

Volume 3, Number 33

T E X A S FORUM

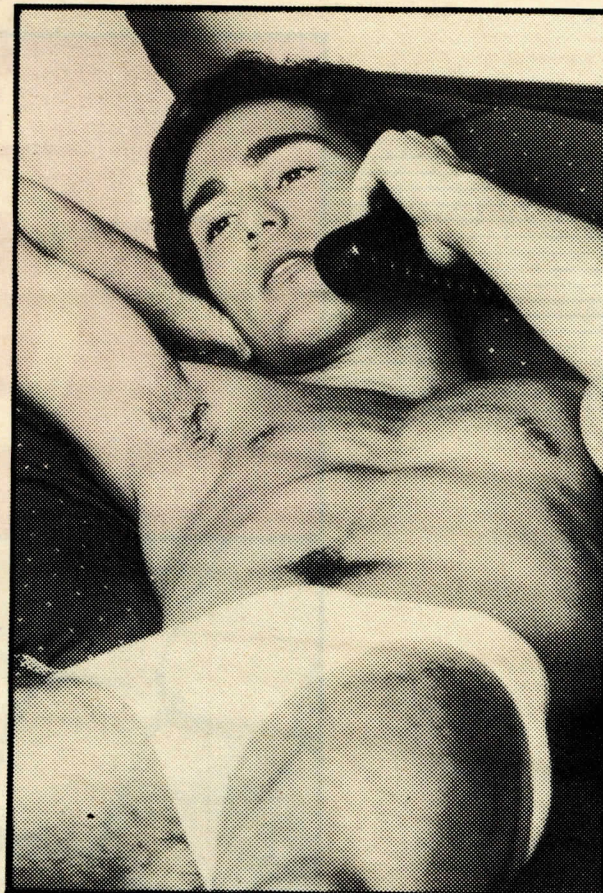
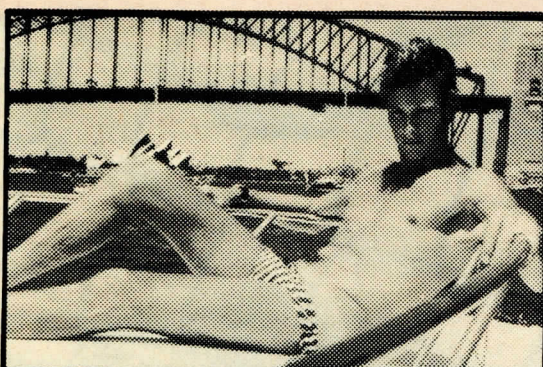
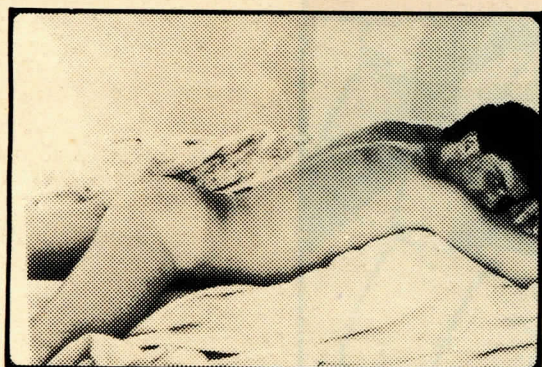
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August 14, 1987

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TEXAS FORUM

Published each Friday, 1110 Bayland, Houston, Texas 77009. (713) 869-0011. Telephone business hours: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. (Monday through Saturday); (713) 869-0011. Mailing address: 1110 Bayland, Houston, Texas 77009.

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Austin: (512) 443-5030
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Subscription rates: \$46/year, \$26 for six months.
Delivered through the U.S.

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TEXAS FORUM is published by Houston Forum Weekly News Publications, Wesley Randall Brown, owner.

LET'S GET REAL

Riff On A Cosmic Harmonica

By Randy Brown

I hear that on August 17, all the planets and stars are going to be lining up. What for? Is it for the K-Mart blue-light special, or is something about to happen?

And if something is about to happen—and I understand it is going to affect all of us—then I would like to be first in line to have three wishes granted me. Now, I'm not sure I'm supposed to have three wishes, but, since I don't know what this is all about anyway, I'll just assume that I can have them.

Wish #1: That when the planets align themselves that they do not stay aligned very long, and that they immediately get back to where they are supposed to be. Because, if this planet is pushed out into another solar system or galaxy by some freak of Mother Nature, I don't think the plants on my porch will survive—especially the Chinese ming. It absolutely hates to be relocated.

Wish #2: I hope—I dearly hope—that this does not inspire a new national touring company of *Hair*.

Wish #3: Since I have talked to so many people who are waiting for this day (August 17), I think that they are obviously waiting for something because they need something. So, if this is going to affect us all, then I hope we will get exactly what we need: money.

Of course, there are some other considerations about this whole heavenly show. If you haven't heard by now, the basis of all astrology is that the planets do affect the tides. Not only the tides in the oceans, but the tides in the lakes, the tides in the ditches, the tides in the bayous, the tides in Texas during our monsoons and, most of all, the tides in our bodies.

This makes me wonder if all this aligning of the planets will cause us to retain water or to go to the bathroom a whole lot. Wouldn't it



... they are obviously waiting for something because they need something.

be something that if at the precise moment that all the planets lined up, everyone went to the bathroom and flushed at the same time, and we drained every available reservoir of usable water in the whole country?

But I have an inside tip that the opposite is going to happen: that every person in America is going to retain water that day. So, if you're smart, you'll buy stock in a company that specializes in diuretics.

Actually, do you know what I really wish would happen when the planets align? What I really, really would like to happen? That the hand of God would come down and give us each thirty days off work, \$3,000, a EurRail Pass and a round-trip ticket to Rome.

Wouldn't that be a nice way for God to say, "Hello. I'm still here. I love you. Now, here's some money."?

I think that that's probably a longshot, though. Probably what will happen is, for me at least anyway, I'll roll out of bed that fateful day, yell at my lover to leave the water running in the shower, have 14 cups of coffee and proceed to sell advertising. My editor will come in, trying not to look slightly hungover, and I'll say, "Good morning, Ms. Duncan. Don't you know that this is the big day, the day the planets do their thing?"

And she'll say to me, "Don't talk to me now. I'm late. I'm not answering the phone. I'm on deadline. I'm busy. I don't care. But, please leave the money and the round-trip ticket to Rome on my desk, and, oh, by the way, who's going to write the newspaper while I'm away?"

Well, to tell you the truth, I don't know. And I don't have all the answers. And I'm still not sure why the planets are doing what they're doing.

But, I did get a letter from Shirley MacLaine wanting an appointment to see me on the day of the great cosmic line-up, so that she could explain it all, just to make sure I understand.

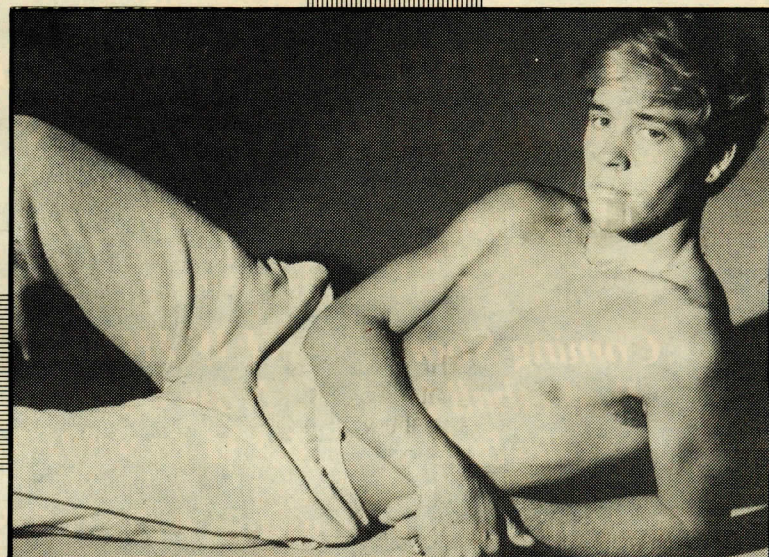
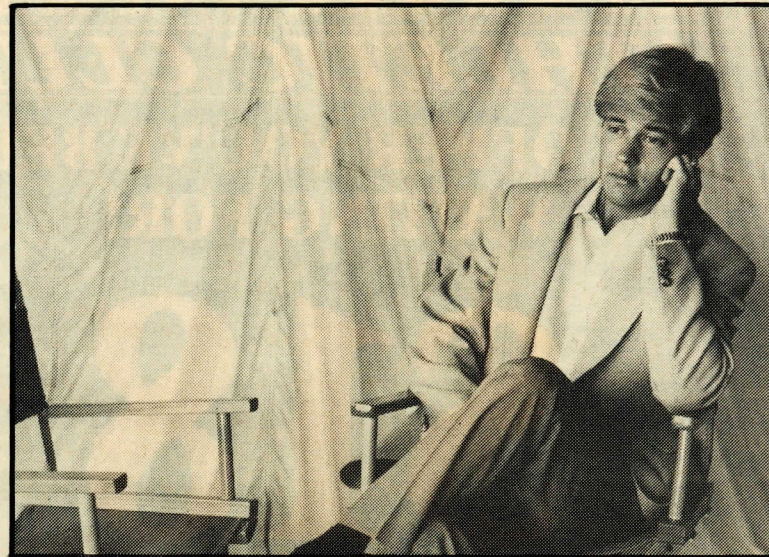
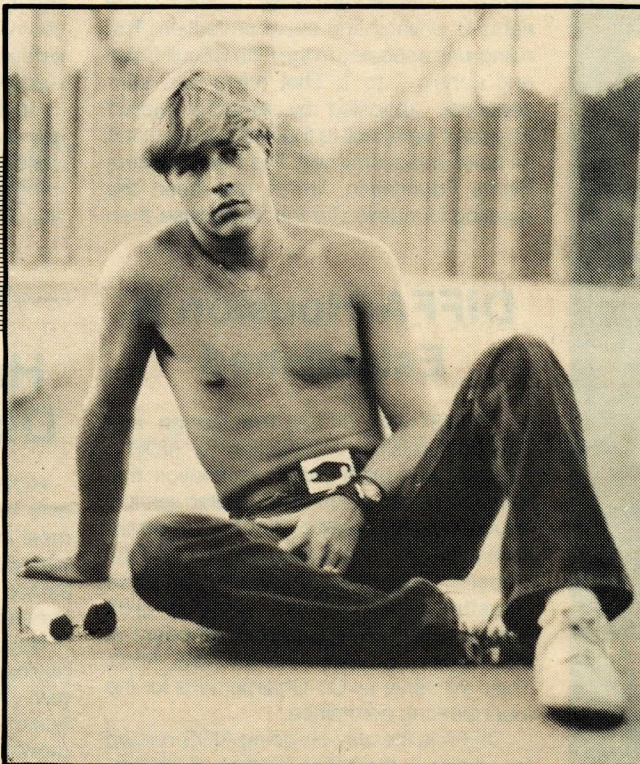
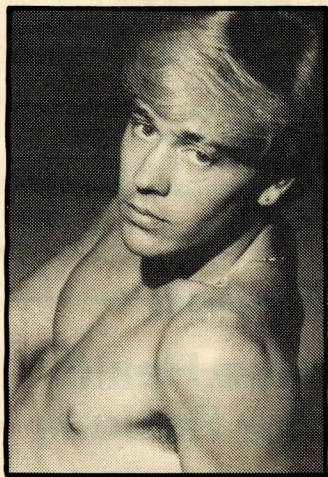
I can't wait. Truth is a big thing. It's the biggest thing there is. And, after cocktails with Shirley, I'll tell you all about it.

**If everyone over 50 had colorectal cancer checkups, the cure rate could be 75%.
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AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

BEHIND THE FRONT COVER

Starchild



Born: Montana.
Age: 22.
Sun sign: Cancer.
Eyes: Hazel.
Hair: Blonde.
Favorite kind of man: Honest and caring and likes me for who I am.
Employment: Auto detailer.

Favorite leisure activity: Sunbathing.
Hobbies: Swimming, skiing and painting.
Current projects: To obtain my master's degree and pass my CPA exams.
Message to TEXAS FORUM readers: Whatever you do and wherever you go, be proud of who you are and keep reaching for the top.

NGLTF Condemns Coercive AIDS Measures at House Hearings

WASHINGTON—In testimony August 6 before the House of Representatives Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health and the Environment, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force called on Congress to support major funding for voluntary counseling and testing programs to control AIDS and to reject coercive control measures proposed by New Right Congressman William Dannemeyer (R-CA).

Jeffrey Levi, NGLTF's executive director, told the subcommittee that "the gay community knows more than any other the pain and suffering associated with this disease... (We) could have no greater goal than to see that the suffering of AIDS be prevented for the overwhelming majority of us—gay and nongay alike—who are not infected with HIV and to assure that no other community should experience the level of tragedy we have." To achieve that goal, Levi said, would require a major education and counseling program, not the mandatory testing, mandatory reporting, and mandatory contact tracing programs offered by Dannemeyer.

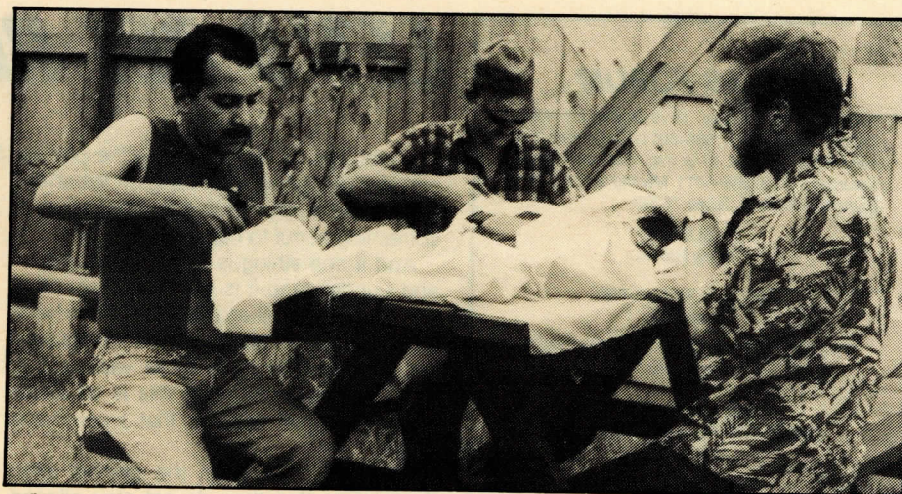
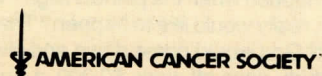
The Task Force argued that a successful prevention program will focus on changing behavior—with education and counseling as the centerpiece and antibody testing as an adjunct where appropriate. "The test should not be seen as an end in itself," Levi said. "The availability of a technology does not necessarily mean it is the best way to achieve an end."

In commenting on the coercive measures supported by Dannemeyer, Levi pointed out that "we have heard often that since AIDS is a sexually transmitted disease, it should be treated as such—and we should not hesitate to use the methods of control

that have been applied to more common STDs... But AIDS is a new disease that poses special problems." In fact, Levi pointed out that the epidemic of STDs among heterosexuals—while STD rates continue to decline among gay and bisexual men—suggests that "traditional methods of control aren't working and millions of heterosexuals are engaging in unsafe activities that could spread HIV infection... while gay men—without benefit of mandatory testing, tracing or reporting—have altered their behavior through education and counseling."

Task Force endorsed Congressman Waxman's Federal AIDS Policy Act that provides for \$400 million in counseling and testing along with federal guarantees of confidentiality and bans on discrimination against those who are antibody positive. Levi countered the argument that supporting antidiscrimination proposals regarding AIDS was threatening the public health and simply a backdoor attempt at legislating gay/lesbian rights by stating that "there is no greater civil right than life... If we were to block effective measures, it would be our lives we would be risking. No—our opposition is based on the view that coercive measures simply won't work. They make bad public health policy. Indeed, public health requires a healthy respect for civil liberties."

No one faces cancer alone.
Call us.



Mary's Challenges The Rest of The State

Saying that they haven't heard of any other bar or organization joining the efforts of the Names Project, the organizers of the recent quilting bee at Mary's in Houston have issued a challenge to the rest of the state to come up with more panels for the national quilt of names of those who have died of AIDS.

Last Sunday, August 9, Mary's kicked off their effort, and they will resume this Sunday, August 16, because they were slowed down by rain on the previous weekend. Each

panel has the symbol of the National March on Washington and people are asked to paint on the name of a friend or relative who has been lost on the center of the panel.

All the panels will be sent to San Francisco, where they will be sewn into a giant quilt commemorating those who have passed on, a graphic illustration of the immensity of the crisis.

Anyone wishing information on the size and limitations of materials for the panels may call Doug at (713) 527-9669.

Buchmeyer to Address DGA on 21.06 Ruling

DALLAS—Federal District Judge Jerry Buchmeyer will be the guest speaker at a special banquet to raise the awareness of gay rights in Texas, according to William Waybourn, president of the Dallas Gay Alliance and the sponsoring organization. The event will be held Saturday, September 12th, at the Fairmont Hotel. Tickets are \$50 and available by invitation or through the Dallas Gay Alliance.

Judge Buchmeyer delivered his opinion striking down Texas' sodomy laws on August 17th, 1982, because he said Section 21.06 denied homosexuals their Constitutional rights of privacy and equal protection. The ruling was appealed to the Fifth Circuit Court and upheld 2 to 1. That ruling was subsequently appealed by Amarillo District Attorney Danny Hill to the Fifth Circuit Court en banc and overturned. The Texas Human Rights Foundation, which has been the litigating foundation for the 21.06 case, then

appealed to the Supreme Court, which declined to review the Fifth Court's latest decision.

Judge Buchmeyer's original decision has been hailed by legal professionals and in jurisprudence academic circles as a landmark gay rights ruling. However, the prevailing opinion of the entire Fifth Circuit Court serves to recriminalize homosexual behavior in Texas.

Waybourn said the Dallas Gay Alliance was honored to provide Judge Buchmeyer a forum to address the subsequent rulings regarding 21.06 and to recognize him as "someone who significantly raised the self-esteem of gays across Texas with his 1982 ruling when gays needed it the most."

Invitations to the dinner will be mailed to gay leaders and organizations across the state, but anyone may attend. For more information, contact the Dallas Gay Alliance at (214) 528-4233.

DIFFA/Houston is Established

HOUSTON—DIFFA, the Design and Interior Furnishing Foundation for AIDS, a national, non-profit public foundation that raises funds to support AIDS-related service, education and research, now has an established Houston based organization. DIFFA/Houston has been organized by three Houston design industry people—Lynn Billings of INNOVA, Betsie Weatherford of E.C. Dicken, Inc., and Michael Dale, ASID. They will serve as Co-Chairpersons for the local steering committee.

DIFFA is the only on-going AIDS-related foundation in the nation funding all aspects of the AIDS health crisis. Monies raised locally through local committees are disbursed to AIDS-related groups in the areas in which they are collected.

DIFFA depends on the contributions of funds, talents and services of volunteers. A "Kick-Off" meeting has been set for August 25, 1987, at 5:00 p.m. at Accolades Restaurant in The Decorative Center of Houston, 5120 Woodway.

For more information contact Michael Dale (713) 529-7102, Betsie Weatherford (713) 961-4896, or Lynn Billings (713) 963-9955.

Newsbits

Houston Health Director Resigns

HOUSTON—Saying that the controversy over his statement that AIDS was not the most important health problem in Houston was not the reason for his resignation, Dr. James Haughton resigned as the health director of the City of Houston.

Haughton has accepted a much higher paying job in California, and members of the gay community are hoping that the next health director is more responsive to the growing problems of the AIDS crisis.

San Antonio Health Director Resigns

SAN ANTONIO—Protesting that plans of the San Antonio Archdiocese for an outdoor Mass in September by Pope John Paul II would be dangerous and might cost lives, Dr. Katharine Rathbun resigned as director of San Antonio's health district.

Rathbun had previously been director of Pasadena's health department.

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PEOPLE'S FORUM

Austin Fundraiser Defended

From R. G. Grigsby

I am amazed that your and other Texas publications have avoided reporting the positive aspects of "AIDS AID '87," i.e. AIDS fundraisers produced by Jim Laake Productions, Inc., Austin, Texas. I came to Austin to assist Jim with this endeavor, only to find that the local media had reported only negative facts about the production, due to an overlooked legality, and would not print any of the positive facts that Laake Productions reported to them.

I work with the Colorado AIDS Associations, which would never turn down an opportunity to receive money to assist AIDS patients or AIDS Research, as did AIDS Services of Austin, over something as trivial as the production budget, which is made a matter of public record after the show-date—in theatre, the expenditures sometimes go on for weeks, after the actual production date. I knew something was strange when ASA even refused to give Laake Productions the number (not names) of persons in Austin suffering from AIDS, so they could be guests at the performance.

With organizations such as Hospice Austin, The Houston AIDS Hospital, National AIDS Research, PBS, Newsweek, Anheuser-Busch, Austin On Tap, Joan Rivers, Liz Taylor, Whopie (sic) Goldberg, Austin Mayor Frank Cooksey, and many Austin businesses and theatre groups all giving "AIDS AID '87" their continued support, I am appalled that the Texas media ignored this most important project.

As the now-public record of the budget is on file at the Austin City Hall's City Clerk's office, it is public knowledge that Jim Laake Productions, Inc., lost money on their first effort—but new efforts are in the future. Negotiations with Bette Midler, Whitney Houston, Elizabeth Taylor, and other "attention-getters" are in the works as "AIDS AID '87" is determined to help find a cure for this dreaded disease. All we ask is support—not negative energy from people who do not understand that we sincerely are dedicated to stopping this plague.

The publication of this most important letter will be most appreciated.

Thank you for your letter and for your concern for those who are suffering from AIDS; however, the concern over the Laake fundraiser started from his first attempts and promises—promises which did not materialize. Perhaps because you are from Colorado, you are unaware of all the very successful fundraisers that have taken place in Texas, virtually none of which had the vast problems of Laake's show. And, you must be aware that all of the other publications to whom you sent this letter (Newsweek, Austin American Statesman, Austin Chronicle, Time and This Week in Texas), as well as the Texas Forum, have devoted a great deal of space to the AIDS crisis and attempts to alleviate the problems and sufferings.

Particularly TWT and the Forum devote considerable space weekly to promote benefits for groups helping to solve the AIDS crisis.

But since you are so adamant about Jim Laake Productions, Inc., getting attention for this past show, we will be more than happy to do an in-depth, investigative story on the entire business. Whether this has the effect you desire or not remains to be seen.

Editor.

Travel Agents Take Gay Tour of Key West

From
International Gay Travel Association
GAY FAMILIARIZATION TOUR OF KEY
WEST A TROPICAL SUCCESS

Over 40 travel agents from across the U.S. journeyed to Key West, Florida, over the weekend of July 17 through 19 to attend a familiarization tour sponsored by the International Gay Travel Association (IGTA). The IGTA-member travel agents departed for home on Sunday with the knowledge that they will be able to make qualified recommendations to their gay and lesbian clients traveling to Key West.

The International Gay Travel Association (IGTA), a not-for-profit professional service organization, works for the business enhancement of its members by informing both travel agents and consumers about properties, businesses and destinations that welcome gay clientele.

Membership in IGTA is open to all travel industry businesses and professionals who wish to be supportive of the gay travel industry throughout the world. IGTA members represent a broad spectrum of the travel industry, including travel agents, tour operators, hoteliers, guesthouse and resort owners, airline and cruise line representatives, travel colleges, travel clubs, travel guide publishers and other travel-related businesses. Information about IGTA membership and future fam trips may be obtained by calling IGTA's 24-hour message center in Denver at (303)467-7117, or by writing IGTA at P.O. Box 18247, Denver CO 80218.

Council Members Propose Economic Strategies

(To our readers in Houston: The Texas Forum would like to suggest that you let the City Council know what you think of the proposals outlined in the following letter, which was sent to the Forum by Council Members Rodney Ellis, Dale Gorchynski and George Greanias. These members have always been strong on human rights issues and deserve the support of the community for their attempts to get Houston's economy back on track. The economy of the city affects each and every one of us who live in Houston.)

From Rodney Ellis, Dale Gorchynski and George Greanias

Over the past several years, the Houston Economic Development Council, assisted by city government through the Challenge Match Program, has made significant progress towards rebuilding and diversifying Houston's economy. Last week we publicly announced the first of numerous proposals designed to complement those private sector efforts through the creation of an economic development agenda for city government.

First, we are proposing immediate establishment of a Department of Commerce. The Department would consolidate and focus the city's different economic development activities, encourage greater innovation and aggressiveness in securing funds and formulating new programs, and allow greater accountability to the public for the progress of economic development efforts. The Department would be created by the consolidation and streamlining of existing activities, and would require no additional funds. A more detailed description of the Department is attached for your review.

Second, we are today announcing formation of the Houston Roundtable for Economic Development. The purpose of the Roundtable will be to provide a "community crossroads" where community leaders can make known their own economic development priorities and recommendations. The Roundtable will also serve as a forum where we can inform citizens on pending economic development proposals. A brief description of the Roundtable is also attached for your review.

We want to stress that the Department of Commerce and the Roundtable are only the first steps we will be undertaking to develop an economic development agenda for city government.

We also want to emphasize that these initial actions were the result of substantial analysis of successful economic development programs around the country.

We believe these proposals are among the first steps we must take to establish an economic development agenda for Houston. Based on the practical experience of other cities, the Department of Commerce and the Roundtable will substantially improve our ability to succeed in an increasingly crowded and competitive field. We look forward to visiting with you soon about these proposals, and hope we can secure your support for prompt action on creating the Department of Commerce.

Mayor Kathy Is Attacked

From G.R. Hamilton, Houston

Isn't it time your writers turned to an agenda to benefit the gay community?

I know some of them have had their egos boosted by communications and invitations from Mayor Kathy.

But the fact remains that she has done

absolutely nothing for the gay community. Just look around and see if any other minority has ever blindly voted for a candidate just because she toured the bars following her first election.

In the first place, what makes you think that our writers prefer ego boosts to the truth? In the second place, Mayor Whitmire has done considerably more for the gay community than just some bar tours (done before and after elections), but she is taking a great deal of well-deserved flack right now for her lack of response to the AIDS crisis in Houston. Your anger from that standpoint is quite understandable, and we wish that more people would become aware of the mayor's lack of action in this matter. Thanks for writing.

Editor.

Counseling Center Thanks Community

From Kenneth E. Vance, Executive Director, Montrose Counseling Center.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the community that supported the recent fundraiser at Kindred Spirits for the Montrose Counseling Center. Over \$3,000 in prizes were donated by 50 individuals and businesses. The donors are too many to list, however, the major contributors were the Fitness Exchange, Cinemark Theaters, Don Nail, Pavliska Imports in Rosenberg, Nationwide Video, Sixpence Antiques in Rosenberg, Lyles Deck in Padre Island, and Dramatika.

Our special thanks to Marion Coleman and Kindred Spirits for their continued support. Also to Mayor Kathy Whitmire for the glasses depicting Houston which brought a \$200 donation when auctioned by Cathy Lenahan of the Mayor's office.

Showbit



Photo by Dean Jones

Some Sex-Shooters and Holdsters

Swirling through their past relationships in a sometimes battling, sometimes bawdy and sometimes beautiful collage of emotional exchange, Belle Starr and Jesse James romp and gallop and glide through *Jesse and the Bandit Queen* by David Freeman, with Richard Slocum and Pam Slocum in the various roles.

While San Antonio's 24th Street Experiment's Little Shop of Horrors is playing to sold-out houses (with an extended run

through September 12) at the 411 SW 24th Street address, their production of *Jesse and the Bandit Queen* will be playing at the SALT Cellar (San Pedro Playhouse) on Friday and Saturday from August 7 through August 29, with an 8:15 p.m. curtain. For tickets, call (512) 733-7258.

Jesse and the Bandit Queen is also available for touring. For info, call (512) 435-2103.

CAN WE TALK?



CORPUS CHRISTI ... By Stella Phergin

HI, KIDDIES

Stella Phergin (that's virgin) here in the City by the Sea.

The sparkling city is gearing up for **Beach Head III**, and the biggest event of the year! Sponsored by the **CCMC** and the **GDI's** of Corpus. Men from all over Texas, the U.S. and the world will converge on Corpus, and Corpus loves it!

There are some new bars in town. **Chaps Saloon** and **Benny's** are owned and operated by **Paul A.** Nice bar with a mix of music (country and disco) and lots of people! Lots of fun.

The **Jolly Jack II** owned and operated by **George H.** is the Big Bar in Corpus with drag shows, male strippers and disco 'til you drop!

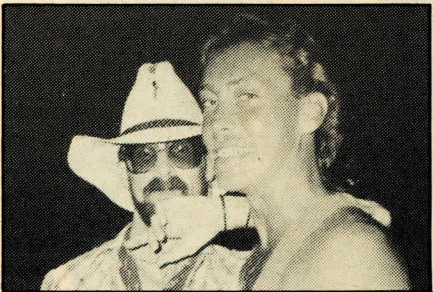
The **Hidden Door** is the Levi/Leather bar in town and hosts such things as the CCMC and Beach Head. "Hot men and lots of fun" is one of their mottos.

The **Other Door** is the sister bar of the Hidden Door, and is mostly a ladies bar with dancing, games and fun.

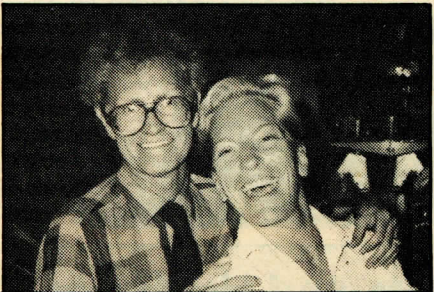
Visit Corpus. It's a pleasant surprise with nice bars, nice people, and the nicest and cleanest beaches in Texas. Don't forget this **Labor Day Weekend** is Beach Head III. Call the Hidden Door for more info at (512)882-0183.



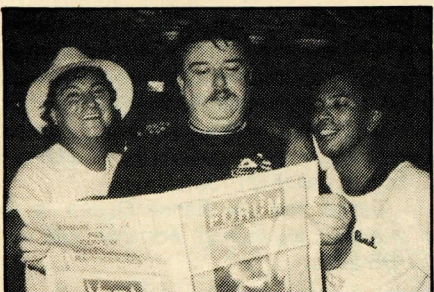
Some of the staff at Chaps Saloon.



Cowboys at Chaps.



Dean and George of the Jolly Jack II.



The staff at the Hidden Door loves the Texas Forum.

SAN ANTONIO ... By Jackie Oh!

HI, FANS

Jackie Oh! here with more stuff from the Alamo City. First of all, let me thank **Gene Howell** and the **Paper Moon** for a delightful time I had Friday night (August 7). **Hazell Dean** gave a super show at the PM, and Yours Truly played host, tour guide and chauffeur for Miss Dean and manager **Nick**. Not only is she a great singer, but a super nice person. She is friends with **Boy George**, **Pet Shop Boys**, **Man to Man** and **Divine**. She dates **Mann Parrish** ("Male Stripper" is his hit). She lives in London, England, and does not eat red meat. Her music is all imported right now, but will soon be on **Capital Records** and will be sold everywhere. Yea! While at the **Silver Dollar**, Hazell said she liked **Anne Murray** as a country singer.

Remember, tonight is the **Triple Crown** at the Paper Moon (**Miss Gay South Central/U.S.A.**). Should be a photo finish! Three tiaras will be given away and the girls will be set for **Miss Texas** next week at the **Mecca** in Houston! Who's that cover girl? Could it be? No! But yes, it is!

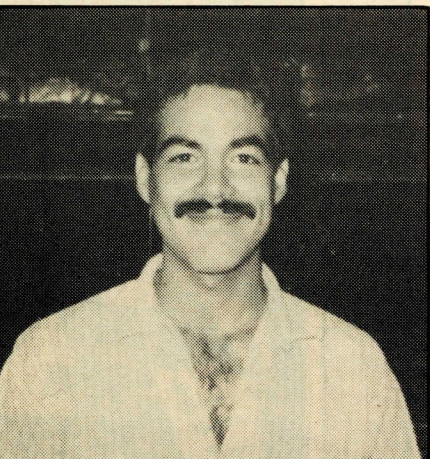
Whom was modeling and trying to give herself away at the Silver Dollar Sunday night? Could it have been a bartender from the **French Connection**? No names, please, but his initials are **Tom Bessaire**. Said Tom, "I know, you need three issues to get me on the cover." I therefore asked, "Is that why Whalers Magazine has contracted you?" No reply, she had succeeded, she was harpooned and taken away by a tribe of Eskimos back to the French Connection.

Hello to **Howard** at the **Noo Zoo Company**. He slings as mean a cocktail and looks pretty doing it! By the way, thanks, **Lollie**.

BIRTHDAYS

Happy 32 to **Jeff K.** (a.k.a. **Queen of the Silver Dollar**)! His b'day is August 17. Happy 35 to **Andy P.**, whose b'day was Sunday, August 9. My b'day is August 31. I'll be 21 and a half, or so!

Well, folks, not much else goin' on this week, so all you get out there and make something happen! 'Til then, have a good one or two and "do it" safe!



Johnny spins at the Bonham!



The next Miss Texas? Which one?



"Broom, broom broom." Clean up time!

Corpus Christi San Antonio Houston

HOUSTON ... By Elroy Forbes

GOOD NEWS

Ray Hill has announced his candidacy for **Houston City Council**, Councilman-at-large opposing **Jim Westmoreland**. His public announcement came at the regular monthly meeting of the **Houston Gay Political Caucus**. We are very proud of you, Ray, and I bet everyone will remember this race.

GUILD NEWS

The **Greater Montrose Business Guild** treated some 40 proposed up-and-coming new leaders to a reception at the historic **City Federation of Women's Clubs**, 411 Lovett Blvd. The Nominations Committee, chaired by Ms. **Marjorie Kerr, R.H.**, led speakers, **The Tire Place's Bob Bagot**, Chairman of the Board of Directors and the new president, **Bill Yon of Advance Access**, into speeches that motivated the 40 members into joining committees.

The **Greater Montrose Business Development Committee** hosted some 20 members and guests to a special program presented by **Robert Griswold, CFP** of **General Business Service** for a presentation on developing new business in Montrose and proposals for recovery for lower Westheimer. Several realtors in the area attended representing varied interest groups. The meeting adjourned with plans to break into subgroups for gathering information needed to create a master plan for recovery and re-development of Montrose. Currently the Guild is in the beginning of the fall membership drive. People interested in the promotion of the Montrose area for living, doing business and investing should call (713)528-1111 for more information and to attend various meetings and activities.

NAMES IN THE NEWS

Whenever you take your cleaning to **Ventura's** next to **Basic Brothers**, say hello to **Mary Henderson**. Mary has a unique gift. She can name the cologne or scent you are wearing when you hit the door. She is so precise that she can tell the difference between one of the new imitation scents and the original too. I was surprised to learn that she also suffers with sinus. I always thought wine tasters etc. were gifted in that they never experience such a common ailment. But Mary confesses that she too often has a stopped-up head, and yet, when the very next person comes in, she will detect what they are wearing. The gift carries over to her keen sense of taste, too. She can tell if something is left out of seasoning or if it was added to the original recipe. Go by Ventura's and see if you can fool Mary, naturally!

Back in town are **Joe Porro** and **Tim** from their recent big trip to the mid-west states. Both are looking fit but as Tim says, even riding can wear you out. ... **Charles Armstrong** is back from a short L.A. playcation where he combined work and fun in the sun. ... FYI Attorney **John Nix** is taking a Mexican retreat to lie in the sun and dream. And I bet they are only good dreams, too. ... **DYK David** is leaving **The Ripcord** for points West as his hubby is being transferred again. Just think of what a hit David will make in California when he glues those little mirrors to his head for Halloween. ... **Trinity Design's Emery Linkwood** is back in town after arriving especially in time for The Greater Montrose Business Guild reception for the new leadership training program. ... **American Art and Sign's Alice Tomasello** and **Tom Shepherd** are back in Big H after working on the big **Special Olympics Games** in Indiana last week. Channel 13 aired the opening ceremonies in place of the Million Dollar Movie last week. It was one of those special events to video! ... Get this, **Louis Young**, of the Youngs of Truby, Texas, old Texas plantation people, celebrated a birthday so large that it took the City of Dickinson to host the blowout. All of The Tire Place people were on hand to say,

"Forty-nine aint' so bad; now how old are you, Louis?"

MAYAN CALENDAR ENDS

FYI The most sophisticated of the ancient calendars, the Mayan Calendar, not the Week by Week At A Glance, ends around August 15. It is documented to be almost the end of the world with expected hurricanes, earthquakes, volcanos, land slides, winds, rain—very much like the Christian Doomsday. In order to bring you full coverage on this historic event, I have packed camera, pad and pen to roam the high mountains in the cool 72 degree weather in Guadalajara, Mexico. I want to be there when **Shirley MacLaine** lands in a UFO and begins to go out on a limb again. I will document everything I see for your enjoyment. Meantime, nationally recognized astrologer, **T.P. Starsearch** will fill in for me until my return to Houston, if you are still here. I leave while tropical storms are brewing outside the Caribbean, sweltering heat waves march across America and night sounds are heard everywhere.

CHRISTMAS IN MONTROSE

Scheduled to meet Thursday August 20, 1987, the meeting has taken on greater significance than before: at 7 p.m. at the **Metropolitan Ministries**, 3217 Montrose Blvd., between Westheimer and Lovett Blvd., **Neartown Business Alliance** will hold a thirty-minute meeting and then will host **Christmas in Montrose**. Call (713)529-1414 for more information. This is the beginning of the big one!!!

AROUND AND AROUND

Congratulations to the **House of Pies** (Guys) on Kirby on their **Seventeenth Anniversary**. ... **Walter Strickler** is out of the hospital, yea! ... Get in on the special at the **Parkway Athletic Club**—\$18 per month (with a contract) ... Starting this Friday, August 14, at the **Rock 'N' Horse** on Kirby, the **Newly Wed Game** begins. ... **David's Going Away Party** is Wednesday, August 19, at the **Ripcord**—everyone is invited to come and party. ... Good hunting goes out to **Craig** who is also leaving the Ripcord. ... Come welcome young, blue-eyed **David** to **The Barn** on Monday, Wednesday, and the weekends. Come by and watch the cosmetic changes take place before your very own eyes. Good Luck to **Jay** and his staff. ... Saturday, August 15, is the drawing for a trip for two to Acapulco, at the **Outlaws**. You must be present to win. The return of **Miss Alabama** will also take place. ... Thanks goes to **Bacchus** and the **Brazos River Bottom** for hosting fundraisers last weekend for the contestants going to the gay rodeo in OKC this weekend, August 14 through 16. Good luck to all **TGRA** contestants and spectators. Bring home those buckles and greenbacks!!! For information you can call (405) 665-9511. ... So you want to learn to country/western dance, for free? The **Brazos River Bottom** is the place, Tuesday nights is the day, and **David Royalty** is the expert instructor. He will two-and-three-step you to the stars, over the moon, and through the tulips (or is that juleps?). Join the huge crowd to learn or to just watch. ... Ink in the BRB for Sunday, August 23, 7 p.m., sharp for a huge **TGRA (Texas Gay Rodeo Association) Variety Show** presented by royalty contestant **Miss Jessica Renee** for the **Montrose Counseling Center** and **Stone Soup**. Reservations for a table of eight will be \$50, and single bar stools will be \$5 each. Call the BRB soon at (713) 528-9192. Non-perishable food items will be accepted at the door for Stone Soup. This will be a show to remember!!! ... Catch **Joel Grey** in **Cabaret** at **Jones Hall** this weekend only. ... Free stop-smoking classes by the **American Cancer Society**. Call (713) 528-2877 for more info. ... **Miss Camp America, Inc.**, is presenting **Last Splash '87** on October 9 through 11. A whole weekend of activities including a cruise, two nights at **Key Largo**

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NETWORK

We are addressing invitations and talking about ordinary things. It is time for our big annual party for all the people we know. Address books are brought out, stuffed with business cards and scraps of paper of people who have been invited before, people who are well known, and those who aren't so well known. How could I know this usually enjoyable ritual would become such a lesson to me?

"Is _____ still alive?" our host casually asks.

"I don't know. Last I heard, he was still in the hospital, but I think he's still alive," the host's lover says.

"Well, I guess we should send an invitation."

The activity around the table pauses for a moment, then resumes.

Dwindling Party List

By Jeff Bray

Cards are folded, envelopes are licked, stamps are applied. It's all in a Henry Ford production line fashion that assures maximum results in minimum time. Such a process is very important when over 200 people are invited.

In the background, the television is on, blaring rather loudly, because nobody is really paying it any attention. Names and addresses take up all our energy.

"Whatever happened to _____?" someone asks.

"Oh, he died last summer. You should know that!"

"Well, I didn't know him that well!"

I realize that we have all adjusted to a very callous and vacant mentality to cope with the horror around us.

We keep on writing and licking, stamping and folding. The television blares away, and I fix myself another glass of tea.

"Did you know _____ went and had the blood test?" someone says.

"No!" everyone says.

"Yeah. He came out negative!"

"You're kidding! He's such a slut!"

Everyone laughs, wondering what their reactions would be should they be tested. The addresses continue to be sorted and written.

Our host suddenly takes a piece of paper and crumples it up, throwing it in the nearby waste paper basket. He doesn't say a word and continues his work. Someone else no longer exists. His whole identity, traced on a small scrap of paper, is thrown away. It is so casual. So thoughtless. So incredibly cruel. But so natural.

I realize that we have all adjusted to a very callous and vacant mentality to cope with the horror around us. I have friends, both men and women, married and single, who are terrified of what's happening. Yet they haven't become the hard-cores like these friends. They have yet to suffer mass loss and live under the threat.

"Plague!!!"

Everyone turns, startled from the table, glaring at the television where the dreadful word has come from.

It is Zero Mostel from "A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum." He is screaming; "Plague! Plague!" and everyone is running away. I remember when that part of the movie was so funny. My parents and I laughed and laughed.

Our host gets up and turns the television off.

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ENTERTAINMENT

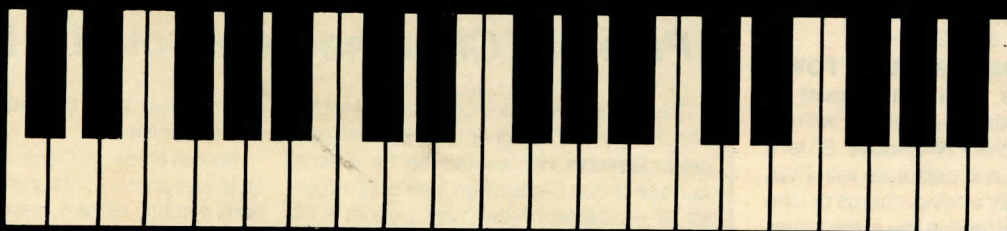
Sunday
Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday
Saturday

5 PM - 9 PM

Jay Fowler
Keith Holder
Janice Franklin
Jay Fowler
Keith Holder
Gary Poe
Leonard Winslow

9:30 PM - 1:30 AM

Bernie Siben
Rick Weaver
Paul Little
Kimber
Byron
Paul & Carol
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Oh Dear Fans, this August is supposed to be the August to end all Augusts! You can't believe all the meaningful things that are taking place this very weekend! We hear from our local Gurus, especially those implanted among some of the major downtown mega-corporations (how else do you think they get to be mega-corporations?), that this weekend is very significant. We are putting on our most treasured sacred South Dakota Buffalo fur cape with matching Buffalo Horn Rimmed sunglasses to keep out the harmful ultra rays.

Did you know that, besides being Krishna's birthday, it's also the annual time by the ancient Egyptian calendar for the rising of Sirius as the Morning Star, marking the flooding of the Nile and Egypt's rebirth.

But more than anything, the Mayan calendar says that the famed Quetzalcoatl will be returning this weekend. He represents the forces of cosmic intelligence. Supposedly, 144,000 humans will emerge to be the sproutings of the seed of this weekend, and will lead us into an age of enlightenment. The Sun Dance will be performed from South Dakota all the way down to Mexico and Peru, and Amanda has very unique knowledge of the Sun Dance, since she comes from South Dakota.

The Aztecs believed in periods of 13 Heavens and nine Hells lasting 52 years each, or one cycle of their calendar system. On April 22, 1519, their thirteenth Heaven came to an end, which is the exact date the Spanish Conquistadors landed on their shores and eventually wiped them out. The prophecy continued on, however, stating that each succeeding hell would be worse than the last. Well, guess what! We just finished our last hell, which was pretty hellish, and, on August 17, we will be entering our last heaven, which is supposed to usher



Our downtown sources say that all these things are the dawn of a great Harmonic Convergence.

in an age of peace and enlightenment.

All sorts of things are happening this weekend. the Hopi Indians' lost white brother Paha'na is coming; the Mayas' bearded white god Kukulkan is returning; the Toltec and Aztec Quetzalcoatl is also coming.

Our downtown sources say that all these things are the dawn of a great Harmonic Convergence (see a video of *Close Encounters* for harmony). So if you want to partici-

pate in these events, here is where Amanda advises you to go.

There are nine world centers, where you can get in on the Axis of the Universe: Harney Peak in the Black Hills of South Dakota; Mexico City; Cuzco, Peru; Prague, Czechoslovakia; Jerusalem; Ruwenzori Peak, Uganda; Kailas Mountain, Tibet; Tetiaroa, Tahiti; Uluru, Australia.

Personally, Amanda would prefer to watch the entire event on television, or

maybe in the back seat of her Rolls. Our friends also tell us there are three halls of records: Atlantis (underwater off Bimini), Shambala (beneath the Gobi Desert) and Paititi (in the Amazon). We wonder why satellites have never seen these places??

Anyway, be sure to wear special goggles on the 17th, because there will be plenty of cosmic flashes going on that day! We can't wait. Sebastian and some other friends will be over that night, and we plan to sit on the terrace and throw firecrackers at the neighborhood cats, just to see what their karma is all about.

Happy birthday, Rick and Jack!

Newsbit

Japan Remembers A-Bomb Horror

In both Hiroshima and Nagasaki, thousands mourned those who had lost their lives in the infernos of the only two times in history so far that man has used the power of nuclear devastation in a war.

The first atomic bomb fell at 8:15 a.m. on August 6, 1945, in Hiroshima from the Enola Gay at a time when the children of the city were on the streets going to school. Three days later at 11:02 a.m., another bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, because cloud cover had obscured the original target of the attack, Kokura.

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Showbit



Who Says I Won't Survive?

The newly released version of "I Will Survive" (originally recorded by **Linda Clifford**), is hot! **Vincent Capretta**, a young gay artist new to the music scene, has a hit on his hands. Capretta previously recorded three disco singles. His last release, "Night-stalker," climbed the charts very nicely and prompted a video which boosted the *Night-stalker* album sales to big profits. **LSA Records** then signed Capretta to do "I Will Survive." Smart move.

Holding true to the driving beat of the original, this new version showcases Capretta selling the go-to-hell lyrics with verve. If you like disco, you'll love this one. It's extremely danceable.

Right now, Capretta is off to tour Iceland (with "I Will Survive" already on and climbing the national disco charts and getting lots of play in high-energy clubs), but **James Gregory** of LSA Records said that he's trying to arrange a Texas tour when his songster returns to the states. Capretta's last disco-across-Texas took him to San Antonio, Austin and El Paso, and Gregory wants to expand the number of cities the next go-round.

Next off the press will be Capretta's version of "Turn the Beat Around," which will be out October 1. "I Will Survive" is available at major record stores around the state. (Reviewed by Randy Brown.)

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MONA: Advice & Beads Read

Dear Mona:

I have been dating a pretty nice guy for about one and one half months. We enjoy the same things and do a lot of stuff together. The sex is the best I have ever had. Last night he told me we couldn't have sex. He said he was not in the mood. That was a first! Today he called me at work and told me he had other reasons for not wanting to "play." He broke the news to me right then. "I have herpes," he blurted out.

Well, I have never been so shocked in all my life. I really like this guy. I can not believe he has betrayed me for over a month. First of all, I do not want to see someone who can't be "up front" from the start. Secondly, I have no desire to sleep with a person who has herpes. How do I handle this? What do I tell him? I really do not want to hurt this guy. What would you do if you were in my shoes, Mona?

Signed: Anonymous



Dear Anonymous:

Honey, if I were in your shoes I would have my feet surgically removed! The only way

you would ever hurt this guy is by hanging around. I think an honest guy like this deserves a whole lot more than a PRISY AND PRIDEFUL PILE OF PIG POO POO such as yourself. Far be it from Mona to judge a fellow faggot, but queen, you are ill! Call in Doctor Queerdare! If you liked this guy as much as you attempt to make me believe, then it would not matter if his diagnosis was terminal dong disintegration. Your common sense is obviously too weak to open the doors to that closed mind you possess.

And what do you mean... you do not want to see someone who can't be up front from the start...? What did you expect the guy to say?... How do you do... my name is "such and such" and I have herpes. PLEASE! Besides, as I assume you are playing safe anyway, what's the problem?

In summary, I suggest you do this guy a favor. Tell him exactly how you feel. Be completely honest.

That should be enough to run anyone off.

Dear Mona:

In response to your letter of week before last, I am appalled at how you totally ignored the severity of the writer's problem. Did it ever occur to you that people do write expecting serious and worthwhile answers? Perhaps you should lay the laughter aside once in a while. Perhaps you should try to take your job a little more to heart. Perhaps you should make a little more sense and a few less jokes.

Signed: Dallas Reader

Dear Dallas Reader:

Perhaps you should read Dear Abby. Perhaps you should lighten up. Perhaps you should curl up in a dark hole and die a slow and serious death!

Dear Readers:

As an added note of semi-interest; Mona asks that you get involved with the gay organization of your choice and remember... "God loves us just the way we are... But he loves us too much to let us stay that way!" (Earnie Larson)

Got a problem?
Need answers?

Even if you do...

Write Mona

c/o The Texas Forum

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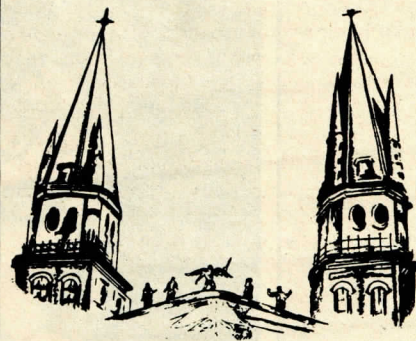
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H O R O S C O P E S

by Jack Marvin, AMAFA

JUPITER and SATURN both change directions during this week which is certainly odd, but what makes this even more unusual is that these two planets change directions on the same day! JUPITER will turn around and go backwards on August 19th at 3:08 PM and will remain traveling in reverse until the middle of December. Incidentally, if you do your Christmas shopping while JUPITER is in reverse, you will spend much less money than usual. So do your Christmas shopping now. SATURN will begin its forward motion early in the morning on August 19th at 2:55 AM. During this period you

will become more independent and capable and will have enhanced powers of concentration. Your interest in the occult will increase.

NOTES: Today (Friday) will be difficult for SCORPIO while it will be fun for CAPRICORN, SAGITTARIUS, and PISCES. Saturday will be stressful for GEMINI and LIBRA while Sunday will be stressful for LEO and ARIES. AQUARIUS, LEO, and TAURUS will have a great day on Tuesday while LEO, SCORPIO, and SAGITTARIUS will be lucky on Wednesday.

♈ ARIES (March 21 - April 20):

Your flamboyancy will be stifled during this period of the JUPITER retrograde since it is occurring in ARIES. You may feel somewhat restricted during the next several months because JUPITER is traveling backwards. Stay with your current hair style. Do not purchase any new clothes or change brands of make-up. Dating should be high on your list of great times. During the next several weeks, you will meet many fun and exciting people and your communication will be excellent.

*Favorable Days: 18th

*Unfavorable Days: 16th

♋ CANCER (June 21 - July 20):

Business and political ventures will be difficult during the next several months. If you are planning on starting a new business soon, don't. You will not be as assertive with your leadership abilities as you normally are and you may have some dependency upon others. Your ability to advance will be restricted for a few months, but make no hasty decisions concerning your employment. Be careful how you appear in public—as others may see you as arrogant and overbearing.

*Favorable Days: 19th, 20th

*Unfavorable Days: 15th, 16th, 17th

♎ LIBRA (September 22 - October 22):

You have usually been fortunate with your marriage partner or lover, but during this period you will experience some stress in this area. This could also indicate difficulty with a business partner. Avoid becoming involved with a relationship for the next several months. Date, but no marriage. Someone you are dating will misrepresent themselves when talking about money or their finances. You should back away from gift-giving for the next several months.

*Favorable Days: 17th, 18th

Unfavorable Days: 15th

♏ CAPRICORN (December 21 - January 19):

You will be alienated from your home or family for the next several months. Take this time to explore yourself and look at what is causing this difficulty. Sometimes you CAPRICORNS can be very hard headed and intolerant. Learn to be more flexible and understanding—especially with members of your family. If possible, go on a vacation or just simply get away to more pleasant surroundings so you can make rational decisions. Avoid the tendency to be greedy.

*Favorable Days: 14th

*Unfavorable Days: 17th, 19th, 20th

♉ TAURUS (April 21 - May 20):

You may feel open and vulnerable for the next several months because of the JUPITER retrograde. You will not be as charitable as you usually are. In fact, when someone asks for a donation, you may think to yourself, "No, I've given too much, already—ask someone else." This, of course, will soon pass. You will act somewhat hastily—not thinking issues clearly through. Take care, since this could cause you problems as well as embarrassment.

*Favorable Days: 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th

*Unfavorable Days: none

♌ LEO (July 21 - August 21):

Some of your tolerance will be stressed for the next several months, and you will become skeptical of religions and philosophies. Travel will definitely not be favored and you will be somewhat repelled by anything foreign. You will have to try harder to understand people of different cultures and backgrounds. Lecturing and public speaking will be difficult during this period. You will have to guard against arrogance and overt public display.

*Favorable Days: 15th, 18th, 19th

*Unfavorable Days: 16th

♏ SCORPIO (October 23 - November 22):

You will feel somewhat depressed in your work and occupation. Some of your luck with your job will begin to slip for the next several months, but take care as it will return in December. Employment will be favorable and you will receive a very good wage. Some of your organizational ability will be diminished during this JUPITER retrograde and you could have some arguments with your fellow workers. Your health could be somewhat out-of-kilter and you could have some problems getting over simple illnesses. Avoid the tendency to be arrogant.

*Favorable Days: 19th

*Unfavorable Days: 14th, 15th, 16th

♊ AQUARIUS (January 20 - February 18):

Normally, with this JUPITER transit you would have a lot of success with writing or any form of communication, but with this backward motion, your success will be delayed until after December 16th. Your wit will not be as sharp as normal, and you should avoid the tendency to be sarcastic. You could have some difficulty with relatives—especially brothers and sisters. You will have difficulty with your intuition and you will be somewhat impractical for the next few months.

*Favorable Days: 15th, 17th, 18th

*Unfavorable Days: none

♊ GEMINI (May 21 - June 20):

Generally, you are able to set goals and achieve them, but during the next four months, you will have difficulty in setting goals and achieving results. Don't let this get you down. You will just have to strive harder than normal. Your social life will be dampened somewhat until the Christmas season. Your involvement with large organizations will tend to become tedious and boring and you may have some difficulties with your judgement and intuition.

*Favorable Days: 14th, 17th, 18th, 19th

*Unfavorable Days: 15th

♍ VIRGO (August 22 - September 21):

This will be a time where you will have difficulty handling other people's money. You will have to rely on others and trust in their decisions. You could develop some skepticism towards life and death in general. Monies that you would acquire through inheritance or insurance will be difficult due to problems that will arise. Currently, you could be overly emotional and your sex drive may be somewhat perverted. Guard against extravagance and take care in judging others.

*Favorable Days: 14th, 18th, 19th

*Unfavorable Days: 15th

♐ SAGITTARIUS (November 23 - December 20):

Since you are fond of doing things in a big way, this will continue, but could result in some monumental mistakes. Therefore, make careful plans before you begin any project that will require a lot of time, energy, or money. Your creative ability will be diminished during this retrograde period and you may find yourself avoiding children. Romance will not be as hot as usual, but will pick-up around December 16th. Avoid gambling for the next four months.

*Favorable Days: 14th, 19th

*Unfavorable Days: 17th, 18th

♓ PISCES (February 19 - March 29):

You will have some difficulty financially if you do not watch your assets and avoid the tendency to recklessly overspend your money. Just because something is "on sale" does not mean that you have to rush out and purchase it. Make certain that you need any item that you purchase during the next several months. Incidentally, this may be somewhat early, but make no Christmas purchases until after December 16th. Your inner optimism will be depressed somewhat for the next few months.

*Favorable Days: 14th

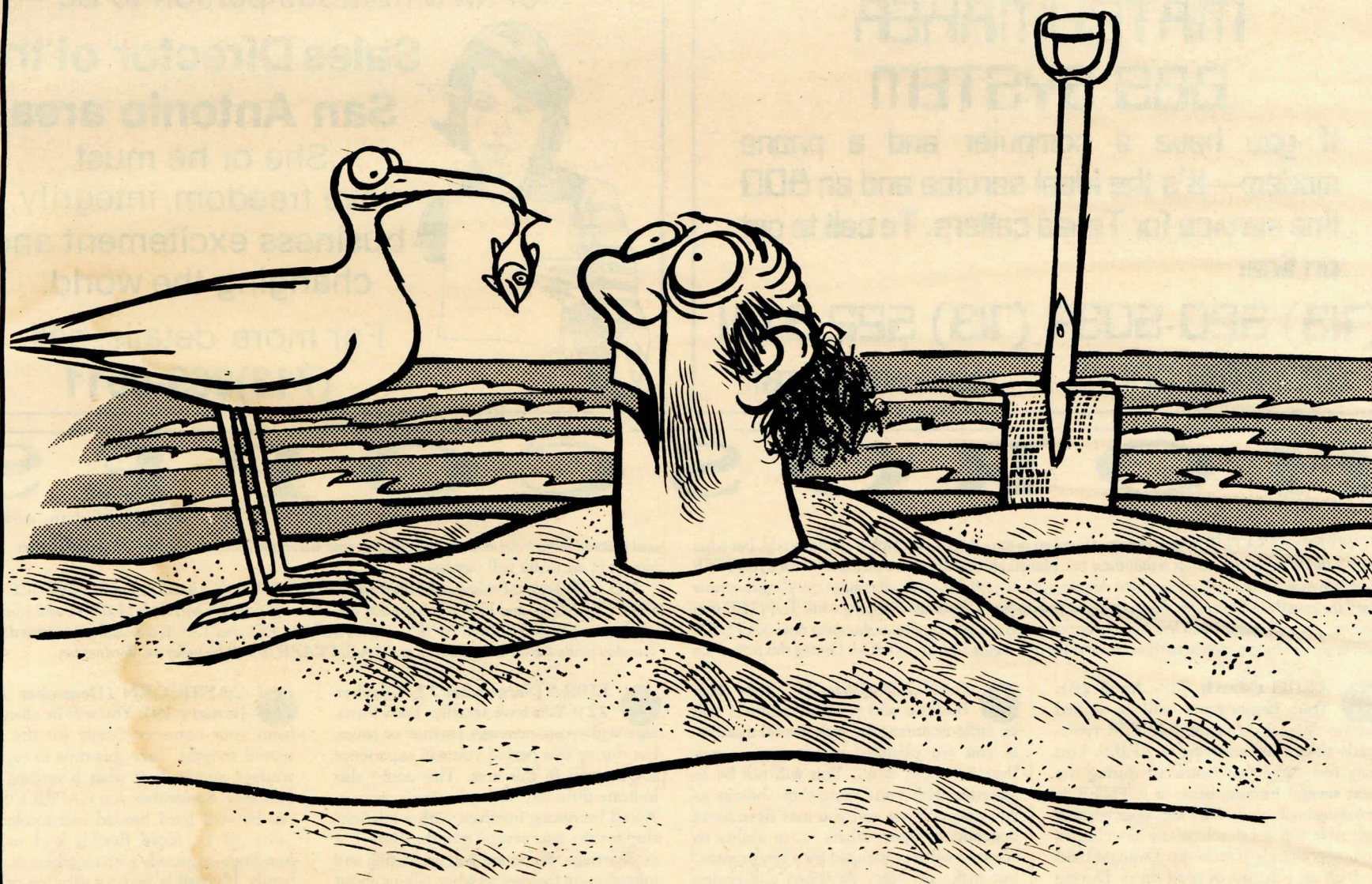
*Unfavorable Days: 19th

QUESTION: "Will you explain what is going on with the 'Harmonic Convergence' that I have read so much about. It will occur on August 16th and I was thinking about going to Austin to be at one of the 'power points' this weekend. Is this for real? Please explain." PPH

ANSWER: "Numerous people have asked me this question and I am answering this now as it is quite timely. This 'Harmonic Convergence' is simply another ploy concocted by who knows. Basically, Zoroaster, a religious teacher from Persia (No, not the Ayatollah...) in the 6th or 7th century BC said that this was to be the end of the struggle of good over evil, with good defeating evil. The ancient Mayans also predicted that this final victory would occur

around 2012 AD. This 'event' marks the beginning of the final 25 years of struggle. Personally, I feel that this 'grand event' is a bunch of hogwash. But, you be the judge. Let me know if anything strange or unusual happened to any of you on Sunday, August 16th. Incidentally, this has absolutely nothing to do with Astrology. August 16th will be no different than any other day with both good and bad aspects. CANCER, LEO, and ARIES will find Sunday somewhat stressful. Thursday, August 13th will be a much better day, Astrologically speaking. Hopefully, none of you will waste your time and energy going to one of these 'power points'." 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



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THE PAPER FOR THE GAY COMMUNITY

"Peace Child" Fundraiser Scheduled

HOUSTON—Peace Child/Houston will hold its second fundraiser of the year on Saturday, August 15, from 1 p.m. to 2 a.m., at Sweet Jello's of Texas, 219 Sampson. Radio station KYST-AM (920) plans to broadcast remote from the Latin night club.

A \$5 cover charge at the door will benefit Peace Child/Houston, a nonprofit organization formed to produce the large-scale musical *Peace Child* at the new Wortham Center in November.

Food will be served from 1 to 8 p.m. and there will be a cash bar. Live entertainment will be presented from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m.

For more information, call Sweet Jello's at (713)224-6064.

AIDS Hospital to Close

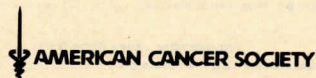
HOUSTON—Because of losses exceeding \$8 million, the first hospital in the country devoted solely to AIDS treatment and research is going to have to close its doors. Houston's Institute for Immunological Disorders could not seem to attract enough people who had money to pay for services.

One of the reasons that community leaders cite as the cause of the problem is that people with jobs and insurance did not want to go to a hospital that was known just to treat AIDS for fear that they might lose either their jobs or their insurance.

GI To Be Court-Martialed For Reckless Endangerment

SAN ANTONIO — Sgt. Richard Sargeant faces multiple charges because he allegedly exposed several women to the AIDS virus by having sex with them when he knew that he carried the virus. No date has been set for the proceeding as yet.

A defense
against cancer can be
cooked up in your kitchen.
Call us.



Does it make it hard on you when someone 'makes it hard on you'?

Showbit

Guess Who Is Doing a Concert in Dallas?

Those of us who live to rock will be jumping in their party shoes in Dallas this weekend. **The Guess Who** (and who can forget "American Woman" and "These Eyes"?) are touring with two of the founding members, bassist **Jim Kale** and drummer **Garry Peterson**, playing those old hits as well as some new material that has not been released yet.

Actually the group is aptly named, because for years, the membership in the group changed so much, that, at one time, none of the original members was in it. But all the originals, including (of course) **Burton Cummings** and **Randy Bachman**, will be on hand in November when the group will be inducted into the **Juno Awards Hall of Fame**. The Junos are the Canadian version of the **Grammies**, and the band is from Canada. You can be sure those crazy Canadians will go wild when the group does a reunion concert at the award show.

But, this week, it's time for Texas to get in on one of the top bands from the sixties, as they rock out at **Dallas Alley** on Monday, August 17, in a free show in the **Boiler Room**, starting at 10:30 p.m. If nothing else, you can't beat the admission price!



Showbit



Everyone Responds To Their Invitation

How can you be hot and cool at the same time? Easy, you just have to be a member of the hottest group with the coolest sounds around, **RSVP**. Lucky Dallas just had them for a month in *Two by Five*, a musical revue of **John Kander** and **Fred Ebb's** music at **Dallas Repertory Theatre**, and they've also recently been cruising from San Francisco to New Orleans (via South America and the Panama Canal) on the **S.S. Canada**

Star, where they were enthusiastically received.

Right now, they are vibrating the chrome at **John L's** through August 15, and they'll open at the end of September at the **West End Cabaret Dallas** in yet another musical revue—one written just for them.

But for now, catch the act at John L's, 2525 Wycliff, (214) 520-2525.

The AIDS Resource Center

Food Pantry

With your support, many people with AIDS can have the necessities of life that most of us take for granted.

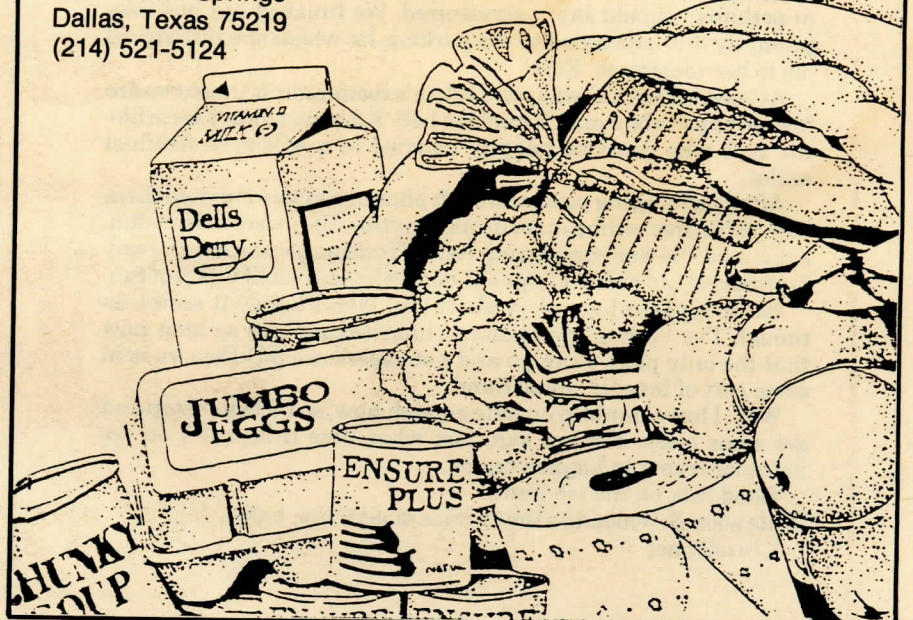
The Food Pantry provides food, toiletries, cleaning supplies, and paper goods free of charge to people with AIDS and AIDS-related illnesses. **The Food Pantry** stocks its shelves with contributions from food drives and personal donations. Cash donations to the program are also used to stock the Pantry.

The Food Pantry needs donations of the following:

Paper Towels - Toilet Paper - Facial Tissue - Liquid Bleach - Hand Lotion
Deodorant - Aluminum Foil - Laundry Soap - Dish Detergent - Shampoo
Pasta Meals (in Jars) - Spaghetti Sauce - Fresh Vegetables - Jelly/Jam
Tuna - Bottled or Frozen Juice - Peanut Butter - Cereal - Fresh Fruit
Ketchup - Mayonnaise - Ground Coffee - Tea - Beef Stew - Butter
Cheese - Fresh Meat - Lunch Meat - Chili - Chicken & Dumplings

The AIDS Resource Center

3920 Cedar Springs
Dallas, Texas 75219
(214) 521-5124



By Nancy Ford

Speaking as one who has in past years seen hundreds and hundreds of birthdays (a mere 33 of which have been my own,) it goes without saying that I have also seen hundreds and hundreds of birthday gifts. Oh what the heck—I'll say it anyway: I've seen hundreds and hundreds of birthday gifts.

Birthday gifts are much like other gifts. Sometimes they're good; sometimes the ring that's already engraved with our initials (but can't be sized) actually fits the finger for which it was designed. Sometimes they're bad; sometimes well-meaning friends truly believe we will use a leatherette-encased set of miniature socket wrenches. Sometimes they're ugly: sometimes we're taken seriously when we say things like "I've just got to find a pair of those yellow plaid suspenders like the ones you're wearing for myself."

Good, bad, or otherwise, most birthday gifts can be placed under three all-encompassing categories. They are **a)** gifts that we want and receive, **b)** gifts that we receive but don't want, and **c)** gifts that we want but have little or no hope of receiving in this or any lifetime.

I know this is true because recently I celebrated my own birthday. Here's how the gift list broke down for me:

GIFTS WANTED AND RECEIVED

- A fun-filled, sun-filled weekend on the beach surrounded by people I love.
- Half a mailbox-load of messages from friends wishing me well on my natal day.
- Romantic words, deeds, and objects from my Boo-boo, none of which need to be publicized across Texas.
- A German chocolate cake from my

favorite over-priced gourmet bakery.

GIFTS RECEIVED BUT NOT WANTED

- Half a mail-box load of messages from creditors (wishing something quite different) who apparently didn't care what day it was.
- A German chocolate blemish in the middle of my forehead. It's been christened *Der Zit*.

GIFTS WANTED BUT NOT RECEIVED

- A Buggatti convertible, red, accompanied by a birthday card from Lee Iaccocca.
- An audience with The Pope. In fact, the same audience. I figure I'd open for him. (Talk about an easy-to-please crowd.)
- Dinner for four at Regine's for Woody,

Mia, my Boo-boo and me at his customary table. No waiters singing "Happy Birthday," though. That would be too Bennigan's-esque for the Woodman.

- Permanent cancellation with no hope of syndicated reruns of *Who's the Boss*.
- The grand opening of a chain of AZT stores that are open 24 hours with drive-through windows and free delivery in 30 minutes or it's free. Juse like Dominoes.
- A helicopter ticket to Enchanted Rock State Park dated for next weekend.
- My grandmother's giant, ancient, red, chipped Pyrex bowl full of my grandfather's homemade caramel popcorn.
- The ability to remain awake and alert for 48 consecutive hours without benefit of alien substances.
- Gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Call me a traditionalist.

To Whom It May Concern

By Frank Bengé

Chapter 8

Christopher to Marty

Dear Marty,

Now that the holidays & big gay events are over (at least until Halloween) I find that I can finally start turning my attention to my favorite topic... vacation. Believe me when I tell you that I am more than ready to go play in someone else's gay ghetto.

Actually, I'm not even sure that I want to take a gay holiday this year. I may just go frolic in the great outdoors and commune with what's left of nature. Or, as Peanuts LaVerne suggested on my most recent night off (over cocktails, of course), I could always go visit Heritage Park. I could even make money on that vacation. I figure with enough advance notice I could make a killing on orders for Tammy Faye cosmetics and albums. I certainly know enough queens who'd kill for a tube of her lipstick. At any rate, I'll keep you posted.

The reason that I'm not up for a "gay mecca" vacation has entirely to do with a one-day trip I made to Austin last week. It all started innocently enough when my friend Jerry, whom I was visiting, stopped into this health food super store called Whole Foods for ginseng tablets. I was amusing myself in the snack area, contemplating such devious delicacies as carob-coated rice cakes and bee pollen yummys, when I heard the voice of this woman passionately explaining to someone that caffeine was the only reason for soft drinks to exist, unless you needed the sugar rush. Here, I decided, was a woman as out of place in a health food store as I was.

When I turned around and saw who she was extolling the virtues of junk food to, you could have knocked me over with a feather. (No cheap shots, please.) It was none other than LeAnn, the president of the gay student organization at my college. Once again the world had gotten just a little bit smaller. She, of course, recognized me immediately and hollered out, "Oh my God, Chris. You old queen, I haven't seen you in years. How the hell are you doing?" And the woman she was with was so startled by this outburst that she promptly dropped this entire bottle of something that I think people are supposed to drink. It, of course, shattered... everywhere. Needless to say, I have never felt so visible in my life... or perhaps I should say... scrutinized. We finished our business promptly and proceeded to the parking lot where she introduced me to her roommate, Ethel.

At least I think she was just LeAnn's roommate. If those two are lovers it has to be a match made in hell. Ethel just didn't seem like the type who could be happily married to a wild-eyed feminist zealot.

After exchanging pleasantries & phone numbers I invited them both to feel free to drop in for drinks anytime they were in Houston. Ethel said she was considering Astro World as a vacation anyway & promised to drop in. I hope she does. She seemed like a lot of fun.

So, to make a long story short (too late, I know) it seems as though I've been a "professional homosexual" for so long now that the only place I can go and not experience 3-D Deja vu is in some sort of breeder wonderland.

Well, I have rambled on long enough now, so I'd better stop and get some sleep. I'm not sure just what time it is, but I do see morning trying to happen on me.

Good luck on the job hunt!

Write soon & remember that I miss & love you, baboo...

Christopher

COMMUNITY GROUPS AROUND THE STATE, PLEASE NOTE:

The **TEXAS FORUM** will be starting a Community Notes column, which will list the times and dates of the meetings and events of any and all community-related, non-profit groups. If you wish your group's functions to be included, please send the information at least three weeks in advance to:

Texas Forum
Community Notes Editor
1110 Bayland
Houston, TX 77009

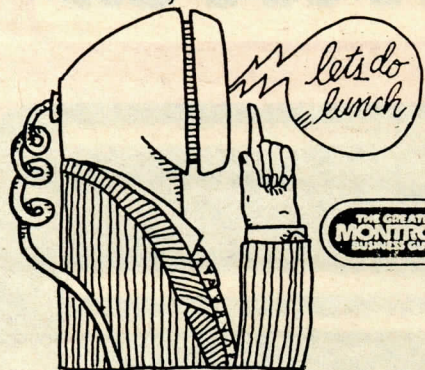
Please include a name and telephone number for the **TEXAS FORUM's** private use, in order to confirm or clarify any information. Thank you.

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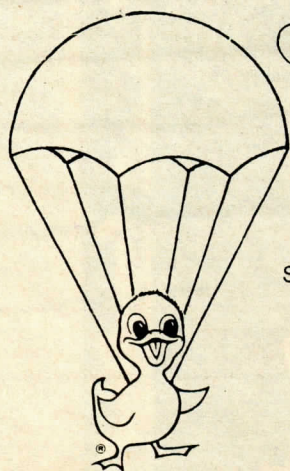


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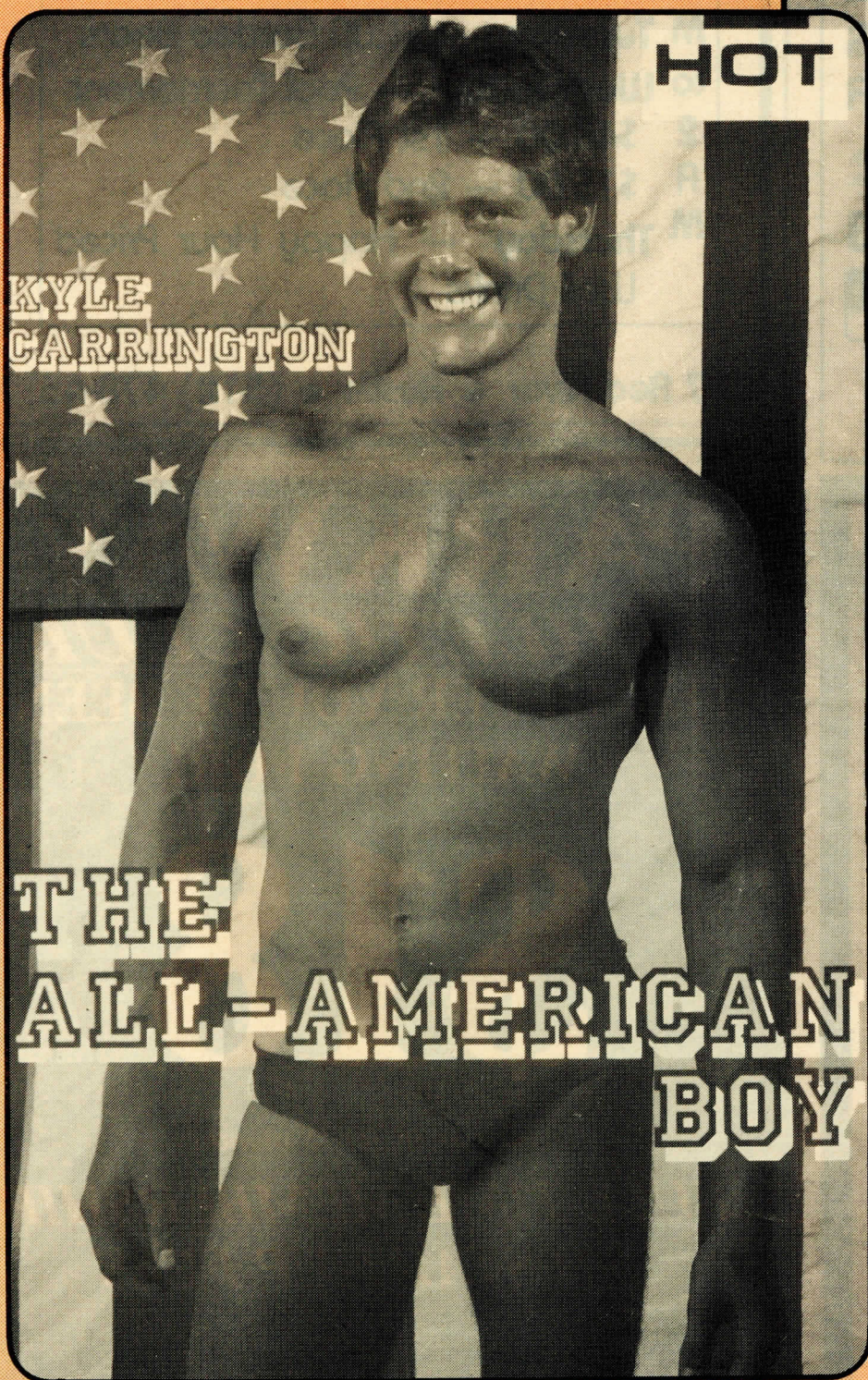
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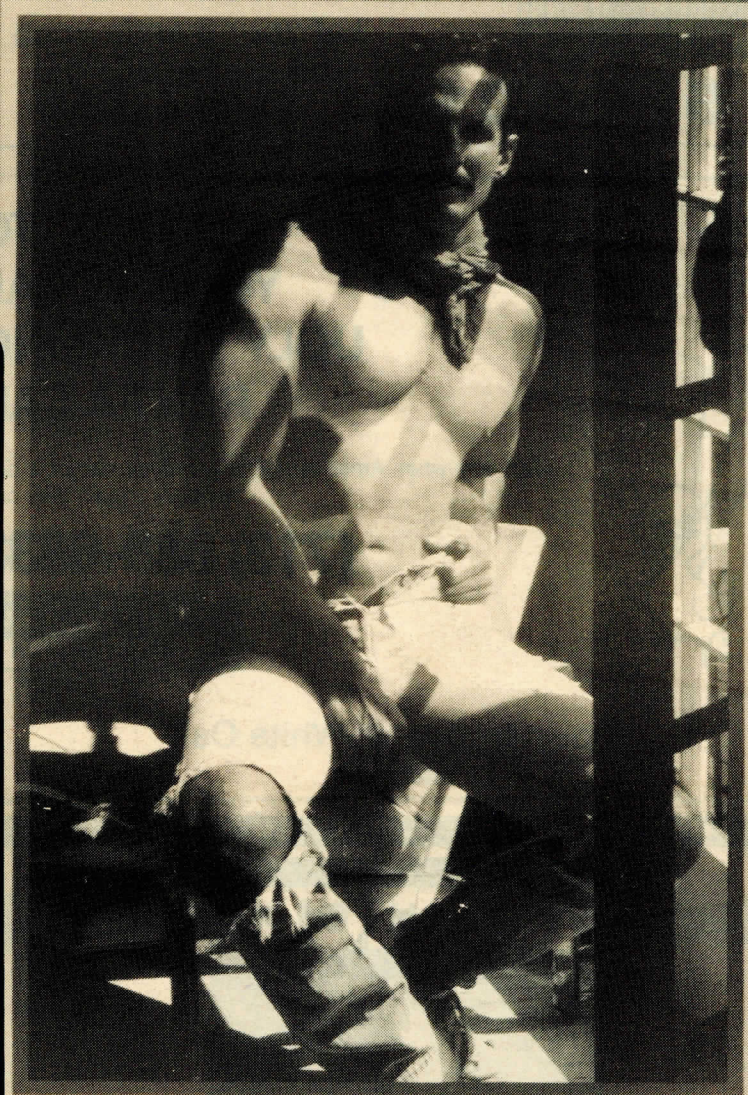
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