides of change around us. But the price has been remarkable high.

We no longer expect to get rich while working for someone else. We no longer seem to care that much for titles, because titles mean very little in an unemployment line. We no longer torture ourselves about our job performance, because there is no reason to care. Most importantly, we no longer expect loyalty from the company, any more than they should expect loyalty from us. And while we certainly don't go around saying this in the office, we know that we are bound together through the same school of hard knocks and disappointments.

We look at our parents' jobs, and how they've been cared for and coddled by their companies. We know that those days of

early retirement with adequate benefits are gone, so we do our own thing. We work on a contract basis, and feel more in control of our lives that way. I can take a vacation, or sit down and write a book, without having to work eight hours a day for a year for a two week respite. And we'll meet like this together for years, and the change will crash around us.

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Dear Mona:

I came out about four years ago, and was already married to a very nice lady, who I still love, but cannot live with happily. She and I have pretty much ironed out our differences, but now our six year old girl is old enough to know what is going on, and she wonders why Daddy doesn't stay home, and why I bring home men when she's visiting me. She wants to know if they're my "boyfriends." How can a six year old girl know so much? Because I think kids are far more intelligent these days than they were when I was young, I think I should tell her that I'm gay. My wife, however, says that if I do, she will take my daughter away from me and go to court for her, which she's sure she'll win. What should I do?

Dear Gay Father:

I think honesty is always the best policy, dear. Your wife may take her away from you, but when she gets to be old enough, she will be able to make a choice for herself, and she'll wonder why Mommy took her away from her father. Honey, do yourself a big favor and get yourself a lawyer so that you can get custody rights. Also, you may want to join the Gay Fathers of Houston. There are thousands of men in your situation all over the country—many of whom will never realize their own happiness because they fear too much what you are going through to come out.

Dear Mona:

I am so sick and tired of hearing AIDS, AIDS, AIDS everywhere I go! It's like everywhere I

go people are talking about AIDS, and now I think the whole thing has been blown completely out of proportion! What is AIDS? Do people really think of the disease itself, or are they just afraid of the WORD? Just mention it, and people run like it's the Plague. I think about the movie, "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to The Forum", where Zero Mostelle gets his freedom by yelling "Plague!" It was funny back then to see all those people run away in fear, but now, I don't think it would be all that funny anymore. Signed: Watching the Times

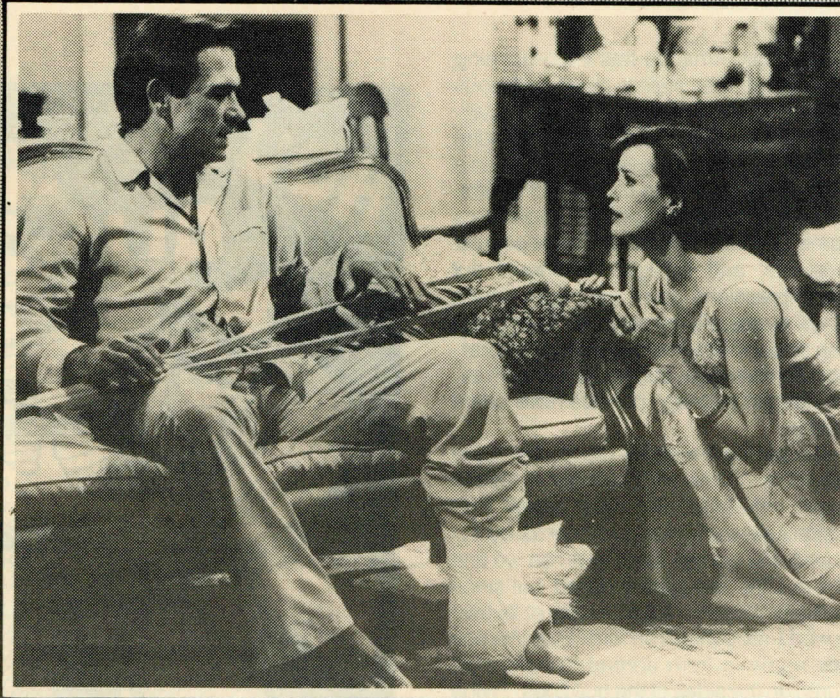
Dear Watching:

Thank you for your astute observation. Yes dear, we are dealing with a small form of plague mentality hysteria. It is nothing compared to when the disease starts to really take its toll among the general population. Already, the editorials in the newspaper are enough to make one's hair stand on end. People are already running. As far as AIDS as subject matter for conversation goes, just because people are talking about any subject doesn't necessarily mean that you have to listen to it.

Whether your problems are minor irritations or major life decisions, write to **Mona**, in care of the **Texas Forum**, 1110 Bayland, Houston, Texas 77009. Please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope for a personal reply. Letters of interest will be printed.



Showbit . . .



Maggie the Cat Seeks Stud

Maggie the Cat (**Jessica Lange**) gets out her claws when her husband, Brick (**Tommy Lee Jones**), begins to question his sexuality in this explosive and explicit version of **Tennessee Williams'** classic, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. Lange is superb as Maggie. Tommy Lee Jones is not as strong in his role as one would hope.

Rip Torn brings new insights into the role

of Big Daddy as he is faced with dying of cancer and dividing up his plantation among the greedy relatives. **Kim Stanley**, as Big Mama, is wonderful.

This encore presentation on **PBS' American Playhouse** airs in most Texas cities on Monday, June 29, at 9:00 p.m. This is TV worth watching. (Check local listings for different times.)

hous'ov. kol'man

n. 1. A woman-owned business specializing in quality graphics and printing. 2. A large red brick house in the heart of Montrose. *- adj.* Having many and varied features. *- v.* Producing design, illustration, camera work, printing and bindery. *- adv.* 1. To increase the client's business manifold. 2. To satisfy the client.

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To Whom It May Concern

By Frank Bengé

Chapter Four "Christopher to Marty"

Dear Marty,

Well, its summer in Montrose. Hot, humid, sticky summer. And I have opted for the Montrose Daddy look. Yep . . . super short hair. I figured it was about time I put away the things of youth (fans, tambourines, mousse, poppers) and face the fact that I have finally become what I used to cruise . . . a daddy. I don't like the fact that I am getting older, but at least I am facing it. I had my share of fun in the 60's too . . . it's just that I didn't figure on it catching up to me later on.

The bar business remains pretty much the same, just not so much of a crowd. I find myself wondering if the days of mobbed cruise bars are now a part of the past . . . like hula hoops. I do, however, have to tell you about my new bar back. He's a real sweet man, but he has a terrible Donna Reed fixation. Last weekend he gassed us all out with Brasso in order to polish my brass spittoon tip jar. Last night, I came to work to find that he had folded all the towels very neatly in the supply bin and had put flowered Contact shelf paper underneath them. The bar has never looked neater and I can't find a damned thing anymore. He's even trimmed all the dead leaves off the palms by the front door. Everyone knows that they haven't been watered in ages. You should see them now. He cut off more than he left. They sort of look like the kinds of plants Karen Carpenter might have raised. Maybe I'll invite him over some night for dinner . . . I know that once he sees my kitchen he'll be in housewife heaven. You always said people could eat off my kitchen floor. God knows there's been enough spilled on it.

Sorry to hear that the restaurant closed on you. Sorrier to hear that you're back together with Cliff. Thanks for the offer to visit, but I can't be in the same room with that man. I find it difficult to converse with a man whose idea of a fun Saturday is a sixpack and the Smurfs.

Juneteenth was the usual drunken drugged debacle. We ran out of quarters twice in one evening. Not because of the video games, but because of the condom dispensers in the bathrooms. I still don't see why this city doesn't do like San Antonio and pass them out free. The bar can spend money on trick cards and matches, but not on condoms. It just doesn't make sense to me. Sure did miss you not being here for it this year. Holidays just aren't the same when you don't celebrate them with your best friends.

Well, I must close this and get my butt to work. Take care and write soon, ok?

I miss and love you, baboo . . .

Christopher.

PRIDE WEEK 1987

DALLAS

Friday, June 26 thru June 28

"Cotillion". A gay comedy. Fair Park Hall of State. 8:00 p.m. \$8. Presented by Drama Dallas. Call 848-7865 for information.

Friday, June 26

Spiritual Renewal. Metropolitan Community Church. 7:15 p.m. "An Evening with The Reverend Don Eastman." Activities Center. *Community Film Festival*. Gay Community Center. 6:00 - 10:00 p.m. "The AIDS Show" - "Desert Hearts" - and others. Sponsored by the Dallas Gay Alliance. Call 528-4233 for information.

Saturday, June 27

Stonewall Observance. 18th Anniversary. *Spiritual Renewal*. Metropolitan Community Church. 7:15 p.m. "A Healing Service" with The Reverend Don Eastman. Sanctuary. *Community Film Festival*. Gay Community Center. Noon - 6:00 p.m. "Before Stonewall" - and others. Sponsored by the Dallas Gay Alliance. Call 528-4233 for information.

Sunday, June 28

Worship Services. Metropolitan Community Church. 10:30 a.m. Special Guest: The Reverend Don Eastman. *Crossroads Carnival*. 4001 Parking Lot. 1:00 - 7:00 p.m. Games, booths, free beer, and "Safer Sex for 2 in Waxahachie" drawing. Benefits the Texas Freedom Parade. Sponsored by the Dallas Tavern guild. *MCC Potluck Picnic in the Park* at 5:30 p.m. *Service Under the Stars* at 7:00 p.m. Reverchon Park Amphitheater. Special Guest: The Reverend Don Eastman. Sponsored by the Metropolitan Community Church. Call 526-6221 for information. *AIDS March/Candlelight Vigil*. March begins at the Gay Community Center. 7:30 p.m. March ends at Reverchon Park for Vigil with the MCC "Service Under the Stars." Sponsored by the AIDS Resource

Center and Dallas Gay Alliance.

TEXAS FREEDOM PARADE

3 p.m., Sunday, September 27

HOUSTON

Thursday, June 25

National Day of Remembrance. Sponsored by Houston Interfaith Alliance. 7:30 p.m. at Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection, 1919 Decatur. No charge.

Friday, June 26

Gulp: The Gay Beach Musical. Sponsored by The Group Theatre Workshop. 8 p.m. at Kindred Spirits, 4902 Richmond. \$7.

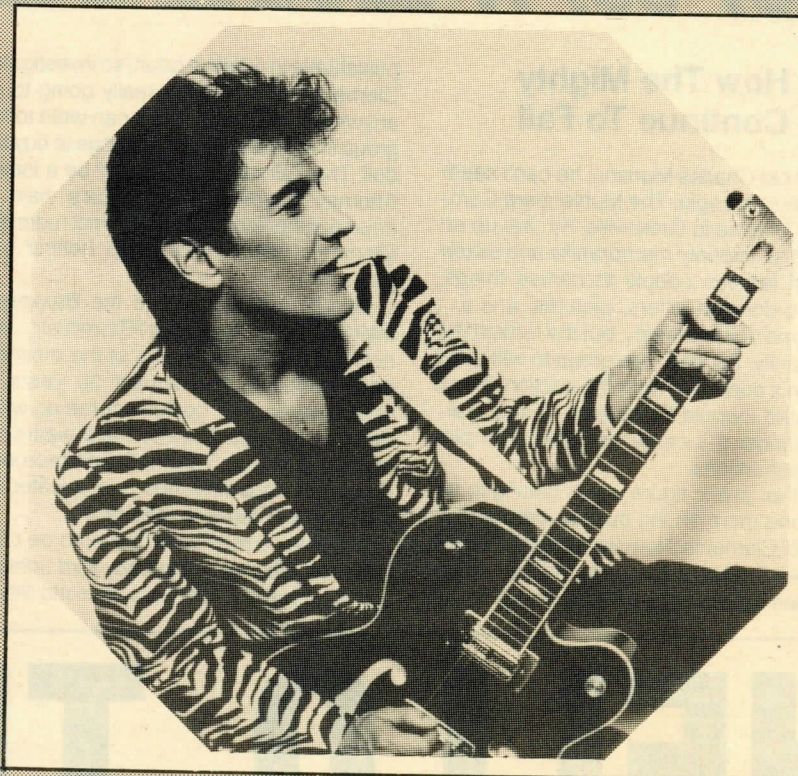
Saturday, June 27

Team Cup Tournament. Sponsored by the Houston Tennis Club and Mary's. Naturally, featuring teams from around the country and the state. Preliminaries. 9 a.m. at Memorial Park Tennis Courts, Memorial Park. Entry fee: \$10. No admission charge. *Montrose Symphonic Band Concert*. Featuring players from the Oak Lawn Symphonic Band. 7:30 p.m. at the Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection, 1919 Decatur. \$2. *Baile (With Music by Dallaz)*. Sponsored by Gay and Lesbian Hispanics Unidos. 9 p.m. until 2 a.m. at Marriot Hotel, 3000 North Loop West. \$10, advance. \$15 at the door.

Sunday, June 28

Team Cup Tournament. Finals. 9 a.m. at Memorial Park Tennis Courts, Memorial Park. No charge. *Gay/Lesbian Pride Week Parade*. Sponsored by the Gay/Lesbian Pride Week Committee. Starts at 4 p.m. and runs from Woodhead to Montrose on Westheimer. No charge. *Gay Fest 87*. Sponsored by Houston Bar Owners Association. 1 p.m. to 10 p.m. in the parking lot of 3317 Montrose.

Showbit . . .



Serious Guitar Man Seeks Gibson Lovers

Guitar man **Rick Vito** headlines at **Dallas Alley** on Wednesday and Thursday, July 1-2, in **Froggy Bottoms**. **Cold Blue Steel** will back up this hot guitarist who has performed with **Bonnie Raitt**, **Jackson Browne**, **John Prine**, **Rita Coolidge**, **Leon Russell** and **Little Richard**. Vito broke into the national music scene in the early seventies as a guitarist for **Delane** and **Bonnie Bramlett**. Among Vito's recent recording projects is the soundtrack and video for *Beverly Hills Cop II*.

The \$3 cover charge entitles patrons to

enjoy entertainment at all six clubs in the Dallas Alley complex, including the **Boiler Room**, **Take 5**, **Alley Cats**, **Backstage** and the **Plaza Bar**.

And for serious guitar pickers, Vito will conduct a **Brook Mays Music Co.** Gibson guitar clinic at 6:30 p.m. on July 2. For reservations for the workshop, call (214) 631-0921.

Dallas Alley is located in the West End Historic District at Market Street and Munger Avenue.

For reservations, call (214) 988-9378.

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How The Mighty Continue To Fall

Poor old Charles Manson; he can't seem to do anything right. The Muhlenberg Community Theatre in Greenville, Ky., set up an auction of celebrity memorabilia and asked a lot of famous people to donate things. Manson donated letters, pictures and a macrame doll he made, but the furor in the community caused the group to withdraw Manson's donations from the auction. That's too bad; I would have liked to see that doll. I wonder if it came complete with pins and instructions.

Another public figure who's getting to be more and more on the outside looking in is Gov. Bill Clements. Now, we have a lot of talk of impeachment. It seems to me that violating rules set up by a college group is not

punishable in criminal court, so investigating Clements for that is not really going to get anywhere. Maybe Gov. Bill can write to that group in Muhlenberg and arrange to buy that doll. Then all he'd need would be a lock of Attorney General Jim Mattox's hair. Of course, if there were a law against rudeness, Clements would have been behind bars years ago.

Melvin Belli will defend the Bakkers in their attempt to regain the PTL ministry. Why not? He's defended some of the most heinous criminals of the past 30 years. Of course, even Belli couldn't come up with a defense for why Tammy Faye wears that horrible make-up. Tammy Faye's face looks like saran wrap stretched over a water balloon and painted with tempera.

In Texas, a man who claims to be LBJ's illegitimate son is suing Lady Bird Johnson for \$10.5 million. Thirty-six-year-old Steven

Mark Brown of Dallas says he only has three years left to live, so he's filing suit now. I would have filed when I had a lot of time to spend the money.

In Houston, Juana Leja, who threw her children into Buffalo Bayou, killing two of them, has been placed on 10 years probation and says, "This will never happen again." Right you are, Juana, it's pretty high impossible to kill kids twice. Once you've drowned them, they have a tendency to stay drowned. Her attorneys are working on getting the kids back in her custody. Maybe they could put them in Charles Manson's custody, and he could make them all macrame dolls.

Then there's Bernhard Goetz who was cleared of attempted murder in the shootings of those guys in the New York subway. Let's get this right—if Charles Manson had ordered the killings of people that the rest of

By "Perfectly" Frank Carello

the world didn't like, then he probably wouldn't be in jail now, is that how it works? Maybe Goetz should give up riding the subways and take up dollmaking. Muhlenberg Community Theatre could use some more celebrity memorabilia.

Wierd Things Tend to Happen

In Superior, Wyo., Donna Elder, 53, died after she pulled a souvenir brick from an old high school, causing a concrete slab to fall on her. Apparently, she had not studied Newton's Laws at that high school.

Making us all feel safer, the FAA conducted a study in which they were able to smuggle 20 percent of all concealed weapons past airport security systems at 28 major airports.

But, then criminals are pretty stupid too. In Pittsburgh, a guy broke into a building, stole an instant camera, took his own picture, threw it in the wastebasket and took off. To make matters even easier for the cops, he left two library books at the scene of the crime. It's pretty amazing that a guy that stupid would even know how to use the library.

In Italy, porn star Ilona Staller, who staged strip shows during her campaign for office in an effort to encourage voters, won a seat in Parliament last week. Her slogan: "Down with nuclear energy, up with sexual energy." Why don't we bring her to Texas to replace Gov. Bill?

Eat, Drink and Make Pandas

AT&T has discovered, much to their dismay, that sharks like to chew on the new fiber-optic cables that they plan to use to replace the old copper cabling in the oceans. I think it's a great discovery. Whenever I'm swimming in shark-infested waters now, I'm going to carry some fiber-optic stuff with me. That way, I can always toss some away from me to get the sharks off my back—or my front.

Sharks in the Gulf had rum to go with their cables this past week when Port of Houston employees, under the watchful eye of U.S. Customs, dumped the contents of 29,000 bottles of rum. Well, they put it down the drain actually, but it's the thought that counts.

In Mexico City, prolific panda Ying-Ying gave birth to two cubs last week, but she rejected one of them. It was not stated whether the rejected cub was named Rodney Dangerfield or not.

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WHAT A WORLD!!

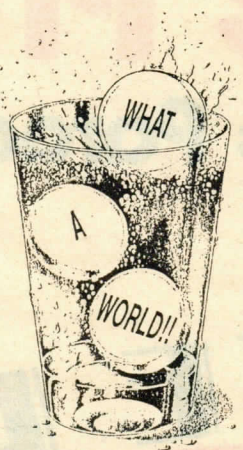
by Nancy Ford

While perusing my checkbook calendar trying to give some semblance of order to my monthly budget, (Ha ha ha ha ha) it struck me that as of June, 1987, I have been officially on the outside of the closet door for ten years.

Ten years. One full decade. A tenth of a century. Seventy in dog years, (which is not intended as an abrasive reference to past relationships.)

Ten years.

Ten years ago Jimmy Carter was grinning in the White House. Few Americans had ever heard of the Ayatollah Khomeini. Marvin Hamlisch was introducing music from a new show he was working on called A Chorus Line. The affects of AIDS was an acceptable means of losing weight, except ten years ago it was spelled with a "y" and was a chalky, chewy, chocolate-like cube. Many people were saying "Yes, please!" to drugs, especially Kris Kristofferson as he starred opposite Barbara Streisand in the remake of the remake of the remake of "A Star Is Born." Elvis was much closer to death than anyone could have imagined. Jones-town residents were alive, if not well, in the jungle. (Did you know that Woody Allen is doing a sequel to his "Don't Drink The Water? This one takes place in Guyana, and is entitled *Don't Drink the Kool-Aid*. Texas was a cream puff and everyone wanted a bite. My current SignificantOther was then



still wearing training bras.

And I was a housewife in a small suburb of Akron, Ohio, making macaroni and cheese and matching my husband's socks as soon as they tumbled out of the dryer.

Ten years. *What a difference 3,652 days make; 77,648 little hours—1708.4 of which have been stress-laden with PMS. When considered from this focal point, these last ten years have been relatively gentle. Among the catastrophes that could have happened but didn't:*

- I did not die in the wake of Hurricane Alicia or from boredom from spending three days at my then-lover's parents' house in

Alief with no cable TV while Alicia blew through.

- My mail has contained no summon's, no lawsuits, letter bombs or notifications of tax audits.

- The Straight Slate, a political bevy of very heterosexual Houston City Council hopefuls, lost

- That silly Saturday in 1981 I was questioning my sexuality (the real one), and agreed to go out with a real man on a real date, I might have accidentally run into *both* of the real women I was dating at the time instead of accidentally running into just *one* of them. Really.

- *Designing Women* wasn't cancelled after all.

- My husband might never have become my ex-husband, deciding instead that having a latent lesbian to match his socks was better than having to do it himself.

Yes, it could have been much, much worse. I need to remember that fact during the next ten years.

So join me in a toast to the cast of characters who played significant roles in this incredible, unforgettable first decade. Here's to:

- The Ex-husband who probably understood, both then and now, much more than he could or would admit.

- The Loved Ones who will perhaps now come to believe that allegiance to a specific lifestyle (Golly, how I hate that phrase) for an entire decade should validate that life style as something beyond a phase or my attempt to be fashionable.

- The Friends.

a) The Friends who watched and loved and supported, especially when lovers became ex-lovers.

b) The Ex-lovers who became friends.

c) The Lover who is my friend.

d) The friends who are still here, but with whom through no faults of our own, I rarely, *physically* communicate in these busy, busy days. I miss you. You know who you are.

e) The friends who are *not* here and are only communicated with via a memory aroused by a random photo that unexpectedly appears in a book that falls open, or by a lyric in a song. I miss you desperately. You also know who you are. And there are far too many of you.

- The Guy on the Dangerous Shift at the 7-Eleven who never questioned my 2:15 a.m. shopping sprees when no respite from the world could be found but in chocolate and carbohydrates.

And here's to us all. Happy Anniversary! And Happy Gay Pride! Just remember that the first ten years are the hardest.

INFOBIT:

Where We Got The Pink Triangle

In Nazi Germany, hundreds of thousands of suspected homosexuals were forced to wear pink triangle symbols to identify their sexual preference.

As many as 250,000 of them were sent to concentration camps and executed.

Showbit . . .

Show Quote of the Week

"Have you ever met an actor who doesn't swing both ways?"

—Vito Antonucci in *P.S. Your Cat is Dead* by James Kirkwood

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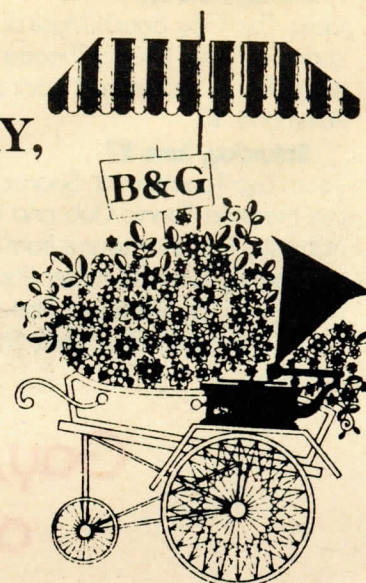
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June 19 - 28

Houston Gay/Lesbian Pride Week '87

Friday, June 26

Gulp: The Gay Beach Musical. Sponsored by The Group Theatre Workshop. 8 p.m. at Kindred Spirits, 4902 Richmond. \$7.

Saturday, June 27

Team Cup Tournament. Sponsored by the Houston Tennis Club and Mary's, Naturally, featuring teams from around the country and the state. Preliminaries. 9 a.m. at Memorial Park Tennis Courts, Memorial Park. Entry fee: \$10.

No admission charge.

Montrose Symphonic Band Concert. Featuring players from the Oak Lawn Symphonic Band. 7:30 p.m. at the Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection, 1919 Decatur. \$2.

Baile (With Music by Dallozz). Sponsored by Gay and Lesbian Hispanics Unidos. 9 p.m. until 2 a.m. at Marriot Hotel, 3000 North Loop West. \$10, advance. \$15 at the door.

Sunday, June 28

Team Cup Tournament. Finals. 9 a.m. at Memorial Park Tennis Courts, Memorial Park. No charge.

Gay/Lesbian Pride Week Parade. Sponsored by the Gay/Lesbian Pride Week Committee. Starts at 4 p.m. and runs from Woodhead to Montrose on Westheimer. No charge.

Gay Fest 87. Sponsored by Houston Bar Owners Association. 1 p.m. to 10 p.m. in the parking lot of 3317 Montrose.



Gay/Lesbian Pride T-Shirts and Tank Tops on Sale
at TNT Shirts, This Week in Texas Magazine
Office, various bars and at Gay Fest '87.